



**I**nternational  
**A**ssociation of  
**E**nvironmental  
**A**nalytical  
**C**hemistry

**Extended Executive Committee:**

Prof. Joan Albaiges ( Vice President), CSIC, Barcelona, E  
Prof. Antje Baeumner, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA  
Prof. J.A.C. Broekaert (Secretary), University of Hamburg, D  
Prof. R.B. Burk, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada  
Dr. Montserrat Filella, University of Geneva, CH  
Prof. Dieter Klockow ( President), University of Dortmund, D  
Dr. Michel Nielen, RIKILT, Wageningen, NL  
Dr. Roberto Pilloton, ENEA, C.R. Rome, I  
Prof. J. Readman, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Plymouth, UK  
Prof. J. Taradellas (Cashier), EPF-L, Lausanne, CH

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Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry (IAEAC) held on the occasion of the 35<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Environmental Analytical Chemistry (ISEAC 35) on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 18 hrs, Gdańsk University of Technology (GUT), Main Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Lecture Hall No. 300

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**1) Welcoming address by the President**

The members received the invitation to the General Assembly as well as the draft agenda by e-mail sent May 13, 2008, and the President welcomed the 13 members and one guest present at the meeting.

**2) Approval of the draft agenda**

The agenda was approved and as 11A an extra point on a decision to be made on the extension of the mandate of the Executive Committee (EC) and the Extended Executive Committee (EEC) by about 3 months to October 5-9, 2010 has been added.

**3) Discussion and approval of the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly held in Hamburg/Germany on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

The minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly (GA) held at the occasion of ISEAC 34 in Hamburg on June 5, 2006 were accepted without any wishes for changes.

**4) Report of the President for the Period June 2006 to June 2008**

"In Hamburg the President of the IAEAC as well as 9 more candidates were elected to form the new EEC for the term July 2006 to June 2010. You were informed about the results of the elections through the minutes of the GA. The new EEC has met twice during this period under report, namely in Dortmund/Germany on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and yesterday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, here in Gdańsk (ISEAC 36).

The IAEAC managing board, the EC, presently consisting of the Vice-President Joan Albaiges), the Secretary (José Broekaert), the Cashier (Joseph Tarradellas), and myself as the President has also met twice, first on Sept. 5/6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Barcelona/Spain, and second on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 in Allschwil/Switzerland, in the Association's headquarter run by our Assistant Marianne Frei.

The main purpose of these meetings has always been to take initiatives as to the future positive development of the IAEAC, in particular stressing the

- planning of new activities and collaboration with other organizations
- re-organization of our finances
- improvement of the attractiveness of our conferences (workshops)
- increase of the scientific standing of our journal (IJEAC)

- attraction of new members and student members
- regionalization of IAEAC activities
- design and improvement of our website.

Three examples may illustrate the excellent performance of the IAEAC during the past two years:

- a) Excluding ISEAC 34 in Hamburg and ISEAC 35 here at Gdańsk we have organized or sponsored 11 international events, some of them scientifically (and even economically) outstandingly successful. To mention just three: 23<sup>rd</sup> LC/MS Montreux Symposium (Nov. 2006); 11<sup>th</sup> Metal Speciation Workshop (Muenster/Germany, Sept. 2007); 3<sup>rd</sup> Food Analysis Symposium (Prague/CZ, Nov. 2007).
- b) We continued to keep our regional activities on a high level by supporting for the first time a Biosensor Workshop in the East Asian Pacific region, namely in Goa/India, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Int. Conference on Pollutants' Analysis and Control in Beijing/China (both in Oct. 2007). We also intensified the interactions with RACAL, since Febr. 2005 the Latin American branch of the IAEAC ([www.racal.org](http://www.racal.org)).
- c) We could arrange for a reasonable subscription rate for our Int. J. of Environm. Analytical Chemistry (IJEAC), so that we are able to provide all members who have paid the annual fee with copies of the journal free of charge.

The financial basis for supporting all our activities and maintaining an office in Switzerland has been built up during the past 25-30 years through our honorary work, sometimes in collaboration with others. As in the past years, we are in a financially healthy situation in spite of the worldwide engagement according to our idealistic and moral goals as defined in article 1 of our statutes. What is written there has been the basis for our work for the Association, and will remain the basis also for the future. The money we make with one activity we spend for another, in a way that a stable budget is maintained.

Summarizing the period June 2006 to June 2008 it can be concluded that the IAEAC is very vital and active with respect to its engagement in the organization of conferences and workshops. The IAEAC has increased its global activities and opened possibilities to attract in particular young (student) members. The Roland W. Frei Award (up to now given 26 times) continues to be a major brand of our Association.

It is surprising that such a small scientific organization (presently about 90 members) could develop that well during now more than 35 years in spite of being faced with an increasing competition with many other, often much larger, communities. This must have to do with the thematic scope of our activities and the joint efforts of our members to make these activities a success and to give them a substantial degree of publicity. To maintain "momentum", however, an increase in membership remains an important goal for the future, and I would like to ask all of you to be active in recruiting new members. The advantages of becoming a member can be taken from our website [www.iaeac.ch](http://www.iaeac.ch).

All the achievements made would not have been possible without a strong collaboration of all those feeling responsible for the prosperity of the Association. My sincere thanks go to all these colleagues, the members of the EC and EEC, the organizers of our events, and last but not least to Marianne Frei who is successfully running the IAEAC office in Allschwil.

## 5) Report of the Secretary for the period June 2006 to June 2008

As from June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (ISEAC 34, Hamburg) the colleagues David Hercules and Marie-Claire Hennion resigned from the EEC and were thanked for their many years of service. The new EEC had meetings in Dortmund and in Gdańsk, to which the President already referred to. In Dortmund, a brain storming was initiated on prime topics for the forthcoming years and here water and energy research were recognized as two important directions.

The EC had meetings in Barcelona and Allschwil to which the President also referred to. Here the conferences and workshops held in 2006 and planned for 2007/2008 (see Newsletter 36, May 2007, and Newsletter 37, June 2008) were thoroughly evaluated with respect to the results achieved or to be expected. At the time of the Allschwil meeting the IAEAC had 88 members. A relatively new aspect of IAEAC policy is the student membership status. Here for the time of the Ph.D. work students can become members free of charge and receive all benefits offered by the Association provided that the supervisor supports a student's

application and confirms his academic status. A special advantage of this student membership is the possibility to apply for grants to visit the Associations' meetings. The supervisor, however, must be a regular member of the Association for at least one year prior to submitting such an application. At present there are 11 student members, but one must stress the strictness of the rules to be followed in becoming a student member and in applying for the benefits offered.

As mentioned already the Association lives from the engagement of its members in coordinating and supporting its worldwide activities. Therefore, it is important to draw the attention to the homepage of the Association ([www.iaeac.ch](http://www.iaeac.ch)), kept up to date by Marianne Frei, the assistant to the Secretary and permanent officer of the Association. Here you can find all important information on the IAEAC including reports on events that have passed and previews on those to come. We thank Marianne Frei very much for all these efforts and for managing the necessary administrative work, keeping the contact with our members, and taking care of the publication of our Newsletter.

Finally a great compliment needs to be paid Prof. Namieśnik and his collaborators for having organized such a high level ISEAC 35 here at Gdańsk.

#### **6) Report of the Cashier on the accounts for the years 2006 and 2007**

A financial report of the Cashier for the fiscal years 2006 and 2007 was delivered as well. This report can be sent to IAEAC members on request ([iaeac@bluewin.ch](mailto:iaeac@bluewin.ch)).

The finances of the Association could be maintained in a good state in spite of the beginning of a worldwide financial crisis. The assets of the IAEAC have increased by nearly 4% since 2004. This result was achieved mainly by a prudent management of the investments in bonds and by the fact that more than 50% of the money is now in € because of the present strength of this currency versus CHF and US\$. Credit Suisse is the IAEAC bank, and our money is invested only in bonds which are in accordance with our scientific, environmental and social goals.

With respect to its finances the IAEAC is eager to equilibrate incomes and expenses and to have a reserve sufficient to continue its activities for several years even if there comes up a temporary decrease of the incomes. Presently one year of operation requires about 300'000 CHF.

The expenses are

- the deficits of some events (mainly those in developing countries)
- the salary of the assistant to the Secretary
- office material, mailing, and travel expenses
- grants for students
- the Roland W. Frei Award
- subscription of IJEAC for members (who are regularly paying their annual fee)
- publication of the Newsletter

and the incomes

- benefits of events (mainly LC/MS and Food Analysis symposia)
- membership fees.

Our finances have been audited positively by Prof. Dr W. Haerdi and Dr Claude Corvi. Many thanks go to them for their careful work. The Cashier also warmly thanks Mrs. Marianne Frei for her steady help and engaged work she is doing in managing our day-by-day finances.

#### **7) Report of the Auditors**

The report of the auditors for the years 2006 and 2007 was read. Profs. W. Haerdi and C. Corvi, in their report (see annex 1) declared "that we have nothing but praise (those responsible) for the excellent book-keeping" and "that no trace of any error could be brought to light". They recommend to formally approve the actions of the Association's Executive Committee.

#### **8) Discussion of the reports**

With respect to the reports neither discussion statements were made nor further information was asked for by the members.

#### **9) Acceptance of the accounts and formal release of the Executive Committee**

Prof. Readman asks for formal release of the EC. This was supported by 9 votes for the proposal and 4 abstentions.

#### **10) Report on the International Journal of Environmental Analytical Chemistry (IJEAC).**

The Editor (J. Albaiges) reported that Taylor and Francis increased the speed of handling the manuscripts considerably and that the impact factor now is beyond 1. The Publisher is very active and both sides – Editor and Publisher - are satisfied with the state of affairs. The Publisher now arranges for a meeting with the Editor every year and extended the cooperation with us to 2012. It has been proposed by the Publisher to give a time-limited open access to registered participants of meetings supported by the IAEAC. Further they proposed to give a time-limited open access to conference proceedings as an option. Generally, there is a positive atmosphere of working.

The present rejection rate is 80 % requiring about 600 manuscripts per year to fill 12-15 issues (1 issue: 5-10 manuscripts). Therefore at least one proceedings issue per year is needed. The present ISEAC here will arrange for a proceedings issue and the Pesticides Meeting and the Biosensor Workshop are further possibilities. The interest of participants in the present ISEAC to deliver manuscripts is high. The APICPAC 4 (Beijing/China, Oct. 2007) manuscripts did not allow to publish a special issue.

#### **11) Discussion and making a decision on the prolongation of the agreement with Taylor & Francis Ltd. regarding a privileged subscription rate of IJEAC for IAEAC members**

After a short discussion the members unanimously voted to prolong the agreement. The journal, however, will be sent only to members who ask for free subscription on their membership declaration, so as to avoid costs for sending free copies to members, who receive the journal by subscription of their university library. Members who have not paid their annual fee in time will not receive the journal.

#### **11a) Prolongation of the mandates of the EC and the EEC**

The prolongation of the mandates of the EC and the EEC by about three months until the elections at the next ISEAC in Rome (Oct. 5-9, 2010) was accepted unanimously.

#### **12) Report of the President of RACAL, the Latin American branch of the IAEAC**

O.M. Rodriguez reported on activities which took place in 2007. They included an interlaboratory study for water analysis carried out in Costa Rica (April 2007) and a workshop on ICP-MS with participants from Colombia, Panama, Ecuador and Costa Rica (Oct. 2007). Next year an international conference will be held in Costa Rica: 8<sup>th</sup> Latin American Symposium on Environmental and Sanitary Analytical Chemistry, San José, Costa Rica, February 16-20, 2009. For these activities and for the operation of RACAL support has been given and will be given by the IAEAC. Help from the government and from companies will be solicited, but this is difficult to achieve.

Further it is emphasized that keeping contact between RACAL members of the different Latin American countries is difficult. The particular problems in operating an organisation like RACAL are related to the requirements of multi-job situations for most members. Here the use of electronic communication for discussions of administrative items is the way to go. It is much less useful, however, for scientific discussions. RACAL presently has 24 members from Uruguay, Colombia, Brazil, Panama and Costa Rica. Support by the IAEAC will be continued as it is along the policy of the Association. This support is based on a written agreement, which needs to be renewed and specified for the period 2009 to 2013.

**13) Any other business**

No further issues were raised.

The President announced that the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly will take place on occasion of ISEAC 36 in Rome, Italy during the time October 5-9, 2010. He thanked the members for attending the General Assembly and closed the meeting.

Annex 1: Auditor's report Annex

Date:

16.12.2008

J.A.C. Broekaert  
Secretary

D. Klockow  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.A.C. Broekaert', written on a light-colored rectangular background.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Klockow', written on a white background.