

UTIPULP

Group of European Market Wood Pulp users

General Assembly meeting

BARCELONA – September 15th, 2017

9h00 – 14h00

Minutes

Attendees:

Mr	Steve	ABDULLA	SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS
Mr	Luis	ARRUE	Papelera del ORIA SA
Mr	Romain	BALDI	AHLSTROM-MUNKSJÖ
Mr	Paul	BARTMANN	MONDI
Mrs	Cinzia	CARADINI	ASSOCARTA
Mr	Jörg	DITTOMBEE	MITSUBISHI
Mr	Peter	DONNABAUER	DELFORT Group
Mr	Martin	DREWS	VDP
Mr	Steve	FREEMAN	CONFEDERATION OF PAPER INDUSTRY
Mrs	Ute	GIERDEN	KANZAN SPEZIALPAPIERE GmbH
Mr	Joao	GORJAO CLARA	RENOVA
Mr	John	GOVIER	ARJOWIGGINS Ltd
Mr	Victor	KAMM	SAPPI EUROPE SA
Mr	Burkhard	KRÜCKE	WEPA
Mr	Stéphane	MOZDYNIEWICZ	PAPETERIES DE CLAIREFONTAINE
Mr	Peter	OFFNER	BRIGL & BERGMEISTER GmbH
Mr	Andrea	PIAZZOLLA	SOFIDEL SPA
Mr	Norman	SNEL	SAPPI
Mrs	Charo	VIEJO	LECTA
Mr	Paul-Antoine	LACOUR	UTIPULP

Excused:

Mr	Bernhard	BECK	AHLSTROM-MUNKSJÖ
Mr	Antonio	HITA MARTINEZ	MIQUEL Y COSTA & MIQUEL S A
Mr	Gerrald	BLOUW	COLDENHOVE PAPIER BV
Mr	Ivo	MAZZURANA	BURGO Group
Mr	Giovanni	PELIS	Gruppo CORDENONS SPA
Mr	Joep	STEVENS	Inkoop-combinatie De EENDRAGT b.v.
Mr	Martin	WERNER	SCHOELLER TECHNOCELL

1. Introduction

1.1 – 1.3 Welcome, Safety and Legal guidelines for attending UTIPULP meetings

The Vice-Chairman, Andrea PIAZZOLA, welcomes the participants and presents the apologies of the Chairman, Bernhard BECK, who could not join due to a meeting in his company.

He indicates the participants the safety procedures and reminds the Guidelines pertaining to the competition laws that have been sent prior to the meeting, and that participants have strictly to comply with.

1.4. New members

The Secretary mentions that the Polish pulp and paper association (SPPP) has approached UTIPULP in order to have more information. Thanks to this information, SPPP will decide, normally shortly, whether or not it becomes a member of UTIPULP.

Agreed: The Secretary will inform on the decision of the Polish pulp and paper association.

1.5. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (Manchester, April 21st 2017)

The minutes are approved without amendments.

2. Special Subject Dossiers (trade)

2.1. Compliance of the competition regulation by pulp sellers

The Vice-Chairman reminds the delegates about the previous steps, and sums up the content of the memorandum that has been prepared and sent by CEPI.

Several delegates then report that their participation to the conferences identified as “risky” by the CEPI law attorney had caused some turmoil within their company (meetings with the legal department....). They add that, if nothing changes, they will not attend any more this type of event.

A delegate mentions that he has taken an unformal contact with Hawkins Wright. According to the latter, the compliance of the conferences will be checked very closely in the future (review of the slides before the presentation, participation of a law attorney in the conferences...).

Other delegates add that some pulp sellers are still far to fulfil the requirements of the competition law, as it has been proofed (and reported by RISI) by a presentation made in August in Brazil by a CEO of one of the top pulp producers.

The delegates then discuss on the next steps and agree on the following.

Agreed:

- *companies are encouraged to contact the main organisers of international conferences (RISI and Hawkins Wright),*
- *a letter will be sent to these two companies, asking them to take the necessary measures to ensure that the competition regulation is strictly applied,*
- *this letter will be prepared with the assistance of the legal service of one or several companies represented within UTIPULP,*
- *the Excom will check the letter and approve it,*
- *copies of this letter will be sent to the companies whose representatives are likely to have infringed the competition regulation (APP and Suzano),*
- *copies of this letter will be sent also to EPIS and EUROPULP. Oral information will be given to the President of EPIS and EUROPULP before they receive the letter,*
- *CEPI will be informed of the different steps above in order to secure a consistent action of the European pulp and paper industry as a whole.*

2.2. Measurement of the moisture content

Charo VIEJO and Jörg DITTOMBEE report on the contact they had with EPIS. They mention that EPIS is not particularly keen to work on this dossier, as the representatives of this association consider there is not really an issue.

UTIPULP delegates then discuss about the different types of devices that could be envisaged to measure the moisture content of the bales (portable or in-line....) and conclude on the next steps.

Agreed:

- *Jörg DITTOMBEE will ask the technical staff of his company to test a portable device. He will then report at the next General Assembly,*
- *VDP will contact one of the companies producing such a device (AMCO) and invite them to the next General Assembly (April 2018).*

2.3. Measurement of the pulp brightness

The Secretary presents the outcome of the survey that has been sent to the members about a potential revision of the Standard ISO 3688. This survey demonstrates that a substantial majority does not see a real added value in spending resources in the revision of the Standard.

Agreed: *companies that see an interest in the revision of the Standard are invited to contact their national association (usually involved in their national standardization body).*

2.4. Prevention of the drawbacks of the wires

Due to other issues to address and no obvious solution, the joint group EPIS/UTIPULP discussing of this topic has made little progress.

Agreed: *UTIPULP delegates following this topic will report at the next General Assembly.*

3. Special Subject Dossiers (environment)

3.1 FSC/PEFC/EU Timber Regulation (P.A. Lacour)

Regarding FSC, the Secretary alerts the UTIPULP delegates that the more and more stringent requirements of the Controlled Wood Standard may, on the medium term, reduce the volume of pulp produced out of this fibre resource. Practically, he mentions that the new Controlled Wood Standard will be applicable as of 1st December 2017.

Agreed: UTIPULP secretariat will contact EPIS in order to know the position of this association regarding the FSC Controlled Wood Standard.

Regarding the EU Timber Regulation, none of the delegates report particular difficulties.

The Secretary then reports that the future Standard on the Chain of Custody will be finalized in 2018.

4. Association Topics

4.1 Finance and Administration

The Secretary presents the estimated accounts for 2017 and underlines that they are in line with the budget. He adds that he will receive soon a memorandum of a lawyer in order to know if the VAT should (or not) apply to the reimbursement costs of the staff hired by UTIPULP from COPACEL.

4.2 Excom members

The Vice-Chairman mentions that, according to the UTIPULP statutes, the Excom members have a mandate of three years, which can be renewed once. As two members have reached the end of their mandate, the seats are now open, and two delegates informed the Secretariat about their interest to join the Executive Committee:

- Steve ABDULLA (SCA Tissue), succeeding to John GOVIER, and representing CPI,
- Norman SNEL (Sappi), succeeding to Victor KAMM, and representing VNP.

Agreed: All the members thank the out coming members for their involvement and approve that Steve ABDULLA and Norman SNEL join the Excom.

John GOVIER then takes the floor and says that he will retire in March 2018, which means that the UTIPULP General Assembly today is his last meeting within this Association. All the members warmly thank John for his very significant contribution to the Association during all these past years.

4.3 BREXIT update

Steve FREEMAN gives an update of the BREXIT discussions (see slides).

4.4 Statistics

The Secretary presents how the statistics are calculated and suggests an improvement.

Agreed: the General Assembly approves that the statisticians of the National Associations upload online their data on a secured website.

4.5 Member countries: special items and tour de table

Delegates present the document summarizing the key features of their respective countries.

5. Close out

5.1. New date & location

The Vice-Chairman mentions that the Belgian Association (COBELPA) will not be able to host the UTIPULP General Assembly in April 2018, but volunteered for April 2019. He then mentions that another association has then been approached, and gives the floor to Paul BARTMANN.

Paul BARTMANN takes the floor and says that AUSTROPAPIER will be pleased to host UTIPULP in April 2018. On behalf of all the members, the Vice-Chairman thanks the Austrian delegation.

Regarding the date of the meeting, the Vice-Chairman mentions that the date that was envisaged (12th April) is not possible anymore and proposes the 20th April (with the Excom on the eve). This change in the date makes one delegate asking if it would not be better to have the General Assembly meeting on Wednesday (instead of Friday), with the Excom on Tuesday.

Agreed:

- ***The next General Assembly will take place on 20th April 2018 in Austria,***
- ***For the spring meetings after this one, the Secretary will ask the members if they prefer that the General Assembly takes place on Friday or on Wednesday. Based on the outcome of this survey, this issue will be discussed at the next General Assembly.***

5.2. Close

The Chairman thanks the participants and closes the meeting.
