



IHGC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

*Video call by the IHGC President
May 26, 2020*

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and delegates' quorum
2. Hop market information updates
3. MRL harmonization situation for hops
4. Growing Area Codes discussion
5. Future activities
6. Sundries

Point 1

The Executive Committee meeting had been initiated again by the IHGC president and vice-presidents as a video conference. President Leslie Roy took care for the video connection and called a virtual convention for May 26, 2020. He proposed the agenda, which was adopted and announced recording the audio for the meeting. In addition, delegates were reminded to respect the Compliance rules.

A quorum for formal IHGC decisions was constituted, since 13 of 34 (at that time) IHGC member representatives proved their presence on the meeting (see [Participants](#)). That was more than one third of all members, as required by the Constitution of the IHGC. The delegates representing the IHGC country member hop associations (7 of 20) and hop industry companies (6 of 14) are listed below:

AR: *Andrés S. Leibrecht*, **CZ:** *Zdeněk Rosa*, **DE:** *Adi Schapfl*, **PL:** *Jan Szataś*, **SI:** *Martin Pavlovič*, **UK:** *Alison Capper*, **US:** *Ann E. George*.

BarthHaas: *Peter Hintermeier*, **Hopsteiner:** *Pascal Piroué*, **German Hop Ind. Assoc.:** *Korbinian Meier*, **Assoc. for the Development of Hop Agronomy:** *Leslie A. Roy*, **Inbarco:** *Pascal Piroué*, **HVG Germany:** *Erich Lehmail*.

Point 2

Representative of 7 member countries presented in brief Country updates 2020 on (i) lockdown impact on the beer and industries (effects on labor availability), (ii) acreage planting and growing intentions, (iii) overall crop progress, (iv) sold percentages for 2020. Country delegates were encouraged in advance to prepare short summaries. These are available (7 pages) for dissemination ([US,DE,CZ,PL,SI,UK](#) and [AR](#)).

In addition, various estimations of lockdown effects in brewing industry were in a debate. The most affected will be the craft sector, since about 40% of global beer volume

is consumed in pubs. If beer consumption decreases in 2020 for 10-15% - hop demand may decline for at least 20%. As a result, a surplus of hops is expected and additional capacities of warehouses would be needed. Even though, acreage of 700 – 800 ha of new hops is expected in 2020.

At the moment selling/buying contracts within hop and brewing industries are supposed to be honored globally, which enables growers to expect planned incomes. Additional market information from brewers' side would benefit. Hop industry is relatively small agribusiness sector. Although, it was debated about eventual damages that hop growers might face.

Point 3

Otmar Weingarten informed that the EC Commission had announced on May 20, 2020 their new political strategies "[More Biodiversity](#)" and "[FarmtoFork](#)" with massive consequences for European hop growers. Among other points this means a reduction by 50% of the use and risk of chemical pesticides and the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50% by 2030. IHGC had participated in taking positions with the Commission at the "[Global Hop Summit](#)" in Brussels last November.

Point 4

International hop trade uses very often different codes for growing areas, which can lead to confusion and uncertainty among customers. The IHGC has already introduced the variety codes and plans also to do the same with the origin codes - coordinated by the IHGC STC chairman Dr. Florian Weihrauch. A discussion pointed out two alternatives (3 or 4 country codes for the US), which will be further discussed (see [Draft 3](#)). Furthermore, members were encouraged to inform national institutions involved in the value chain about this initiative.

Point 5

Good information is needed. Thus, the IHGC group decided to meet in July on the next video convention - called by the IHGC President. Any additional interested IHGC member representative may point out to the IHGC secretariat his interest in joining the next video call meeting.

Point 6

Again, it was suggested that the **IHGC** may produce a letter of support to member countries requesting it - so they can submit it to their government offices for possible help.

IHGC General Secretary
Dr. Martin Pavlovič