

**Minutes of the
held on 24th June 2005 in Zurich
(09.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)**

Members' Assembly 2005

Member representatives

AT	ÖVA	J. Collini
		Th. Mühl
BE	ESTAL Belgium	G. De Colfmaecker
CH	VSA-ASA	R. Schmid
DE	VOA	Th. Becker - Chairman
ES	ASELAC	Proxy given to Th. Becker
	ASESAN	P. LLoret
FR	ADAL	E. Arnoux
GB	AFA	C. Tomlinson
GR	AAG	E. Tafroglou
HU	AFMSZ	K. Liber
IT	AITAL	G. Barbarossa
		A. Tirapelle
NL	ESTAL NL	M. Koot
PL	QUALIPOL	A. Wojsa Cosentino

Apologies

ES	ASELAC	C. González Soler (represented by Th. Becker)
NO	NEF	O. Malmerengen
TR	AYID	T. Uluçak
PT	APAL	J. Maia

Secretariat

CH	M. Kalmar
	U. Pérez

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Members Assembly held on 16th September 2004 in Valencia
2. Confirmation of the members of the Executive Committee for the period 2005-2008
3. Election of the President by the ESTAL Executive Committee
4. Future strategy of ESTAL
 - Lobbying in Brussels
 - ESTAL Technician/Co-ordinator
 - Co-operation with CEPE
 - Working group Strategic Planning
5. Report of the working groups
 - IPPC Directive
 - Sulphuric acids
6. ESTAL event 2005 in Greece
7. Congress 2006: list of duties
8. Approval of the annual accounts 2004
9. Provisional annual accounts 2005 – budget 2006
10. Formal approval of the actions of the Executive Committee and of the Secretariat for 2004
11. Membership
12. Any other business
13. Next Members Assembly

The Vice President, Dr. Becker, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to Zurich. He announced that Mr. González Soler was unable to attend for health reasons and had sent his apologies. Mr. Becker assumed the responsibility of chairing this General Meeting.

Thirteen national associations were in attendance, representing 22 out of 27 votes (see annex 1). As such, the meeting was quorate.

Mr. Becker officially welcomed the Polish National Association, QUALIPOL, represented by Mrs. Wojsa Consentino. This was the first time that this association had attended a General Meeting. He also welcomed the new delegates from Great Britain, Mr. Tomlinson, and from the Netherlands, Mr. Koot, and looked forward to an interesting collaboration during the coming meetings.

1. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEMBERS ASSEMBLY HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2004 IN VALENCIA

The minutes of the Ordinary Members Assembly, held on 16th September 2004 in Valencia, were approved unanimously.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD 2005-2008

In the period 2005-2008, the national associations will be represented on the ESTAL Executive Committee by the following delegates (list of addresses see annex 2).

- Germany	Mr. Th. Becker
- Austria	Mr. J. Collini
- Belgium	Mr. G. de Colfmaeker
- Spain	Mr. C. González Soler
	Mr. P. Lloret
- France	Mr. E. Arnoux
- Great Britain	Mr. C. Tomlinson
- Greece	Mr. E. Tafroglou
- Hungary	Mr. K. Liber
- Italy	Mr. A. Tirapelle
- Norway	Mr. O. Malmerengen
- Netherlands	Mr. M. Koot
- Poland	Mrs. A. Wojsa Cosentino
- Portugal	Mr. J. Maia
- Switzerland	Mr. R. Schmid
- Turkey	Mr. T. Uluçak

3. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT BY THE ESTAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Becker proposed that the election be conducted by Mr. de Colfmaeker. Mr. de Colfmaeker referred to the good work of Mr. Becker during his period of office as Vice President, and proposed him for the office of President of ESTAL. Mr. Becker was unanimously elected to the office of President. Mr. Becker accepted the office and expressed his thanks for the confidence placed in him. He indicated that he would work to the best of his ability with the help of the Executive Committee .

Mr. Becker pointed out that, during his period of office as President, Mr. González Soler had had to find solutions to important and complex matters; for example, the new membership fees, organisation of the congresses every 2 years and the co-operation between ESTAL and the quality label organisations. It had been a difficult period of office and Mr. González Soler had succeeded in solving the complex problems. On behalf of all those present, he thanked him for his work and wished him a speedy recovery.

4. FUTURE STRATEGY OF ESTAL

4.1 Lobbying in Brussels and Technical Co-ordinator

The meetings of the working groups “European Lobbying” and “Strategic Planning” had taken place the previous day. Both working groups had discussed the matters of the co-operation with Orgalime and with the future technical advisor. It had been decided that, in future, the subject of “European Lobbying” would only be dealt with in one working group, and indeed in the “Strategic Planning” group, and that, as a result, the working group “European Lobbying” was to be dissolved.

Following the Executive Committee meeting in March 2005, the secretariat had asked Orgalime if a six-month probationary period would be possible. On the basis of the extensive reply from Orgalime, both working groups have come to the conclusion that a 12-month probationary period would be sensible.

The working group “Strategic Planning” therefore put the proposal to the General Meeting that a trial should be carried out with Orgalime for a probationary period of one year. In the event of success being foreseeable, ESTAL should subsequently enter into a 3-year co-operation agreement. Information had been obtained from a reliable source that Orgalime is an institution with a good network of connections and experience that could provide optimum representation for ESTAL.

Mr. Arnoux reported that the European Aluminium Association EAA is also considering involving a European advisor for special matters, so as to become yet more efficient in terms of lobbying work. At the last EAA meeting, he had therefore mentioned that ESTAL is considering a co-operation with Orgalime and is of the opinion that Mrs. Kalmar could establish contact to EAA (Josef Luthiger) in this respect.

Mr. Becker explained that both working groups had spoken in favour of first of all working with Orgalime and looking for a technical advisor, before approaching other organisations. This proposal was unanimously approved by the Members Assembly.

The Secretariat had drawn up an initial budget for the European Lobbying project. The costs of Orgalime, the estimated costs of the technical advisor and of the Secretariat resulted in an initial cost quotation of approx. Euro 55,000.00. However, these costs could vary considerably and are to a major extent dependent on the activities, required on the part of Orgalime and the technical advisor, in the first year.

The search for a technical advisor will be continued. Thus far, 6 applications have been received for this position, and the working group “Strategic Planning” will invite the 3 best candidates to an interview in Brussels on 16th September 2005.

The critical point remains the question as to how these costs are to be financed. The budget prepared by the secretariat (annex 3) two possible forms of calculation:

- In calculation no. 1, the amount would be spread over all member companies (i.e. 445 anodic oxidation and coating companies) which would result in a subscription of Euro 125.00 per member.
- In calculation no. 2, the amount would be divided up between the national associations and the member companies, i.e. each national association would contribute Euro 1,000.00 and each company Euro 90.00.

The working group “Strategic Planning” had discussed the matter at length, and had already made a proposal at the meeting in March 2005 that the invoicing of these new costs should be in accordance with the same principles as the invoicing of the ordinary membership fees.

At the previous day's meetings, however, a new proposal had been put forward by AITAL. According to this proposal, the costs of the European Lobbying project should be borne by all national associations in equal amounts. This system would be fairer because, at present, AITAL pays a high contribution to the costs, whilst other national associations contribute only 2%. In addition, Mr. Boi should assume the position of technical advisor at ESTAL together with Qualital. This solution would mean that not only one person (Mr. Boi) would work with Orgalime, but rather an entire organisation (Qualital) with several experts and a laboratory.

Although nobody questions the quality of the Qualital personnel and laboratory, Mr. Becker explained that ESTAL is not looking for a laboratory but rather for an expert with technical experience. Furthermore, ESTAL must involve a technical working group that can support the technical advisor.

Some delegates claimed that the incorporation of Qualital into ESTAL could impair the independence of the quality label organisations, to which Qualicoat attaches such great importance. The Italian representatives countered that Mr. Boi is involved in several committees outside of the quality label organisation, and that ESTAL should offer a solution that means no barriers to entry for small companies with the national association.

According to the Chairman, a uniform subscription of Euro 3,500.00 per association would constitute a major disadvantage for the small national associations; for example, it would mean a tripling of the subscription for ÖVA and would be unreasonable for the Polish association.

For the majority of the delegates present, the subscription model has already cost a great deal of discussion and time over the past year; consequently, it would be a good thing if the same model were to be applied for the Lobbying Project, i.e. fixed subscription per national association + a small subscription per company. Mr. Becker also confirmed that the Italians pay the highest subscription, although they are also the national association with the most members. A budget of Euro 55,000.00 should be assumed; however, there is a great deal of uncertainty as to what the real costs will actually look like at the end of the year 2006.

Following an intense discussion, the Members Assembly decided to adopt the financing model no. 2, i.e. a fixed subscription for the national associations and subscriptions for each member company (majority vote / one abstention).

4.2 Co-operation with CEPE

Mrs. Kalmar provided information on the written correspondence with Mr. Strouhal from CEPE. Unfortunately, an initial meeting had failed to materialise. Mr. de Colfmaeker will endeavour to arrange a meeting with Mr. Strouhal, who lives in the USA, but who is frequently in Austria.

4.3 Working group Strategic Planning

The working group has discussed the subject of European Lobbying, as well as the co-operation with the quality label organisations.

As regards the co-operation with QUALICOAT and QUALANOD, the delegates were reminded that Mr. González Soler had sent a letter to both organisations in his capacity as President of ESTAL. ESTAL is also interested in closer co-operation with EAA and CEPE.

QUALANOD has commented favourably on the ESTAL letter. Mrs. Kalmar read out the e-mail from Mr. Andersson, the President of QUALANOD. Mr. Becker will endeavour to meet him before the meeting in November.

Mr. Arnoux informed the meeting that QUALICOAT had discussed the subject of the co-operation with ESTAL at the meeting held on 23rd June. QUALICOAT has proposed that the Technical Director of QUALICOAT should participate in the ESTAL meetings if technical matters are dealt with.

5. REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUPS

5.1 IPPC Directive

Mrs. Kalmar reported that the final draft of the IPPC Directive on surface treatment for metals and plastics has been completed. It comprises approx. 500 pages and can be called up in the Internet. An extract had been enclosed with the meeting documents. Mrs. Kalmar had brought

some CD's with her and made these available to those present. This "final draft" still has to be accepted by the European Commission.

Mr. Lloret proposed sending the CD to all national associations. Furthermore, a summary of the most important information would be a valuable aid for the anodic oxidisers and coaters.

Mr. Arnoux mentioned that this complicated work for the preparation of this Directive had been supported efficiently and technically by Messrs. Lusser (Collini GmbH) and Bartels (Alural Belgium). It was an important task that can be regarded as a success for ESTAL.

5.2 Sulphuric acid

The threshold values for sulphuric acids are evaluated not only from a technical but also from a medical point of view. Amendments are expected, in particular in Germany, and Mr. Becker will inform immediately in the event of this happening.

Mr. Koot specified that, in various countries, the values for sulphuric acid are lower than those applicable in the Netherlands.

6. ESTAL EVENT 2005 IN GREECE

Mr. Becker thanked Mr. Tafroglou once again for the invitation. Mrs. Kalmar informed those present that, thus far, 13 confirmations of attendance had been received. Due to the decision of QUALICOAT and QUALANOD also to hold their November meetings in Greece, several further confirmations were to be expected. The corresponding registration documents are being sent by the QUALICOAT and QUALANOD Secretariat.

At the suggestion of the Italian delegates, Mr Tafroglou will clarify whether a plant visit can be organised 1 or 2 days before the meetings. He will advise the ESTAL Secretariat regarding this matter in the next few days.

Note of the secretariat: The visit of the Alumil plant will take place on 16th November 2005 in the afternoon.

Mrs. Kalmar advised that the presentations at the congress of the Aluminium Association of Greece will only be held in Greek. However, Mr. Tafroglou pointed out that the various exhibitors speak English or French.

The documentation will be in Greek. A brochure will also be prepared in English.

Organisation of transport from the airport to the hotel will be arranged by the Secretariat, who will contact the registered participants again prior to their departure. AITAL is of the opinion that approx. 10 persons will come from Italy. Mr. Tafroglou would like to know how many people from QUALICOAT and QUALANOD will be in attendance.

7. CONGRESS 2006: LIST OF DUTIES

The Secretariat has drawn up a list of duties (annex 4) indicating all work that will be incurred in the organisation of a congress. The respective duties have been assigned either to the national association or to the ESTAL Secretariat; however, responsibility for the congress remains with the respective national association.

All delegates are requested to check this list and to indicate their opinion and suggestions in this respect. It would also be possible to consider assigning these duties to a neutral congress organisation company ("outsourcing").

Mr. Mühl explained that the ÖVA, as a small national association with just 5 members, cannot bear this financial responsibility, as it does not have a corresponding budget. Mr. Becker

pointed out that the national association will receive income from the congress tickets and sponsor payments. In future, the financial responsibility will lie with the national association.

Mr. Lloret was of the opinion that the national associations that had organised the last two congresses would be able to advise the ÖVA on the basis of their experience. A working group "Congress 2006" will be formed with the following members: Mr. Mühl, Mrs. Kalmar, delegates from ASESAN and ESTAL Belgium.

Mr. Becker proposed sending this list of duties to all national associations and asking them for their opinion as to where the respective responsibility should lie.

Mr. Collini will prepare a preliminary programme. He is of the opinion that there may be a possibility of obtaining Mr. Fischler, the former European Agricultural Commissioner, as a speaker.

Future congresses

Mr. Lloret proposed holding the next congress either in North Africa or in Eastern Europe. The Members Assembly agreed that the 2008 congress should be organised in an Eastern European country. The working group "Strategic Planning" will discuss this at its November meeting.

8. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2004

Mrs. Kalmar pointed out that, during the audit, the annual accounts sent out by e-mail on 20.6.2005 were queried in terms of the value added tax. Following the audit, the value added tax - input tax credit balance was corrected, a fact which was not accepted by the auditor at the meeting.

Mr. Arnoux explained that he had checked various accounts and that the accounting was correct, nevertheless, the value added tax was not shown correctly. The annual accounts 2004 were not approved and the Secretariat was requested to check the annual accounts once again in terms of the value added tax, and to submit an adjusted version as quickly as possible.

9. PROVISIONAL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2005 – BUDGET 2006 (annex 5)

Provisional annual accounts 2005

The Secretariat expects the annual accounts 2005 to be in line with the budget.

Mr. Arnoux asked for the value added tax not to be shown in a separate account. Mr. Becker countered that it could be useful to show the VAT separately if ESTAL reaches the necessary turnover of CHF 75,000.00 with additional activities (lobbying etc.), and can again apply for a value added tax number. Advice should be sought from a specialist in due course.

Budget 2006

Mr. Koot commented that the costs for the lobbying activities are not shown in the budget 2006 distributed in the meeting documentation. This is correct because the European Lobbying project is treated as a separate project.

Mr. De Colfmaeker was of the opinion that it might perhaps be possible to obtain sponsors, such as powder suppliers etc., for the lobbying, since these activities are also in their interests. Mr. Arnoux proposed obtaining suppliers as associate members, something which was also to be discussed at the next meeting. The budget 2006 will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

10. FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR 2004

As the annual accounts 2004 were not approved, this item of the agenda was not dealt with.

11. MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Kalmar advised that the newly-founded association QUALICOAT SCHWEIZ has been contacted regarding membership. It is clear from the response received that the new association wishes to concentrate predominantly on the quality label this year, and will not make a decision on membership of ESTAL until next year.

Mr. René Schmid has contacted the president of the new association, Mr Hofstetter, however it will probably not be possible for Qualicoat Schweiz to join ESTAL before 2006.

Mrs. Kalmar also informed the meeting that two Finnish associate members, Bodycote and Nordic Aluminium, have served notice of termination to the end of 2005.

Mr. Becker stated that, in Germany, 20 new members had joined in the year 2005 as a result of the amalgamation of VOA with the two organisations QUALICOAT DEUTSCHLAND and GAA.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An initial draft of the production statistics for 2004 was circulated. The production figures for the Spanish anodic oxidisers require checking.

The Secretariat, with the help of Mr. Schmid, would again like to start publishing the "ESTAL News". An initial draft of the rough format of this information bulletin was enclosed with the meeting documents.

Mr. Barbarossa informed the meeting regarding the METEF exhibition to be held in May 2006. The President and the General Secretary of ESTAL have been invited to hold a speech on ESTAL, either in the afternoon of 18th May or in the morning of 19th May. Both have gladly accepted the invitation. Speeches are also envisaged by QUALANOD and QUALICOAT.

Mr. LLoret has learned that Mr. Massanti, a member of AITAL and long-time companion at EURAS, died a few months ago.

Mrs. Kalmar referred to the fact that there is a new company in Spain called ESTALCOAT (owner J. Rua Revilla). Although the name ESTAL is not protected, the Secretariat should write to the company to inform it of the misuse of the name.

Mr. LLoret thanked the new President for his first meeting and looked forward to a pleasant working relation.

The President likewise thanked all members and hoped that the coming 3 years would be successful.

13. NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will probably be held in October 2006. The precise date and the location will be advised at a later date.

The next meeting of the ESTAL Executive Committee will be held on 18th November 2005 in Porto Carras (Greece).