



ESSC Meeting on-line – 23 February 2021 (15 – 17 CET)

AGENDA:

1: short report by the president

2: short report by

2a: the Treasurer

2b: the Secretary

3: opinions and comments on:

3a: planned activities

3b: ESSC newsletter

3c: ESSC social

3d: ESSC participation to the next EU strategy

3e: participation of the Ex. Com to the homeworks

4: A vision for the ESSC future: general discussion

5: next societal initiatives

Presents: Carmelo Dazzi, Edoardo Costantini, Thomas Scholten, Ildefonso Pla Sentis, Josè Luis Rubio, Lilian Øygarden, Peter Strauss, Wim Cornelis, Karol Végh

Absents: Mike Fullen, Saulius Marcinkonis, Mihail Dumitru, Endla Reintam.

1: short report by the president:

Carmelo greets the presents and in particular Karol Végh, who has been invited to attend the EC to report the web page activity. Before to start the meeting, Carmelo on behalf of the ESSC ExCom congratulates with Edoardo, President elect of the IUSS for the next period. He stresses that it is a well-deserved recognition and we are very proud.

Carmelo presents the foreseen activities for the year 2021, in particular, the meetings of: Imola in September, in collaboration with the University of Bologna, S. Stefano Camastra (Sicily) in November, in collaboration with the European Ecocycles Society (EURECYS). The event has been

advertised on the Facebook page and by writing to the ESSC members and will be also put on the ESSC web page.

Next year there is a planned ESSC International Conference in Czech Republic (Brno and Olomouc) in collaboration with ISCO, WASWAC and IUSS. More information is expected from Borivoj Sarapatka.

Carmelo suggests giving grants for young members attending the Sicilian conference. The EC agrees to allow 2 grants of 500 € each.

Lilian intervenes by saying that the meeting on soil conservation on high latitudes, which was postponed from the 2020 to the 2021, could be held in October, but a final decision has not been made so far. There is the possibility to hold it virtual. Edoardo expresses the opportunity to hold it anyway, and he is in favour to consider the on-line possibility. Lillian will communicate the final decision asap and in any case by the end of June.

2: short reports:

by the Treasurer: Wim reports that currently the paying member are 130, and the situation is rather stable. We have about 7,000€ as bank deposit.

by the Secretary: Edoardo reports the impact of ESSC through the Facebook page. The situation is steady, in the sense that we have a consistent 2000 people liking the page; every year there are 300 more likes, since 2015. Visits are also rather constant: 6-8 a day. Posts are viewed on average 69 times each, a little more than last year. Like the former years, people following the page are mostly from Italy or outside Europe. Then he concludes saying that it seems that there is a good interest for soil conservation, but the society is not much supported by EU countries.

Karol briefly reports the activity of the web page, which should be updated. Carmelo will write him accordingly.

3: opinions and comments:

- a) The ESSC newsletters need urgent distribution (2017 and 2018), as well as the inception of newsletter 2019. Carmelo will contact Mike asap to urge him to deliver the ready newsletters to Carmelo and Edoardo to distribute to the members and to Karol to be put on the web page. With this, Carmelo will also contact Mike (or Colin) for the finalization of the volume on the Guest editorials, Carmelo and Edoardo have given their availability to help finalizing it.

4: A vision for the ESSC future: general discussion

- a) The EC member are rather optimistic but also realistic. The society has its strong points in:
  - i) the country-based organization, very well connected to the real world of soil conservation, and ii) the capacity to organize local conferences and congresses within an international framework. These characteristics are rather unique in Europe, in a panorama of few big societies and Institutions cannibalizing smaller societies.
- b) Ildefonso and Carmelo suggest an updating of the statute or the creation of a by-laws. After a discussion, the EC decides to work out a draft of new by-laws to be approved in the next Council. The ideas of the EC members will be sent to Carmelo and Edoardo by the end of April, who will collect them and write the draft.

- c) Edoardo suggests reinforcing the society by enhancing collaborations with other societies like we did with WASWAC and make the most of the possible synergies with international projects, like EJP-Soil. An opportunity is given by the presence of Lilian as chair of the Soil Conservation Commission and of Edoardo as President Elect of the IUSS.
- d) Carmelo says that social media like Instagram could also be used to reinforce the sense of belonging of the ESSC members. He will find someone helping to implement Instagram.

#### 5: next societal initiatives

- e) A questionnaire about the future EU soil strategy is going to be filled by the ESSC. A brief position statement should be inserted in the EU questionnaire, but also a position paper. For this last one, Josè and Ildefonso are available to take the lead for a draft to be circulated among EC members.
- f) Peter suggests trying to link our meeting with the EJP-soil project, which involves some of us. The proposal is seconded whenever possible.
- g) Wim suggests the production of short videos about different issues related to soil conservation in the different countries, to be distributed by web. Wim will let circulate a written form of the proposal.
- h) Carmelo suggests organizing a summer school on soil conservation with the collaboration of the EJP-soil project. The EC supports the idea, possibly connected with field activities and in connection with the Congress in the Czech Republic.
- i) Edoardo suggests organizing an on-line Council or better an assembly by the end of June, aimed to approve the new statute or bye-laws and present the societal initiatives: meetings, videos, summer school etc. This event could also be a way to solicit a stronger involvement of the ESSC member to the societal initiatives, also with the perspective of rejuvenating ESSC officers. Carmelo offers the availability of his Institutional web platform for this event.

The Secretary

Edoardo Costantini