

From the Chairman

My previous Chairman's messages have both expressed my wishes to achieving better communication channels with the decision makers in Brussels.

The latest news from Brussels and the European Parliament concerns emissions from non-road mobile machinery, in our case, chainsaws. Its aim is to present a directive which if passed will effectively stop the production of chainsaws as we know them today. All types of equipment using 2 stroke engines not fitted with a catalytic converter will not be approved.

This directive will be voted on on the 6th of October 2001 and come into effect in 2006.

This is just one of many issues which illustrate the need for better communication with the decision makers in the European Parliament.

It is extremely frightening to think that this type of directive that affects many tens of thousands of arborists and other users of this type of machinery can be voted upon and introduced without giving the tree industry adequate notice to defend the use of these machines.

I can only hope that our representatives in EAC countries have managed to convey our concern about the directive and its implications, to their respective

MEP or their representatives. It illustrates the need for EAC to coordinate the wishes and interests of our members and be able to present them to the European Parliament through the correct channels.

On a more positive note, we can look back on a successful symposium in Prague in June. Many arborists and colleagues within arboriculture from all over Europe and USA attended the symposium in the beautiful Pruhonice Park, just a few kilometres from the city. I would personally like to thank all representatives from the Czech Republic for all the work involved, and the wonderful hospitality extended to our delegates.

A big thanks also to all within AWEB who gave their time to make the symposium a success.

We hope to be able to welcome Portugal as a new member of the Council in 2002. The interest to become a member of EAC is proof of EAC's raised status and recognition of the fact that European arboriculture needs a voice and that EAC fills this important role.

The next AGM of the Council will take place on Sunday 23rd June in Oslo, Norway. Members who come early will experience Norwegian hospitality, breathtaking landscape and the best ISA European Congress yet held.

Glen J Read
Chairman

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN ARBORICULTURAL COUNCIL

The European Arboricultural Council (EAC) is a forum where delegates from the various arboricultural organisations throughout Europe meet with the object of elevating the status and advancing the profession by liaising on matters ranging from research and education to successful tree establishment and improvement of working practice.

This will lead to healthier and longer living trees in towns, parks, gardens or where trees are grown to beautify Europe.

The European Arboricultural Council (EAC) is needed to put the necessary pressure on the appropriate governing institutions and individuals.

OBJECTIVES

Through the profession of Arboriculture to improve the health and care for trees of environmental importance.

The European Arboricultural Council especially wish to improve:

- The profession
- Research on urban trees
- Education and training in Arboriculture
- Safety practices with pruning tools and chain saws
- Tree management
- Disease and pest control
- Tree planting in urban conditions
- Harmonisation in tree care procedures in Europe

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News from Member Countries

News from Italy

In the last few months the Italian Chapter of ISA has organized several initiatives: I want to remember our Technical Days that took place in Turin from 19th to 21th June: The historical park of Racconigi Castle hosted our national tree climbing competition: During the technical days, in which French, Spanish and Italian researchers presented papers, the Italian working group on tree stability and assessment presented the final document on the criteria of evaluation of trees.

We have renewed our web site and we encourage all European arborists to visit us. The third edition of the Italian Arbor Day (5th-7th October) will have this year an unique placing: an historical garden just downtown Venice (two hundreds meters ahead San Marco Square): This unique place will give (we hope) to the event a great visibility on our mass media. During these days hundreds of volunteer arborists will work to prune or remove trees. Before the practical works, a team of consulting arborists will offer free evaluation to the trees that will be pruned or removed. A full job for the Venice trees!

Sanremo Council (a beautiful and wellknown tourist town on the mediterranean sea) will host the Second Edition of Dies Palmarum, the most important appointment on the palms. Experts coming from France, Spain, United States and Italy will present from 6th to 7th December the last and most up date news on palms.

Despite the raising of the annual fees, the Italian Chapter was awarded for the membership growth during the ISA conference in Milwaukee. It is the third time (in seven years of life) that the Italian Chapter receive this important award: it is a good signal of vitality!

In Milwaukee Conference prof. Francesco Ferrini of Milan University presented his experimental studies on "Response of english oak trees to biostimulant application in the urban environment". Finally also in Italy ,University is moving in shade and ornamental trees!

Last March in Faenza the third and last session of AWEB program for the European Treeworker took place: 14 arborists out of 19 passed the examination; Now we have 29 European Treeworkers in Italy. Also this year we have had a heavy infestation of horsechestnut leafminer: several articles were written ,many technical days were organized on this pest in the hoping of find a solution: A great debate is still open on the utility to inject trees.

Daniele Zanzi
Italian Representative

News from Belgium

VZW Boomvergorging, the Dutch speaking Belgium association has produced a leaflet on the profile of a professional tree worker. This leaflet is to be distributed by tree workers and tree work companies to the public.

The National Congress on Arboriculture and the National Tree Climbing Competition was organised by Arboresco in the city of Liege in September with about 100 participants.

Two half-day workshops have been held: "Rescue & First Aid" and "The culture of recognition of native trees" with about 15 participants at each.

The European Tree Worker Certification was held in May 2001 with 10 candidates, but only one pass. Despite this result the certification has been evaluated by the participants as correct and very useful. A lot of candidates appreciated the high level and found the bad result an extra motivation to improve their knowledge and skills. Six candidates failed on the theory (both written and oral) four failed in the practical test, mostly due to fatal errors. The next Certification will take place in September for the Dutch and French-speaking Belgian people. The jury will be composed of members of the two associations – Arboresco and Boomverzorging.

Phytophthora species is more and more recognised by specialists as a very widespread problem. The Cameraria leaf miner is already widespread, especially in cities. New Herbicides based on Imazapyr has been misused in at east 4 areas. The result is a miniaturisation of all vegetative parts of the trees and maybe a total loss of about 100 trees.

Arthur de Haeck
Belgian Representative

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

information now available
in English, French
and German at...

www.eac-arboriculture.com

News from Member Countries

News from the United Kingdom

The first UK examination for the EAC European Treeworker qualification was due to be held at Myerscough College on the 9th and 10th July. The response for entries was not as good as expected and this may be due to the extensive range of qualifications that are already available for Arborists in the UK. The exam was postponed and has now been re-scheduled at Moulton College on Tuesday 30th October. Successful completion and publicity from this event and wider recognition of the qualification in the future may help in getting it as well established as it is rapidly becoming elsewhere in Europe. Academic qualifications in the UK now include a postgraduate Masters degree in Arboriculture and a new professional award that has just been developed and launched by the Arboricultural Association (www.trees.org.uk) for accreditation for local government tree officers.

The content of the European Treeworker Handbook that has become available this year has been discussed widely within the UK. Comments received were complementary of the aim and scope of the handbook but raised the issue of a number of inaccuracies in the text and illustrations of the English version. These have been forwarded for the revision of the handbook that is taking place alongside the next translation.

The EAC pruning guide is available in the UK from the ISA Europe office and via the Arboricultural Association. A great deal of discussion over the content of the guide has again taken place and the result is that it is now going to be sold with only a minor supplement of amendments to cover some of the terminology used and UK health and safety and legislative requirements.

Industrial training provision in the UK has been revised with the appointment of a number of National Training Organisations (NTO's). Our own industry training organisation, the Forestry and Arboriculture Safety and Training Council (FASTCo) is still in discussion with the relevant parties to ensure that the interests of arboricultural industries are represented in the best possible way. The industry safety guides that have been produced by FASTCo (www.fastco.gb.com) are going to be produced by the Health and Safety Executive (www.hse.gov.uk) in the future. One of the main awarding bodies for practical certificates of competence, the National Proficiency Tests Council (www.nptc.org.uk) has been following up opportunities for delivery of their arboriculture awards in other European countries.

The UK now holds a series of ISA tree climbing competitions in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and a student competition culminating in the UK & Ireland ISA chapter finals. Greater interest in the competitions and the requirement for more

structured organisation to facilitate this series has led to the formation of a committee to set-up, co-ordinate, secure funding and promote events. The unfortunate arrival of Foot and Mouth disease in the UK has led to the cancellation of a number of the events this year. Congratulations go to John Hartill, the current ISA UK & Ireland chapter champion who came 5th in the world championships in August.

A successful trade show was held by the Arboricultural Association at Highclere Castle in June. This year the trade show was also used as the venue for the All England Tree Climbing Championships. The Arboricultural Association AGM and conference will be held at Lancaster University in September, the conference will also include an ISA tree climbing competition and a Utility Arboriculture skills competition. The ISA UK & Ireland chapter (www.isa-uki.org) AGM and seminar will be held at Moulton College in October and will include the student climbing competition.

Mick Cottam - UK Representative

News from Denmark

During the past year DTF has held:

- Arboricultural conference
- Tree climbing competition
- Certification for the European treeworker

The conference, October 2000, took place in Roskilde and had 80 participants. Dr. Gary Watson, U.S.A. was our international speaker and taught us about the tree below ground.

Twelve tree climbers were competing for the Danish championship. Claus Conradsen won the competition, and he will compete in the European championship in Germany as well as in the world championship in U.S.A.

13 candidates were invited to the certification of the European Treeworker, 11 of whom passed. Glen Read was the international observer. The level of the candidates' skill was in general high concerning climbing, biology and pruning, but could be better in the tree planting part.

The European Tree Pruning Guide has been printed in Danish. So far 1100 copies have been sold for 10 EURO per copy. 1 EURO per copy goes back to EAC. This publication really has been a great success.

Another EAC publication *Tree Work Operations – A Guide to Safe Work Practice* has just been printed in the same lay-out as the pruning guide.

Niels Hvass - Danish Representative

News from Member Countries

News from Norway

NTF, Norsk Trepleieforum/ISA Norway Chapter continues to grow, we have now over 100 ISA members and around 300 within NTF.

The European Treeworker Handbook has been translated ready for printing. We await the English revision suggestions before printing, so that these will be incorporated in the Norwegian/Swedish/English version.

Norway held its European Treeworker exam in Oslo on November 3rd 2000, 12 persons took the exam with 8 people becoming Certified European Treeworkers. Next planned exam will be in late October 2001.

Work has been started on a proposal for tree work and safety regulations that we hope can be accepted and reinforced by the Norwegian Health and Safety Authorities. The guide to safe work practice was used to help formulate this proposal.

The Norwegian Tree Climbing Championship was held at Bogstad Gaard, just north of Oslo, a stately home and museum. This year we had 14 competitors. The competition was run with the help of judges from 7 different nations.

Bogstad Gaard was also the site for our first Climbing and Rigging Workshop, this was a 2-day event run by NTF, Climb Safe and Baumkletterteam. There were 15 participants. The event was also covered by numerous newspapers and a TV film report, this report was shown on the Friday as PR for Saturday's event. Our winner this year is Malcolm Horn, he will represent us in the International Championship at Milwaukee in USA in August, Moers in Germany and hopefully Denmark for the Nordic Championship

NTF is also working hard, preparing for the 5th ISA European Congress to be held in Oslo on the 19-22 of June 2002. Information about the congress or suggestions for presentations can be addressed to myself either by tel. fax or email. NTF's website can be found at www.norsk-trepleieforum.org.

Our 2-day Annual Conference in March was attended by around 150 people. Themes for the conference were Education modules/systems and for day 2, tree decay and rot detection systems. Speakers from Finland, Germany, UK, Denmark, Sweden, Holland and Norway made for our most international conference so far.

Glen J. Read
Norwegian Representative

News from Germany

Some important events that have taken place or are yet to be held in Germany:

- Osnabrücker Tree Care Days 2001 from 04.09. to 05.09.2001 with a small trade fair
- Augsburg Tree Care Days 2001 from 20.03. to 22.03.2001 probably with the biggest specialist tree care trade exhibition in Germany (more than 52 exhibitors, over 500 participants from many countries)
- German Tree Climbing Championship in Genshagen (Berlin) from 25.05. to 26.05.2001 with a good climbing course and many visitors, in all nearly 60 competitors
- The European Climbing Championship was held on 23.06. till 24.06.2001 in Moers

Training – Further Education:

Approx. 65 arboriculturists will graduate from Heidelberg and Grossbeeren this year. This makes the total number of graduates approx. 160 in Grossbeeren and approx. 400 in Heidelberg. 16 new European Treeworkers sat their exams on 13.07.2001, increasing the total number to 23 graduates in Germany.

The treeworker profession is becoming established

New discussions were started recently to establish the treeworker in the social structure of the fixed wage tariffs. Furthermore, new talks were held with the BG (Berufsgenossenschaft = Employee Protection Agency) (Safety in trees) to finally legalise the chainsaw during climbing. We hope to reach an agreement this year.

What is already common in America will soon become common in Germany too for treeworkers. The Internet is making vast progress in big steps, there are already more than 800 entries under the word Baum (tree) or Baumpflege (tree care) in Germany. There are also chatrooms on tree maintenance.

The yellow print of the new ZTV Tree Care and Tree Restoration is currently being corrected. Should there be no large changes or errors then we expect it to be available very soon.

Christian Nellen
Germany

News from Member Countries

News from Switzerland

The AGM of the Bund Schweizer Baumpflege (BSB) on 30th March was guided by the Chairman, Heiner Sommer. Membership of BSB extends very slowly but steadily with at present 78 members. After the business of the AGM some of the leading Swiss climbers organized a climbing forum, focused on rescue.

Activities of BSB

During the last week in February a course of tree climbing was held in Waedenswil. This course of instruction contained a part for beginners (basic course), fully booked with 16 participants and a second part (advanced course) also fully booked with 16 people.

A new arboriculture course of instruction started in April. This course with 200 theoretical lessons is fully booked with 28 people. Most of these participants are doing the education for tree care specialists, the Swiss certified arborists. Already 40% of the lessons have been completed.

The next Swiss climbing championship will be held on 6th October in Geneva. BSB will organize this event together with the Arboricultural association from the French speaking part of Switzerland. It will be a good opportunity to do something together with the partner association.

BSB will also organize an Arbor Day at the end of September with the city of Basel.

European Treeworker Certification

The first pilot test for the European Treeworker, organized by BSB, was held on 12th May in Waedenswil beside the lake of Zurich. All the 10 candidates have passed the test and received the certification of a European Treeworker. Niels Hvass from Denmark was the EAC supervisor. In BSB's view the examination was successful and instructive.

Tree Climbing

In Switzerland, the technique of tree climbing is becoming more and more the basic requirement for employment in professional tree care work. At the European Tree Climbing Championship in Moers (Germany) in June, in a field of 22 competitors, Patrick Zurcher from Switzerland won the championship. Mark Bridge, also from Switzerland reached the 3rd place, Thomas Wyss the 7th place. The first place in the national ranking list of this championship reflects the good tree climbing standards in Switzerland.

Fredy Signer
Switzerland

News from Finland

Year 2001 started with major changes for the Finnish association Puunhoidon Ystävät ry. Our first chairman Per-Johan Backstrom, in charge since 1996, retired in early April. Aki Mannisto was elected as his successor. A total of three new members joined the board in our AGM.

The development of Finnish Arboricultural education has taken major steps forward. A further education programme in arboriculture has been established by the Finnish Ministry of Education. The programme will be taken in Uusimaa College for Rural Development in Hyvinkaa in Southern Finland. Since 1998 this College has trained professional tree care specialists.

In early April another group of students gathered in Hyvinkaa to pass the examination. 6 out of 7 succeeded in passing it thus making it a total of 27 (out of 30 candidates) students certified in Hyvinkaa. The certificate given was FASTCo 8.50 (Arboricultural Dismantling Techniques) and the instructor was Mr. John Harraway (Dip.Arb.(RFS), F.Arbor.A) from UK.

As Finland joined EAC early this year chairman Aki Mannisto and secretary Marika Pyllkanen participated in EAC Congress in Pruhonice, Czech Republic, from the 28th June until 1st July for the first time as full members. Now it can be said that Finland is a participant in Arboriculture in United Europe.

Aki Mannisto
Finnish Representative

THE EAC NEWSLETTER

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7th January and 7th July

News from Member Countries

News from the Netherlands

Following the developments of the Treeworker certification and examination system, the NVB has set up a study group to define the minimum knowledge and skill requirements for the Tree Technician programme. The Tree Technician certificate aims at providing a European standard level for technical tree evaluation, concerning the used methods, analysing results and devising measures, related to for example tree health evaluation and hazard tree assessments. Together with the IPC training centre and, we hope, foreign partners we will further develop this certification program this year.

The Dutch Tree Climbing Championships were held in Vucht this year, on May 12th. The winner was Walter Hak, who will represent the Netherlands in Germany and the United States. Several lunch presentations were given by Daniele Zanzi from Italy, Arbor Masters and Huub Sneep.

The NVB (The Dutch Association of Arborists) has made a start assessing the status of safety in arboriculture in the Netherlands. In October last year a mini-symposium was organised on this topic, from which a work group has been formed to assess the validity of the currently used Safety Certificate for Contractors (VCA) for Arboricultural practices. Also this assessment will be further discussed within the European Arboricultural Council as well. A summary can be found below.

“The Dutch Association of Arborists (NVB) is an organisation that represents the tree care companies in The Netherlands. The NVB is engaged in topics such as working conditions, maintaining international relations, quality management, judicial matters, education and safety.

Last year the NVB has held a symposium about safety in arboriculture. One of the subjects was the result of a survey about the same subject held earlier that year among 38 Arborists. It confirmed that most companies take a lot of effort to ensure their safety of work, but that they have made their inquiries from a large variety of sources, like trade journals, courses, suppliers, other fields of work, professional literature etc. This variety of sources of information can result in contradictions, bad buys, discussions, never knowing for sure if one is acting properly and eventually, dangerous situations. So even though safety-measures have increased over the past ten years, the number of accidents occurring each year hasn't dropped proportionally.

That's why the NVB has formed a committee, which is drawing up safety guidelines for tree-workers in the Netherlands. The main purpose of these guidelines will be to provide the people

and organisations concerned with unequivocal practical information about safety in arboriculture. When the guidelines are accepted and observed by a substantial part of the Arboricultural companies, they will become a standard norm in safety. The IPC which is organising the AWEB TREEWORKEER exam in the Netherlands is participating in this project. We hope the safety guidelines will be finished by the end of this year (2001).”

Recently Jitze Kopinga presented the first Beta version of another new Arboriculture related CD-Rom. The CD-Rom has been composed by an international group of specialists, being Tree disease specialists in the Netherlands (The ALTERRA Institute), France and England. The CD-Rom comprises all common tree diseases, pests and insects, illustrated with many pictures. To find your way into the huge amount of information, several pathways are provided. Using a tree disease determination system, based on visual disease symptoms found on the tree, the CD-Rom will guide you to the most plausible disease or pest. Besides the determination system, specific information on the tree species, pest and disease characteristics can be accessed by selecting the organism's name from a list. As soon as more details on the final release are known, we will also inform you through the EAC newsletter.

Thale Roosien
Dutch Representative

The Executive Committee:

Glen Read	<i>Chairman</i>
Dietrich Kusche	<i>1st Vice Chairman</i>
Fredy Signer	<i>2nd Vice Chairman</i>
Daniel Zanzi	<i>Immediate Past Chairman</i>
William Matthews	<i>First Chairman</i>

Secretary and Treasurer:

Jean Leslie

Exotic pest alert

Sudden oak death

Sudden Oak Death is caused by a new species of *Phytophthora* (*P.ramorum*) that occurs in California. It has not been recorded in the UK but has been found on *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum* in Germany and the Netherlands. This Alert, is to help assess whether the disease has established in this country and to help provide early warning of symptomatic trees that may require further specialist investigation.

Known Hosts

In California

- stems of *Quercus* species and related genera, particularly:

- tanoak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) *
- coast live oak (*Q. agrifolia*) *
- black oak (*Q. kelloggii*) *
- interior live oak (*Q. parvula var shrevei*) *

- Small branches and leaves of

- madrone (*Arbutus* sp.) *
- Bay laurel (*Umbellularia* sp.) *

In both California and Europe – stems and leaves of *Rhododendron* spp. In Europe – stem bases of *Viburnum* spp.

Possible Additional Hosts

In UK and mainland Europe, *Quercus* species, *Castanea* species, *Fagus* species; other Fagaceae, Ericaceae and Lauraceae.

Symptoms on Oak

The following is a summary of possible symptoms on the UK oaks, *Q. robur* and *Q. petraea*, assuming levels of susceptibility equivalent to those seen on oaks and their relatives in coastal California.

Trunk

Sudden Oak Death is often characterised by the presence of dark red to black sap oozing from the trunk ('bleeding cankers' or 'tarry spots'). This often occurs on the lower portion of the trunk, but may also occur several meters up the stem. Sunken or flattened cankers may occur beneath the bleeding areas. When outer bark is removed from the bleeding cankers, mottled areas of necrotic, dead and discoloured inner-bark tissue may be seen. (NB. This can be confused with the normal oxidative reddening of the phloem tissues.) Black 'zone lines' are often present within and around the edges of the necrotic areas.

On young or thinner barked trees, a distinct edge between necrotic and healthy tissues may be visible. Wood boring beetles such as *Agrilus* spp., Ambrosia beetles, or bark beetles such as *Scolytus* spp. May attack the wounded areas, sometimes leaving visible frass associated with entry wounds.

Foliage

Girdling necroses often result in sudden death of the tree. As a result, foliage may change colour rapidly and uniformly throughout the crown, with the leaves still remaining on the branches after death.

Spread and distribution

In California spread is probably aerial. It is therefore often without a clear pattern. Dying trees may be either widely scattered or in broadening patches, but their distribution does not usually follow any specific site factor.

Disease Status

Since it is not yet known whether European oaks are susceptible to the Sudden Oak Death *Phytophthora* or whether roots of European oaks could become infected in addition to their aerial parts, caution is needed in interpreting symptoms that could indicate Sudden Oak Death.

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