



## **Report Cedia Meetings Brussels 26<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Venue: Hotel ibis Brussels, off Grand Place, Rue du Marche aux Herbes 100,**

### **Board Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Time: 18.00 – 21.00**

#### **Present:**

Sean Gaule (President Cedia): Ireland

Michel Roux (Vice President Cedia): Switzerland ( late arrival)

Rosanna Zara; Mattia Busti: Italy

Bo Dengbol Nielsen: Denmark

Baldomero Garcia Del Rio; Jose Martinez Vela: Spain

Chris McDonald: Cedia Accountant

#### **Agenda**

1. Minutes Cedia board meeting of May 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 :

Unanimously approved

2. Cedia Annual Report 2017:

Unanimously approved

3. Cedia Annual Accounts 2017:

Unanimously approved

4. Review of Cedia/ ICA conference Vienna

Action on follow up to be undertaken by Cedia with ICA and by member Associations with respective Universities in the various countries

#### 5. Registration - Legal and Constitutional issues

Changes in Belgian Company Law resulted in Cedia Statutes requiring revision. This resultant non compliance inhibited the listing of the organisation and publication in Monitor Belge .The latter has implications for the legal status of the organisation and its ability to function in compliance with Belgian Law. Holding of a bank account, listing on the EU transparency Register, or hosting a website site in the organisation's name would not be possible without correct legal status. The process of arranging compliance is now underway with the assistance provided by the engagement of a Belgian legal firm.

#### 6. Transparency Register / EU Consultative Process

Listing on the EU Transparency Register gave public recognition to Cedia as a legitimate representative body and its role in promoting the interests of the profession. A number of member associations have already engaged in consultation opportunities offered. Promotion of the interests of the Profession is regarded as a key Cedia objective.

#### 7. Website

The website had been rebuilt and modernised. The papers and details of the Cedia / ICA conference in Vienna have been uploaded. The retention of the Cedia domain – Cedia.eu has been secured. Since the former webmaster has resigned, a new arrangement for its updating and management is required. The apparent lack of interest of a number of member associations in participating or contributing to the website was noted.

#### 8. Regulation of Professions

It was noted that the Commission had now updated the regulations on professions. The outcome was for greater liberalisation of operation. Countries where the profession of Agriculture Engineer /Scientist was registered would be required to make the necessary operational adjustments .

#### 9. Cedia Mission statement, Strategy & Plan of Action – Review

In the absence of full legal compliance, Cedia was operating as an informal network, as a temporary measure. It was noted that formal elections had not taken place for some time and that the Board had not been renewed for a considerable period. Noting that representation on the Board is the responsibility of member Associations. The statutes were last reviewed in 2005. In view of the legal processes now being carried out, it was regarded as opportune to review and have a “stock taking” of Cedia, to include its purpose, operations and governance. Member organisations through their Board representatives were asked to submit their views to include their priorities for the organisation as well as a “shopping list of activities” which would benefit by way of member association cooperation. It was agreed that member associations would make submissions for consideration with decision at next Board meeting arranged for Cordova, Spain, 15<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> October. Spain undertook to provide its views within ten days.

***NB:** For further update please refer to below report of meeting and consultations of 28<sup>th</sup> March.*

#### 10. Programme of Work and Budget 2018

Chis McDonald, Accountant, presented the accounts for 2017. Copies were distributed to Board members present. The accounts, on a cash basis, showed a positive balance in contrast to previous years. While there are limited reserves there are also costs associated with consultancy, legal services, as well as administration associated costs for which provision has been allocated. The administration of Cedia in its current format is almost totally dependent on substantial voluntary input. Succession is an issue which needs attention. There are fees outstanding from a number of associations, while Italy continues to have a fee exemption in lieu of costs incurred on behalf of Cedia in hosting The World Congress of Agronomists and the X1 Cedia conference in Brussels. Invoices for 2018 fees will issue shortly.

#### **Future Board Meetings & Events (2018 & 2019) - Dates & Places**

Workshop Berlin 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (Subsequently added - See report below)

Cordova, Spain, 15<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Provisional -Meeting with FAO & International Agencies, Rome, February 2019

World Congress of Agronomists, Argentina, 2019

#### 11. Any other Business

Dr Michel Roux, Vice President, announced his retirement from the Board Cedia, (effective from 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2018) following a period of ten years service. The President and the Board thanked him for his contribution and wished him well in his future endeavours.

The Italian Association will hold elections in July 2018 when a new Board will be elected. It is expected there will be changes in personnel to the Italian representation to Cedia.

The Cancellation of a planned visit to Wageningen, October 2017 was regretted. It is appreciated that board members are obliged to give priority to their own business or employment. An alternative arrangement planned for July 2018 has also been cancelled for similar reasons. A number of Board members also experienced difficulty in making themselves available for this meeting here in Brussels. Providing alternative dates in an effort to accommodate all individuals also proved impossible. It was decided that in future, a date would be fixed well in advance, with the use made of conference call facilities as necessary.

ETH Agri – Food Alumni recently, proposed as a Cedia member, will not proceed further, leaving SVIAL alone potentially representing Switzerland.

The format of the distribution of a recent communication on behalf of VDL was regretted.

#### **Forum for Future of Agriculture 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

This again proved to be an excellent event, well organised, ( to include interpretation) with a most interesting content, high level speakers and again proving to be a great networking event for Cedia members and a valuable opportunity for promoting our organisation and profession . Cedia representatives from Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Switzerland were in attendance.

Of particular interest from our profession's perspective was the call from Professor Louise O. Fresco, President of the Executive Board, Wageningen University & Research, for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Food and Agriculture, to address the associated major international issues involved, similar to the Panel on climate change.

To ensure greater student interest in agriculture and food and in related University courses, it was proposed, during discussion, that inclusion of Agriculture /farming / environment (land and water) / nutrition/ health relationships might be included in primary and Secondary School Curriculum.

For further information please see [www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)

### **Meeting of Cedia members 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

#### **Present**

Sean Gaule (President Cedia): Ireland

Michel Roux (Vice President Cedia): Switzerland

Bo Dengbol Nielsen: Denmark

Chris McDonald: Cedia Accountant

Note: Rolf Schwerdtfeger contributed by way of phone

Taking into account the discussions at the earlier Brussels Board meeting as outlined above, the conclusions of the previous Board meeting in Vienna and subsequent communications from Rolf Schwerdtfeger (VDL) Germany and Ulrico Freitknecht (SVIAL) Switzerland,

*(Where among other proposals both organisations indicated they were very anxious that Cedia would be a stronger network with a full commitment from all Cedia members)*

*The meeting decided that it would devote the time available to exploring ways by which Cedia might be strengthened.*

In concluding this informal group felt that a renewal process was required and accepted Dr Schwerdtfeger invitation, to propose to Cedia members a full day workshop in Berlin on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Preparation and management of such a workshop was regarded as a substantial task and beyond the remit and the time available to board members. Both Bo and I considered that the best approach was to avail of the services of an independent consultant who would carry out the task on our behalf. We believed that Dr Michel Roux, who had recently established a consultancy practise, was best positioned to carry out such work and asked

that he, might make a submission. He provided us with a proposal, which we believe will meet Cedia requirements and accepted his fee of €2500 to include travel and subsistence while in Berlin, which I hope you can agree to. It is proposed that the work would be carried out under the direction of Bo and me on behalf of the Board.

Sean Gaule

President of Cedia 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018