21st General Assembly

Present:
- Sheam Satkuru-Granzella 2nd Vice Chairman (acting Chairman)
- Natalie Hufnagl-Jovy 1st Vice Chairman

National Governing Bodies from:
Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States

By proxy:
Austria, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland

International Stakeholder Members:
April Group, APP Timber, International Family Forestry Alliance, Metsa Group, PT Purinusa Ekapersada,

By proxy:
CEPF

Members of the Board
Pedro Albizu, Olivier Bertrand, Genevieve Chua, Riikka Joukio, Brian Kernohan, Peter Latham, and Joe Lawson.

Apologies:
- National Governing Bodies
  Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg
  
- International Stakeholder Members
European Timber Trade federation "ETTF", European Tissue Symposium (ETS), Fibria, The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA), International Paper, RECOFTC Smurfit Kappa, StoraEnso, Suzano, USSE, West Rock, Weyerhaeuser

**Extra-ordinary members:**
CEI-Bois, ELO, FECOF, MECSEA, and UEF.

**Members of the Board**
Michael Proschek-Hauptman, Hervé LeBouler, Dieter Koenig-Woehl, Julian Walker-Palin, Juan Carlos Jintiach

**In attendance:**
- Ben Gunneberg - Secretary General and CEO
- Ana Alicia García Ahumada - Mexico - Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación (EMA)
- Bach Le Van - Vietnam - Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST)
- Hugues Ekani from OLam GROUP Company Republic of Congo
- Istvan Töke PEFC Romania
- Ghan Shiam Pandey Green Foundation Nepal
- Fe C. Oliveros Forest Policy, Planning & Knowledge Management Philippines
- Witchar Pichainarong (FPPKMD) TFCC Thailand and Pimjai Leeissaranukul TFCC Thailand
- PEFC Council Staff.

*For selected agenda items*
- GA paper 5.1 – Year end accounts – Xavier Hafner – (skype)

Of a total of 119 eligible votes, 86 votes were present (72%)
1. AGENDA

Unanimously agreed:
To approve the Agenda of the 21st General Assembly

2. MINUTES OF THE 20TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Unanimously agreed:
To approve the minutes of the 20th General Assembly held Thursday 10 December 2015 at the Royal Plaza, Montreux, Switzerland as true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. PEFC UPDATE VERBAL

The Secretary General presented a verbal update on PEFC Council for the year 2016 and the priorities for 2017

4.1 NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY (NGB) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ROMANIA, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND

Unanimously agreed:
To approve the National Governing Body (NGB) membership applications from:

1. PEFC Romania, as the PEFC NGB member in Romania
2. The Council for Sustainable Forest Management in the Republic of Macedonia as the PEFC NGB member in the Republic of Macedonia.
3. Federation of Thai Industries (F.T.I) as the PEFC NGB member in Thailand.

Presentation of the New National Governing Bodies

- Istvan Tőke from Romania made a 5 min presentation to the assembly on PEFC Romania
- Pimjai Leelissaranukul from Thailand made a short presentation on Thailand Federation of Thai Industries (F.T.I)
- Oh Bok Kwon from Korea made a short presentation on KoFPI

- Note: The Secretary General announced the Earth Focus Foundation was no longer part of the PEFC Council international Stakeholders due to unpaid fees

It was noted that Earth Focus International Stakeholder membership had been withdrawn due to non-payment of membership fee.

5.1 YEAR END ACCOUNTS 2015

Mr Xavier Hafner joined via video conference to present the Year-end accounts 2015

Unanimously agreed:
To approve the audited accounts for the period 1 January to 31 December 2015, as prepared by Interexperts, for approval by the members at General Assembly.

5.2 BUDGET AND MEMBERSHIP FEES 2017

Agreed:
- To approve a membership fee cap per country for the period 2017-2019 at 365,250 CHF per annum.

Out of 86 Possible votes
43 voted For,
16 Against, (France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland)
27 abstentions (Slovak Republic, Latvia Slovenia, Malaysia, Czech Republic, Chile, Spain, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Estonia)

- To approve the budget and membership fees for 2017.

Out 86 Possible votes
80 voted for
6 against (France)
0 abstention

5.3 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Unanimously agreed:
To approve the appointment of “Interexperts Sa” as the PEFC Council Auditor for the year end accounts (As at 31 December 2016), in accordance with the PEFC Council Statutes, Article 5, Chapter 10, Section V.
6.1 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Secretary General presented the nominations Committee report 2016 on behalf of the Kit Prins Chairman of the PEFC Council Nominations Committee.

It was noted that Mr Olivier Bertrand, Mr Pedro Albizu and Mr Julian Walker-Palin had all completed their term of office and would demit office.

Unanimously agreed:

To elect Mr Peter Latham as Chairman of the PEFC Council (2016 – 2018),
To re-elect Ms Natalie Hufnagl-Jovy - First Vice Chair (Forest Owners) (2016-2019)
To re-elect Mr. Juan Carlos Jintiach – Board member (Indigenous Peoples) (2016-2019)
To re-elect Mrs. Genevieve Chua – Board Member (Traders / Buyers) (2016 – 2018)
To elect as new members of the Board (2016-2019), Mr. Fermín Olabe, Mr. David Ford and Professor Dr Eduardo Rojas y Briales.

Following the election the new Board Members introduced themselves.

6.2 ELECTION OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE 2017

Unanimously agreed:

To appoint Mr Christopher (Kit) Prins, Dr Bin Che Yeom (Dato) Freezailah, and Mr William V. Street, Jr. as the PEFC Nominations Committee 2017.

7.1 RE-ENDORSEMENT OF THE LATVIAN PEFC CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

Unanimously agreed:

To approve the re-endorsement of the Latvian PEFC Certification System.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Potential and New Members presentation:

- Cambodia, Lorn So from Forestry Administration
- Nepal, Ghan Shiam Pandey
- Vietnam, Phuong Vu Tan from Vietnam Academy of Forest Sciences
- Congo, Hugues Ekani on behalf of PAFC Congo.

9. PEFC COUNCIL MEETING DATES & SUBMISSION DEADLINES 2017

The General Assembly noted the PEFC Council Board of Directors agreed meeting dates and submission deadlines for 2017.

10. DATE AND VENUE OF 22ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 15th November 2017 in Helsinki, Finland

Signed:

Sheam Satkuru-Granzella, Acting Chairman

Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General