



Future of CLIMMAR project – Part II

“ What do we want to achieve with CLIMMAR 2.0 ? “

CLIMMAR is developing and is looking to professionalize and grow the Impact

Introduction:

CLIMMAR is the international dealership network of 16 national associations and their member companies in the Agricultural machinery and equipment sector. They altogether represent about 19.000 companies, which employ nearly 166.000 workers. Established in 1953, it aims at representing the interest of the (current) 16 national associations at European and International level. CLIMMAR is to support the national member organizations, not to manage them.

Dealerships companies provide specialized services to their clients. These services are aimed at advising their clients on the sales of new and used machinery and equipment, and executing repair and maintenance services of the machinery and equipment. Their clients are very diverse of which farmers, contractors, gardeners and landscaping companies, and local authorities being the most important groups.



New challenges:

Established in 1953, CLIMMAR is acting as an network organization aimed at sharing relevant sector information amongst its national member associations. This sharing of information is mainly done by organizing annual meetings (“Congress and Spring Forum”) for the members, organize specialized working groups on collecting relevant sector data, statistics, execute inquiries and organize position papers expressing the “view of the dealership sector” on relevant issues.

In the recent years CLIMMAR more and more became involved into advocacy and lobby activities within the European regulatory circuit. Being involved into several “lobby files” the CLIMMAR activities are becoming more “external oriented”. Good relations with relevant stakeholders (such as other European sector organizations and the EU institutions) are of the utmost importance. This new profile of CLIMMAR’ activities requires a professional organization. An organization with legal identity, based in the heart of the EU regulatory circuit and able to effectively express and bring forward the view of the European dealerships in relevant issues at stake.



To support the organization in achieving its new challenges, the CLIMMAR members decided to ensure that CLIMMAR is able to show a "vision" and design policies based on "expert views " from national organisations we need to take the following steps:

- Grow the impact of CLIMMAR
- Professionalize the way of working of the secretariat
- Increase the support by member organisations
- With respect of the current overall budget
- Increase the output by more organised and structured plans

In order to achieve these goals the members of Climmar decided on the following actions to take:

1. Organise a professional independent and steady working secretariat.
2. Homebase the secretariat in Brussels
3. Establish a legal identity for Climmar
4. Renew the statutes to make this possible and make Climmar ready for his role



With the independent secretariat we want to achieve the following:

- implement an effective communication strategy
- develop the networking in Europe (in "Brussels" and in Member States)
- improve mutual understanding between members
- increase representativeness and find additional sources of financing
- Prepare annual budget and safeguard finance of Climmar



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“ Short introduction on proposal for new Statutes “

Process of the work of the Working Group on the Future of CLIMMAR

On the 23th of April 2021 we have held the Spring meeting of CLIMMAR online. In this meeting we discussed on the item of the Future of CLIMMAR. At the end of this meeting a Working Group was mandated by the members to elaborate further on this subject with the goal to make and integrated proposal on the future of CLIMMAR which will be decided on during the coming General Assembly in October. Since then the WG has worked on this item in a constructive and positive way.

A first meeting of the WG took place online on the 25th of June in which important steps were taken for progress, especially on a plan for new Statutes. Each Working Group member gave reactions and feedback on possible new statutes for CLIMMAR. These reactions were assembled into a new draft of Statutes which was set up with the help of an independent lawyer based in Brussels and specialized in setting up statutes for new associations.

For discussing these new draft of Statutes it was decided to organize a face-to-face meeting of the WG. This meeting took place on the 26th and 27th of August in Paris, where the WG came together and started discussing the new draft by going (literally) word by word through the draft statutes. An intensive work but very necessary to do. Good progress was made during this meeting but the working was not completed during this meeting and another meeting was scheduled on the 17th of September, again in Paris, to complete the work on the new draft Statutes. The WG managed to get the work done in this meeting. The result: a complete and final draft of new Statutes for CLIMMAR with the consensus of all WG members and which now will be put forward as a proposal to all the CLIMMAR members.



Important new aspects into the drafts Statutes

As mentioned the WG worked hard and consensus was reached on very important aspects of the new statutes, such as the definition of the goals and objectives of CLIMMAR, the decision making process, the voting procedures, the role, tasks and duties of the General Assembly and the Board, etc.. You can find them all into the proposal draft new Statutes. But we will highlight and explain some of them more in detail below:

Goals and objectives (Article 3):

Although the current members of CLIMMAR are all European countries and the activities are mainly focused on Europe, the WG is of the opinion that CLIMMAR should position itself more as an international organization instead of only a European organization. This will bring more possibilities for memberships of non-European countries/associations into the future. That is why in these new draft Statutes it is expressed more clearly that CLIMMAR is pursuing it's goals and objectives not only on EU level but also on international level.



Decision making process, adoption of resolutions, voting procedure:

Very intense but also very good discussions within the WG were done on the important subjects of the decision making process, the adoption of (ordinary or special) resolutions, the voting procedures, etc. All elements which are crucial for a good and balanced functioning of the new CLIMMAR.

First of all it was concluded that the General Assembly is the Association's highest decision-making body and composed of the Members of the Association having the right to vote (Article 10.1). On all major (strategic and fundamental) decisions to be made, the General Assembly is the designated body to decide. All other bodies (Board, General Secretary, Working Groups etc) do have to act within the limits of the decisions, directives and resolutions adopted by General Assembly. The General Assembly however, can mandate some responsibilities and tasks to other bodies for execution. The role, tasks and responsibilities of the General Assembly are clearly described in Article 10.2 and 10.3. of the new statutes.

Another important point is that for all resolutions the strive of the General Assembly shall be to adopt them with unanimity with the present members (Article 10.4.d). If unanimous consensus is not possible, the voting procedure comes in place (Article 10.4.e). This voting procedure is clearly described in the new statutes under Article 10.4. Important aspect of this voting procedure is the fact that every member has one (1) vote. This was a major point into the discussions of the WG, but consensus was reached on this because the "one vote per member" embodies the important principle of equality within CLIMMAR amongst the (small and big) members. This equality will also be an extra attention point on the discussion about the new fee system of Climmar.



To prevent conflict between the National lobby agendas and the Climmar agenda, special attention was given by the WG to resolutions concerning Public Affairs issues (Lobby activities) . In Article 10.4 it is stated:

“ Regarding public affairs interventions (indents one and two) the General Assembly will seek consensus among Members. Should a Member object to a particular public affairs intervention of the Association, it shall explain its concerns to the General Assembly without undue delay”.

“In regard to all lobby activities, the Association will only have an official standpoint on specific lobby issues if it does not intervene with national agendas, concerning equipment dealer related issues. The obligation for the specific member organization is to clearly explain and visualize why this issue is a problem. The Association will then back down on this specific issue”.

This was the consensus that was reached within the WG on the fact that no CLIMMAR lobby activities may ever interfere or do “harm” to national lobby activities.



Official language of the new Statutes

One aspect of the new statutes may need clarification: the official language of the statutes (article 20). The official language of the Statutes will be in French. This is due to the fact that it is required by (Belgium) law, to deposit the official Statutes in one of the official languages of the country, and more specific the district, in which the Association will be sited. If we decide to take a site in Brussels, the official languages will be French or Dutch. We have chosen the French language. However the “official” language in which CLIMMAR will act in practice will be English. But for the formalities, the Statutes need to be translated into French, of which we will take care of.



Conclusions on the new Statutes by the WG

The WG is confident on the fact that they have done all within their power to provide the new CLIMMAR with a balanced and good basis with this proposal for new statutes, based on good procedures and structure, bearing in mind the principles of equality amongst the CLIMMAR members. Now it is up to you as assembled members of CLIMMAR.