

International Ragweed Society

Second General Assembly

Payerne, Switzerland
November 15, 2010

Origins of the Society

◆ Foundation - Nyon, Switzerland, October 2, 2009

◆ Aims

- ✓ promote the knowledge on ragweed
- ✓ inform on the dangers and require measures adapted to prevent further spread
- ✓ facilitate collaboration the fight against the plant
- ✓ create a platform for the persons, associations, societies and institutions with an interest in ragweed
- ✓ participate in the organization of the International Ragweed Conferences
- ✓ encourage collaboration with other areas related to environmental and health issues

First General Assembly

Switzerland, December 6, 2009 - conclusions

- ◆ Ragweed is spreading actively throughout Europe
 - ☑ pollen allergy
 - ☑ invasive alien species - ecology
 - ☑ crop yield losses up to 40%
- ◆ The invasion should be contained
- ◆ Adequate management will require concerted and continued work over a longer period of time
- ◆ Decision makers need to take the issue seriously
- ◆ Working groups (research and lobbying)

Positive signs - IRS working groups?

◆ Governments respond

- ✓ Information campaigns
- ✓ Research grants
- ✓ Actions

◆ EU responds

- ✓ Research grants
- ✓ Tender (summary report)

◆ Tasks of IRS

- ✓ Continue work
- ✓ Improve coordination significantly
- ✓ Organize meetings

Today's agenda

◆ Welcome addresses

◆ Panel discussions

- spread and pollen production of ragweed in Europe in 2010
- date and location of the next ragweed conference (2nd IRC [Lyon, January 26-27, 2012] in relation with the French Health Ministry proposal
- reports by the heads of the working groups
- future tasks ahead (membership, EU grants, website, 3rd General Assembly, etc.)
- remarks by the *General Secretary*
- proposition of modification of the status about the period of organization of the general assembly, modification of the financial period
- finances and fees for 2011
- miscellaneous

Upcoming conferences

Joint meeting: American Phytopathological Society - International Plant Protection Congress

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA - August, 6-10, 2011

Topic: *invasive weeds - focusing on ragweed*

<http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/annual/Pages/default.aspx>

*International Conference on Agri-Environmental Pollution
Budapest, Hungary, September 21-23, 2011*

Topic: *the ragweed problem*

<http://www.nki.hu/en/images/stories/conferences/ICAECT2011Budapest.html>

Invasive Weeds

Ascona, Switzerland, October 2-7, 2011

Topic: *ragweed as an example to face plant invasions*

http://www.ewrs.org/doc/EWRS_Invasive_1st_announcement.pdf

Thank you for your attention!