

The CETAF looks to the future of taxonomy, collections and collaborations within Europe.

After a monumental four years where the CETAF A.I.S.B.L. has, under the guidance of the Chair Dr. Christoph Häuser (Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin-Germany), transformed itself into a registered legal body (6th May 2010), created a new business plan and taken the decision to financially support a secretariat (in Geneva, 6 April 2011), selected the host for the new secretariat (in Madrid, 13th September 2011), established the new General Secretariat office and hired the new Secretary General (Brussels, 2nd October 2012), it has a promising future ahead of it. With the support of a dynamic Secretariat located in the heart of the capital of the European Union, the CETAF members will continue to work together to forge the future for taxonomy, collections and science-orientated collaborations within and across Europe.

Mrs Ana Casino took up the position of General Secretary of CETAF A.I.S.B.L., on the 2nd October 2012 in the Secretariat Office hosted by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) in Brussels (Director, Dr. Camille Pisani). Mrs Casino manages the daily running of CETAF matters but she has also been responsible for setting up the Secretariat office, in collaboration with colleagues from Belgian members, RBINS and RMCA, and developing the new CETAF logo and website, which will be launched later in 2013.

The CETAF now has 31 members (representing 45 institutions), from 19 countries, with the Gothenburg Consortium for Taxonomic Facilities (Sweden), and the Natural History Museum of Crete (Greece) being welcomed in to the organization as full members on the 26th September 2011 in Paris, and the 12th April 2012 in Berlin, respectively.

The new CETAF Executive Committee was elected in Berlin on the 12th April 2012. Dr. Michelle Price, from the Conservatory and Botanical Garden of Geneva, Switzerland, will take-over the position of Chair, with the support of Christoph Häuser who will be the new Vice-Chair. Ernst Vitek (Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria) will remain Treasurer; Patricia Mergen (Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium) will become the new Secretary, with Arne Bjorlykke (Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Norway), Thierry Bourgoïn (Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France), Cornelia Löhne (Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany), and Maria Luz Peñacoba (Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid, Spain) serving as ordinary members. A long standing and pivotal member of CETAF, Dr. Stefan Claesson from the Swedish Museum of Natural History (Stockholm, Sweden) will retire from his CETAF duties in the Autumn of 2013.