



05-09-2016

Minutes
EUfishmeal General Assembly
Hirtshals, Denmark, 29 August 2016
9:00h-10:30h

1) Adoption of agenda and election of chair

Johann Peter Andersen was elected chair and the agenda was adopted.

2) President report

The President, Johannes Pálsson, presented the annual report that was circulated to members two weeks prior to the meeting. He stated, that the Secretariat had been working according to the action plan and achieved the goals.

3) Accounts of the past year

Anne Mette Bæk Jespersen presented the accounts for the past year and explained that the 9000 Euro surplus would be transferred to pay for the co-hosting of the international Symposium arranged in conjunction with the GA. Anne Mette Bæk Jespersen then presented the balance sheet and gave an overview of the expenditures for 2015 and 2016. It was explained, that the 2016 budget already was exceeded because of the BREF/BAT-project, that was financed from reserves. The expected spending of 2016 would be 50.000 Euros.

The Chair stated that the accounts had been signed by the Executive Board and it was then accepted without any further remarks.

4) Budget 2017

Anne Mette Bæk Jespersen outlined the action plan proposals for 2016/2017, including involvement in more projects and an increase of the budget due to strengthening of the Secretariat. Søren Anker Pedersen presented the calculation-basis of the membership fee. The Chair concluded the budget discussions without any remarks.

5) Executive Board appointment

Anne Mette Bæk Jespersen informed about Kyrre Dale replacing Arnt Ove Hoddevik in Norway's seat in the Ex Board.

The Executive Board was constituted without further changes, which meant that Johannes Palsson will continue as Chairman and Frank Trearty will continue as Vice Chairman.

The Chair concluded that the Executive Board was appointed.

6) EU revision of BREF documents – presentation of industry benchmark by Nils Christian Jensen

Nils Christian Jensen (NCJ) briefly explained the format and purpose of the BREFs. Fishmeal and fish oil production was covered by the BREF on Slaughterhouses and Animal By-products. NCJ wasn't able to present the industry benchmark because of the lack of information and fulfilled templates from the factories. NCJ proposed to split the factories into three categories; small, medium, and large. It was agreed to follow this proposal. NCJ made it clear that the factories will have only 4 years to comply with the BREF once it is finalized.

An important point from NCJ's presentation was the fact that other BREFs could have an impact on the fishmeal and fish oil factories as well, especially the BREF on Food, Drink and Milk, the BREF on cooling and the BREF on large combustion plants.

NCJ recommended to join a partnership with the Danish authorities and to continue to work with Danish Agriculture and Food Council.

NCJ concluded that it was unknown when the revision of the BREF for Slaughterhouses and Animal By-Products would begin and that the EU fishmeal benchmark would be finalized ASAP.

Jes Bjerregaard (TripleNine Group) asked to the objective and timeframe for the industry benchmark. NCJ answered that the objective was to create a current status of EU fishmeal factories to know what to work with in the revision process. NCJ hoped to finalize the benchmark by the end of September.

7) Fish oil for human consumption – presentation by Gunn H. Knutsen, Sjømat Norge

Gunn H. Knutsen (GHK) presented the state of play for production of fish oil for human consumption from the fishmeal plants. Products for human consumption has to comply with EU hygiene rules for food (Regulation 853/2004). However, a specific requirement for fish oil was adopted in 2008, which allows for crude fish oil intended for human consumption to be produced in facilities already approved for feeding purposes. GHK explained that the factories would need an additional approval, but on this basis, the current hygiene regulations for human consumption fish oil could be interpreted to allow production of fish oil for human consumption if there is a clear separation of the production of human consumption fish oil and the production with the intention to be used as a feed material. This clear separation can be achieved in two ways, either by producing in two completely separate buildings or production lines, or by separating the two types of production in time. GHK informed that it was allowed to separate in time on Iceland, but not in Denmark and Norway. Christian Bisgaard (SARIA) added, that Germany and France interpreted the rules the same way as Denmark and Norway.

GHK shared her view on the way forward, which was to prepare a dossier to address to the EU Commission. However, there was still a need for more research. The timeframe was difficult to predict, but GHK hoped to have clarification of the rules for fish oil to human consumption in a year, but an amendment of the hygiene regulation could easily take 2-4 years.

It was agreed that EU fishmeal and Sjømat Norge should cooperate on this.

8) Follow up on Symposium on fishmeal and fish oil

Anne Mette Bæk Jespersen informed that the objective of the Symposium was to improve dialogue between relevant stakeholders - the industry, fishermen, NGO's and scientists - to hopefully inspire to new research projects on the opportunities for fishmeal and fish oil.

9) Annual meeting 2017

Anne Mette Bæk Jespersen informed briefly about the conference in Ireland on September 13.-16. 2017. Invitations would be circulated in September/October.

10) Miscellaneous

There was no further remarks and Johannes Palsson ended the General Assembly.