Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of the European Society for Environmental History held at Prague, Friday 5 September 2003 at 17:45 hrs

Chair: Vice-President Prof. Dr. Christian Pfister.

- 1. The Vice-President opens the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of Business Meeting read to the Ordinary General Meeting

3. President's Report

President reads the biannual report to the General meeting. A copy of the report will be made available as a downloadable file from the Internet.

4. Report on modifications of the constitution

The Vice-President gives a short account of the difficulties of getting ESEH registered in Britain and why it was decided to get the Society founded in Germany. The Vice-President urged the Ordinary General Meeting to approve the new constitution.

5. Vote on the new constitution

Vote was taken by raising hands.

72 Yes 0 No 1 Abstained

Hereby the Ordinary General Meeting accepted the constitution.

6. Financial Control Committee

The Treasurer explained the accounts for the year 2001-2002 to the meeting. The financial control committee reported that it had found the accounts in order and discharged the Treasurer.

7. Discharge of the outgoing Executive Board and Regional Representatives The Vice-President discharges the outgoing Executive Board and Regional Representatives.

8. Elections of new Executive Board and Regional Representatives The Chair of the Nominating Committee gave a report on the activities of the committee and presented the slate of candidates. It was also reported that no opposition to proposed candidates was received.

The options for voting and voting procedures were explained to the Ordinary General Meeting. The General Meeting decided to vote collectively for the Executive Board by raising hands.

<u>Election of Executive Board</u> The result of the vote for the Executive Board was as follows:

> Yes: 70 No: 0 Abstained: 3

With this result the new board was accepted by the General Meeting and installed to serve as Executive Board for the period until the next Ordinary General Meeting in 2005.

Election of Regional Representatives

The General Meeting decided also to vote collectively for the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee

The result of the vote was as follows:

Yes: 68 No: 0 Abstained: 6

With this result the Ordinary General Meeting accepted the proposed slate of candidates and the Representatives were installed to serve for a period of four years.

The newly elected Vice-President introduced himself to the General Meeting.

9. Selection of the new Nominating Committee

The President explained that it was realised quite late that a new Nomination Committee had to be elected. Therefore it was decided to extend the existence of the Provisional Nominating Committee. It was felt that the structure of the Nomination Committee was problematic with the provision that three of its members must be regional board members. The Regional Representatives found it also problematic to vote for themselves and also receiving complaints regarding their own work. It was generally felt that a Nominating Committee is a good thing because it prepares a good slate of candidates for elections.

The Meeting also decided that the possibility postal or electronic ballots for absentee voting should be investigated.

10. Membership fees

The Treasurer presented the following membership categories and fees for the years 2003-2005:

Full membership:	20 Euro per annum
Student/unwaged:	10 Euro per Annum

The General Assembly voted unanimously in favor of these fees.

11. External funding ESEH

The President gave a report on the funding by Breuninger Foundation. The Breuninger Foundation has sponsored the ESEH since 1999. Breuninger Foundation continues for some time with providing seed money but will cease funding in the foreseeable future. Then we rely on membership fees and external funding other than Breuninger. Suggestions for any external funding are welcome.

12. Report on Executive Secretariat

Former executive Secretary Sofia Akerberg read a short report of her activities to the Ordinary General Meeting.

13. Report on ESEH as co-founder of the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICE-HO)

The President announced the launch of the ICE-HO. The ICE-HO is an umbrella organisation for scholarly organisations dedicated to the environment. It was formed by the American Society for

organisations will be invited to join ICE-HO. The question was raised if institutions could become am member of ICE-HO since in many parts of the world no environmental history organisations will be established for the foreseeable future.

14. Future conferences

Mauro Agnoletti introduces his offer to host the 2005 ESEH conference in Florence. The Tuscan regional Government has generously offered to finance large part of the conference costs. The conference will be held in February 2005.

Petra van Dam has offered to host the 2007 ESEH conference in Amsterdam. The General Meeting met both offers with approval.

15. Access to ESEH of regions with low-level incomes.

Petra van Dam introduced her report on the access of scholars from low-income level countries to ESEH. The report contains extensive reports on national funding statements drawn up by Regional Representatives, which Petra van Dam had received while coordinating the Nomination Committee for the ESEH 2003 elections. The report indicated that the fees were not the restricting factor for access. The problem lays more with access to the ESEH conferences. In order to address this problem it was proposed:

- That Local organising committees raises money for conference grants.
- Encourage sponsored sessions
- Create travel fund from the capital of ESEH and external donations

16. Miscellaneous

It was announced that the German Historical Institute in Washington has donated \$500 (US) for the publication prize in 2005.

It was announced that the International Commission of Historical Sciences has made environmental history the top theme for the 2005 congress in Sydney.

17. The Vice-President closed the meeting