

A PARTNERSHIP OF



EGA GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE

GREEN WEEK REVIEW

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the third Green Week attended by the EGA GCC. Its main theme was resource efficiency. The itinerary for the week is shown in the appendix. This report provides a review of EGA GCC activities during Green Week and an analysis of their value. EGA GCC members in attendance were asked for their feedback and a call to review Green Week with Burson-Marsteller was taken by Steve Isaac on Monday 20 June.

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1 Tuesday 24 May

Nothing of note to report.

2.2 Wednesday 25 May

Meetings with Pablo Velazquez and Zenon Severis

These were useful meetings. PV would appreciate socio-economic data on golf. The EGA GCC to be invited to attend a Sports Forum in Cyprus during the second half of 2012.

Action taken: KPMG report on golf participation in Europe and the EGA GCC "What is golf?" folder/information sheet emailed to PB on 21 June. PB invited to an EGA GCC lunch at The Open (EGA GCC represented by Stig Persson and Steve Isaac) but unable to attend.

Session 2.3 Sustainable use of plant protection products. This confirmed much of what we already know and have circulated down to national level.

The new legislation is applicable from 14 June 2011. Features of this that were highlighted are:

- exclusion of unfavourable substances
- substitution principle (IPM)
- comparative assessment, to be managed by Member States.

General principles of IPM will be obligatory as of 2014.

The main responsibility for implementing the legislation will be with Member States. Their National Action Plans should set quantitative objectives and targets with measures and timetables for a reduction in pesticide use. The Directive needs to be transferred to national law by November 2011, with approved NAPs available by the end of 2012.

IPM requirements include availability of information and tools for transparent monitoring and decision making, plus the availability of advisory services.

ENDURE (www.endure-network.eu) was introduced as a scientific network that promotes agricultural practices for less dependence on pesticides. They are developing an IPM toolkit.

PAN network is an NGO and they focused on the wipe out of bee populations caused, in their view, by pesticide use. CEPTA 31 members in 19 European countries. Referred to publication "Pesticides and the loss of biodiversity", a pdf of which accompanies this report.

A UK farmer gave a case study showing how IPM, including biological control, was proving extremely successful in hop and apple production in southeast England. He was followed by a Danish farmer who emphasised the need for growers to work with NGOs and consumer groups to gain public trust.

Meeting with Henriette Faergemann, Water Unit in DG Environment. This proved to be a most productive meeting, once Mrs Faergemann understood what a golf course is. After providing a background on the EGA GCC and the game in Europe, we discussed issues of water scarcity and water quality. David and Stig provided extremely useful insights into the notable differences between northern and southern Europe. 300,000 m³ of irrigation water might be required annually in Spain, only 30-50,000 in Scandinavia. David estimated that 40% of Spanish courses use recycled or desalinated water and it is now law that all new golf courses have to use effluent water.

We then moved on to the European Water Partnership and GEO. Mrs Faergemann is well aware of this group and believes it provides a practical tool but she is not pushing golf to use EWP if we have our own programme. She agreed with our approach of encouraging GEO to have dialogue with the EWP.

2012 is to be the year of water at the EU, with water being the theme for Green Week 2012. Mrs Faergemann mentioned the possibility of the EGA GCC making a presentation in one of the sessions.

There will be a blueprint to safeguard EU waters by November 2012, based at river basin level. She advised that pricing has to reflect environmental costs. 170 river basin action plans have now been received and are being assessed, with the first results expected in spring 2012.

David gave a brief presentation which highlighted the importance of case studies and data collation. An EU database on water is to be produced and the Water Unit would welcome sectional input. The Danish Golf Union and French Golf Federation databases were of great interest, as was information on GEO.

Action: SPI

Action taken: HF emailed to thank her for the meeting and a copy of DG's presentation was attached. DGU and FFG contacted by SPI.

2.3 Thursday 26 May

Session 4.7 Biodiversity a key resource. Presentations by the EU and the IUCN introduced the new strategy and the Business & Biodiversity Platform. The WPBCS outlined their services for businesses and the EGA GCC then made a presentation on golf and biodiversity. This was well received and the WPBCS noted that the way in which golf had got the various associations working together was a good model for small to medium businesses. After the session, I was approached by representatives of BirdLife International and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, who were both quite positive about golf and biodiversity. BI might invite the EGA GCC to make a presentation at a conference they are organising later in the year and SWT asked for an introduction to SGEG.

Action: SPI

Action taken: BI and SWT emailed. BI to make further contact towards the end of the summer.

European Parliamentary Golf Society outing. This provided another opportunity to build our relationship with a number of parliamentarians that we have met before and ones that are new to us. James Elles and Toine Manders were at the forefront of proceedings and it proved to be a fruitful encounter with the MEPs promising to continue to support our cause and the prospect of a golf exhibition in parliament in May 2012. A master plan for the event needs to be developed.

Action: B-M with Jeremy Slessor

Action taken: JE and TM to attend EGA GCC lunch at The Open.

3. SUMMARY

With each passing year, the EGA GCC makes more of its time at Green Week. This is the result of building its network of contacts and explaining what golf is all about. To continue this process, we must follow up on leads coming out of Green Week, retain our involvement in the Business & Biodiversity Platform and ensure that we achieve a successful outcome to the exhibition in parliament next year.

Feedback from EGA GCC members confirmed that the main benefits from Green Week attendance are:

- the ability to network
- pre-arranged meetings with MEPs and EC officials (some with NGOs in 2012?)
- presenting positive information on golf at sessions, when invited. Possibility to do this in 2012.

To build on the above, the EGA GCC should consider having a stand at Green Week 2012. The theme will be water and golf has much to promote on this front. A costed proposal for this will be drafted and circulated in due course.

Action: SPI and B-M

On the domestic front, the accommodation at the Thon Residence Parnasse was considered excellent and convenient for all activities.

Steve Isaac
22 June 2011

APPENDIX

Date	Event	EGA GCC	B-M
Tuesday, 24 May	16.30 – 17.30 - Briefing at BM 18.00-19.30 Networking cocktail 19.30-20.00 Dinner	David, Peter, Jerry	Lawrie, Ludovica and Marta
Wednesday, 25 May	10.00 -meeting with Pedro Velazquez from the Sports Unit 10.30 – meeting with Zenon Severis of Ms. Vassiliou Cabinet responsible for Sport 11.30- 13.00 Sustainable use of plant protection products 11.30- 13.00 Water Efficiency – every drop counts 14.30-16.00 Land in a resource – how can we use it best? 14.30-16.00 Friends of Europe event: Speeding up revolution on how business thinks of resource efficiency 16.00 -meeting with Water Unit in DG Environment with Henriette Faergemann 19.00 - Dinner	David, Stig Jerry, Peter David, Steve, Stig David, Steve, Stig	Peter, Lawrie, Ludovica and Marta

Thursday, 26 May	10.30- meeting at BM 11.30-13.00 Biodiversity: a precious key resource (EGA GCC presentation) 13.30- Golf Tournament at Hulencourt Dinner at Club	Tony, David, Steve, Lodewijk, Stig, Achim Tony, David, Steve, Stig, Achim	Ludovica, Marta Lawrie and Peter
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