

## EUPHA Section on Food and Nutrition

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015, Milan

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 12.35 in Room Amber 5

#### Present:

Christopher Birt, Enni Mertanen, Natalie Rangelov, Tatjana Buzeti, Alessandra Lafranconi, Lise Justesen, Bent Egberg Mikkelsen, Dario de Medici, Giuseppe Grosso, Ted Tulchinsky, Vittal Katikireddi, Sara Della Bella, Stefano Marventano, Torben Jorgensen Maria Magnusson, Anita Sackl, Maria de Giusti, Carla Lopes, Garden Tabacchi, Silvia Cunha, Wilhe von Ansem, Sebastian Kosza, Tamara Huseini, Maha Nubani Hussein, Milena Tabanska, Nevena Tzacheva, Karsten Vrangbek,

#### Apologies:

Carl Lachat

#### Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome to “Join the Network of Food and Nutrition” and introductions.
2. Minutes of the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014, held in Glasgow.
3. Minutes of the Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015, held in Utrecht.
4. Matters arising from either of these sets of minutes.
5. Report on activities of the Section in 2014/15.
6. Election of officers and committee members for 2015/16.
7. Programme of work for 2015/16.
8. Any other competent business.

Ad 1) Christopher Birt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ad 2) Minutes of the last annual meeting in Glasgow: all actions minuted have been carried out as agreed; these were agreed as being a true record.

Ad 3) Minutes of the Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015, held in Utrecht, which focused mainly on preparation of activities for the EPHC 2015 in Milan (provided for information).

Ad 5) Christopher Birt as President gave an overview of the activities of the section. A detailed report is provided as Annex 1 to this document. He mentioned the very successful pre-conference workshop, where important issues for the future work of the Section were raised. A list of all Section activities at the EPHC 2015 in Milan is provided in Annex 2.

Ad 6) Election off officers:

The following were duly proposed, seconded, and elected

President: Christopher Birt (UK)

Vice Presidents: Enni Mertanen (Finland), Natalie Rangelov (Switzerland), Tatjana Buzeti (Slovenia), who was also re-elected as Secretary.

Committee members: Alessandra Lafranconi (Italy), Bent Mikkelsen (Denmark), Carl Lachat (Belgium), Dario de Medici (Italy), Giuseppe Grosso (Italy), Lisa Justesen (Denmark)

Ad 7) Work programme 2015/16:

Christopher Birt informed the audience that the EUPHA Council has presented a challenge to the F&N Section, following the pre-conference workshop, in regard to the absence of any coherent recognisable plan in Europe for healthy nutrition and food security in the context of a sustainable environment, taking into account climate change, and other environmental challenges. The Council's proposal is EUPHA should make statement on this matter, in the context of the recommendations in an evidence-based document to be prepared by the Section.

A series of F&N Section workshops have been supported by WHO, designed to support actions towards paving the way to a WHO Convention on Healthy and Sustainable Food Production. WHO appears to be strongly favour of this concept, but does not feel that alone it can initiate discussions about this, as any proposal should come from member states; thus discussion of this issue, raising its profile, is seen as supportive by WHO.

Martin McKee, EUPHA President, had suggested that Vittal Katikireddi, of the University of Glasgow, who has worked previously on climate change effects with WHO, and Rachel Loopstra <rachel.loopstra@sociology.ox.ac.uk>, of the University of Oxford, who works there with David Stuckler, should be invited to assist the Section in preparing this policy document on healthy and sustainable nutrition for EUPHA, supported by other members of the Committee, etc.

During further discussion, the following themes were proposed for consideration for inclusion in the programme for pre-conference or conference workshops, or plenary sessions, next year in Vienna:

Bent Mikkelsen: he proposed a workshop on participatory approaches, in urban and local/regional food systems, developing local and regional interventions,

Maria Magnusson: favoured discussion of aspects of health equity; can we feed Europe sustainably and equitably? The price of food, and use of different regulations and tax systems as mechanisms to support healthy nutrition, should all be included.

Anita Sackl: the Section should organise a workshop to consider possible implications of TTIP, especially in relation to food and nutrition.

Ted Tulchinsky: he proposed a seminar on micronutrient deficiencies; he reported the on a recently prepared EU consensus statement on micronutrient deficiencies in relation to nutritional rickets; the Section President had been asked to nominate a member of the working party which has produced this, and Chris had nominated Ted as an expert in this field. This document will be endorsed by the EU's endocrinology society and will have global impacts. It is important, said Ted, that the Section should raise awareness of these issues, so his proposal was that the Section should conduct a seminar about vitamin D and other micronutrient deficiencies, as observed both in Europe and globally.

It was agreed that the Section Committee should prioritise these suggestions at a subsequent meeting, and make recommendations.

One of the speakers at the Milan pre-conference workshop had posed a challenge to the Section: that the organiser of EPHC in Vienna should ensure that no longer would water be provided in plastic bottles at the Conference, but from public water fountains generously distributed, and that all Conference catering, including the Conference dinner, should include a maximum of 30% of dishes which contain meat (so over 70% of dishes would be based on vegetable protein sources, etc.). Chris Birt promised to transmit this challenge to EPH management.

Prepared by

Tatjana Buzeti and Christopher Birt