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Report on the financial accounts for the year 2023 And provisional budget for 2024

Bordeaux, 8 March 2024

The independent chartered accountant "Gadras associés" has been able to close AREPO's 2023 accounts, which means that the statutory deadline of 30 days before the General Assembly has been met. You will therefore be asked to vote on these accounts at the General Assembly. This is why the meeting has been held a month later than usual.

I therefore present to you the report on the 2023 accounts prepared by the independent chartered accountant and the provisional budget for 2024.

Comments on 2023 expenditure

The main expenditures in 2023 were :

- €19,500 for interpretation services for various meetings, a decrease of 36% compared to 2022 (€30,000) despite the increase in the number of language combinations used.
- Staff costs of almost €105,000, with a full year of 1.5 people in Brussels (salaries €92,000, +21%/expenses €13,000 +32%). In addition, Belgium applies automatic indexation.
- Consulting expenses for European projects remained at the same level at €37,000 (-2%). Anne Clermontelle Consulting saw a significant reduction (-15%). We had additional costs for drafting the guide to protecting GIs on the Internet as part of the European project AgroSmart Global. This guide has been unanimously and internationally recognised.

I would remind you that the cooperation with Anne Clermontelle Consulting complies with the rules governing public contracts, with competitive tendering and a selection grid.

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- All travel and catering expenses were kept under control, with very significant reductions. Videoconference meetings have been widely used. AREPO team travel costs have been halved (€8,000 in 2023 compared with €16,000 in 2022).
- Finally, of course, the biggest single cost centre was the event in Brussels, which cost €37,000. This event, which we organise every 3 years, is fundamental to AREPO's political reputation, as it always welcomes the highest European political authorities (Commissioners, MEPs, Directors General, etc.). It's an investment and a success that we can all congratulate ourselves on, with the help of the college of producers and their extraordinary products. These products magnificently embody what AREPO and its members come to Brussels to defend.

It is worth recalling the agreement with the Emilia-Romagna region, which makes its premises in Brussels available free of charge, with AREPO only incurring costs for insurance of goods and persons.

In addition, it is worth mentioning the agreement with the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, which provides the Secretary General's time and that of Alexandra Duriez, the assistant accountant, available free of charge.

Comments on 2023 revenue

30 regions up to date with their membership fees, i.e. 100% of official members. All these subscriptions are for the year 2023. This mark of confidence obliges us, as it does every year, to achieve more good results in defending quality and origin products in the interests of producers and the development of rural areas.

We had revenue of €70,000 from the end of the Agrosmart Global project and the continuation of MOVING.

Commentary on the 2023 result

After a financial year 2022 which showed a very strong negative result of € -48,544, the objective of controlling operating costs was achieved in 2023. Despite a €30,000 increase in payroll costs, total expenses remained unchanged from 2022 (€225,900; +0.74%).

Thanks to European projects, income was stable at €218,661 (+24%). This resulted in a very slight loss of €7,239.



Comments on the provisional 2024 budget.

As usual, the provisional budget for 2024 will be proposed in balance.

In addition to the first General Assembly in Brussels, followed by a conference, AREPO will hold a second General Assembly in Thessaly, Greece, in October 2024.

The personnel costs and consulting budgets have been stabilised.

Based on the costs declared for MOVING under the second financial reporting period, we are going to receive a reimbursement of 28.000€.

An advance on the GI Smart project is expected. However, the project has not yet started. It is therefore uncertain whether this will happen in 2024.

I therefore propose that, as discussed and approved by the AREPO Executive Board, the membership fee for this year be increased to €6,000. I would remind you that AREPO was created in 2004, 20 years ago, with a membership fee of €5,000. In order not to stockpile too much public money, we lowered the membership fee in 2014 to €4,500.

An increase to €6,000 for 2024 would give the treasury some breathing space while we wait for the GI Smart project to get underway. This is my proposal. It can be discussed and voted on or amended at our General Assembly.