



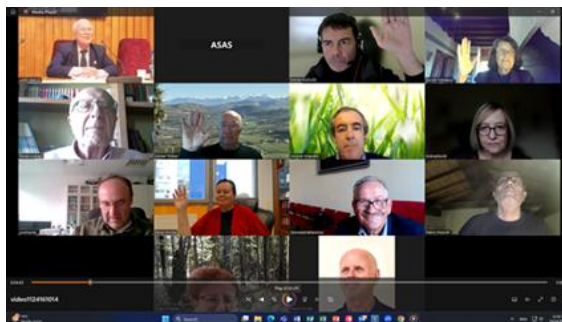
REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT BY UEAA STEERING COMMITTEE

REPORTING PERIOD: 10.10.2024 – 21.09.2026

Presented at: The UEAA General Assembly 21, 22 September 2026, Tirana, Albania

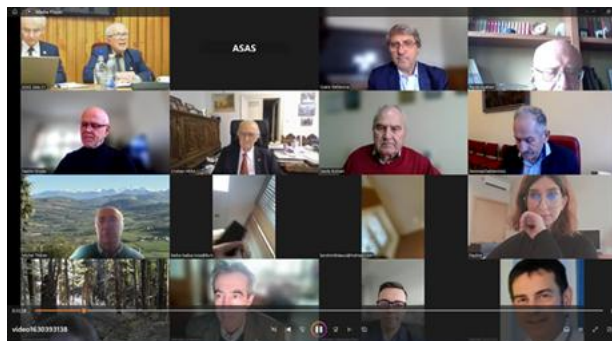
During the period October 10, 2024, to September 21, 2026, the Steering Committee (SC) of the Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food and Nature (UEAA) operated under the Presidency of Prof. Ioan Jelev (Romania) and the Vice-Presidency of Prof. Nazim Gruda (Republic of Albania).

The UEAA successfully achieved most of the goals established at the Bucharest General Assembly on October 10, 2024). Key contributions to this important milestone included the structured, periodic analyses conducted by the UEAA Steering Committee.



Among the most important actions carried out during this period, we mention:
During the analysed period, 5 position papers were developed and disseminated relating to Gene editing and NGT, expressing the point of view of the UEAA, namely:

- Press release and communique on gene editing and CRISPR technology, 15 October 2024.
- UEAA Motion about Gene editing, October 2024.
- UEAA Statement on the approval of the NGT regulation, October 2025.
- UEAA Communique - The European Union reaches an agreement on new genomic techniques (NGT) in plant editing, 15 December 2025.
- UEAA Welcomes the Adoption of the EU Regulation on New Genomic Techniques, 18 June 2026.



These initiatives were preceded by the UEAA Position Paper, developed during the presidency of Elena Horska, within the UEAA e-Working Group on the CAP led by Mrs. Carmel Cahill, and submitted in 2024 to the European Commission, Professor Peter Strohschneider, following the invitation to consult on the **Strategic Dialogue - A Future for EU Agriculture**, received from the President of the EU Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.



An analysis was also carried out and the activity of the EWG on gene editing regarding the preparation of a document supporting the Polish presidency position on this subject, with a view to its transmission to the EU Commission, was approved.

In the latter part of 2024, debates took place under the coordination of Prof. Michel THIBIER and Prof. Nazim GRUDA, and the amendment of the content of Art. III.1 of the Current UEAA charter was approved, in the sense of clearer specifications regarding the structure of the UEAA Steering Committee and the method of electing its members.

Depending on the current situation and at the request of some member Academies, Consultations concerning confirmations and/or proposals for new observer and full UEAA SC members (election of new observer members from Georgia, in the person of Prof. Revaz ASATIANI, Bulgaria, Ștefan GANDEV and recently, Ukraine, Mykola PATYKA) took place. A special mention goes to Evi ARACHOVITI, through whose invocation, the UK's participation in the UEAA activity was mentioned, after a difficult period **generated** by the Corona virus pandemic.



During 2024-2026, there was a consolidation of the UEAA activity through the accession of new countries: Moldova (Vasile BOTNARI), Bulgaria (Violeta BOZHANOVA and currently Ștefan GANDEV) and Slovenia (Hojka KRAIGHER), after in 2022, Albania joined the UEAA, through Nazim GRUDA. We note that Ukraine, despite the difficult situation, under war conditions, made permanent efforts to maintain contact with the activities of the UEAA. The UEAA expressed its constant support for Ukraine, including by developing and transmitting messages in support of the cause of the Ukrainian people.

Thanks to Michel DUCLOS and Nazim GRUDA's dedicated support, the 2024-2026 Best Scientific Abstract Competitions were better organized, and the upcoming 2026–2027 cycle was successfully launched. I would like to express my special thanks to some members of UEAA SC, who **have** constantly supported this action,

Two meetings of the UEAA SC were organized, during which the winning abstracts of the Competition for the "Best Scientific Abstract 2024-2025", respectively 2025-2026 were presented, followed by scientific discussions, with Michel DUCLOS and Nazim GRUDA as moderators. On this occasion, the winners presented their scientific papers and received **UEAA Certificates of Winners** signed by the President and Vice-President.



I would like to express special appreciation for the exceptional quality of work done in producing and editing the UEAA newsletters. As a result of the rigorous annual planning ensured by Vice President Nazim GRUDA, the Newsletters appeared monthly, on the proposed deadlines.



During the period under review, useful discussions were organized with the President of **ALLEA**, **Paweł ROWIŃSKI** as well as with **EASAC** representatives (**Prof. Wim van SAARLOOS** and **Thomas ELMQVIST**) about possible future collaborations between **UEAA**, and these organisms. A UEAA-EASAC Collaboration Document, with the theme: *Water Resources: Critical Issues and Prospects for European Agriculture*. was prepared by Simone Orlandini.

An analysis regarding the support of ALLEA Statement concerning the halting of some researches in the US and the support for the researchers affected by these measures, especially in the field of entomology, was carried out, without a final decision.



A remarkable action was the launch of the *Young European Scientists Launch Initiative for a European Platform* with the Support of UEAA. Within the framework of UEAA SC no.7, on 12 March 2026, a debate was organized, coordinated by UEAA Vice-President Nazim GRUDA, with the participation of representatives of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Paulina Streimikyte, and Edvinas Misiukevičius, and of an Initiating Core Group formed by eighteen researchers from institutes across Europe-including Lithuania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Sweden, representing a broad range of agricultural, food, and

environmental science disciplines, a meeting during which future milestones of activity were established, in close collaboration with UEAA. (<https://ueaa.info/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Young-European-Scientists-Launch-Initiative-for-a-European-Platform-with-Support-from-UEAA.pdf>).



Two important actions following the General Assembly in Bucharest, from 10-11 October 2024, were related to the printed edition of the Volume: "New Research Techniques and the Agricultural Progress" - Proceedings of the International Scientific Symposium associated with the 12th UEAA General Assembly, Bucharest, Romania, edited by Ioan JELEV and Cipriana BUDEANU, as well as to the editing and posting on the UEAA WEB page of a Book of Abstracts, regarding the summaries of the communications presented during the respective Scientific Symposium.

During the June 19, 2025, UEAA SC meeting, members debated establishing an own budget for UEAA, but concluded that it was still too early to make a decision.

Under the coordination of Vice President Nazim GRUDA, in correlation with the UEAA Steering Committee, during 2026, organizational activities took place in preparation for the **13th UEAA GA, SC, and associated Symposium meetings** which will take place in Tirana, Albania, 21-22 September 2026, (establishing the theme of the Scientific Symposium - "Sustainable European Agriculture and Balanced Management of Natural Resources", developing the draft program, details concerning the technical visit and accompanying program etc.).



Colleagues from the UEAA SC contributed to promoting bilateral collaboration between UEAA member Academies. Thus, Nazim GRUDA and Zenonas DABKEVIČIUS were involved in the finalization of a Bilateral Collaboration Agreement between the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Sciences of Albania, and Ioan JELEV facilitated the conclusion of a similar Agreement between the Academy of Sciences of Albania and the Romanian Academy.

Throughout the analysed period, SC members were regularly informed about the activities carried out in the periods between UEAA SC Meetings.



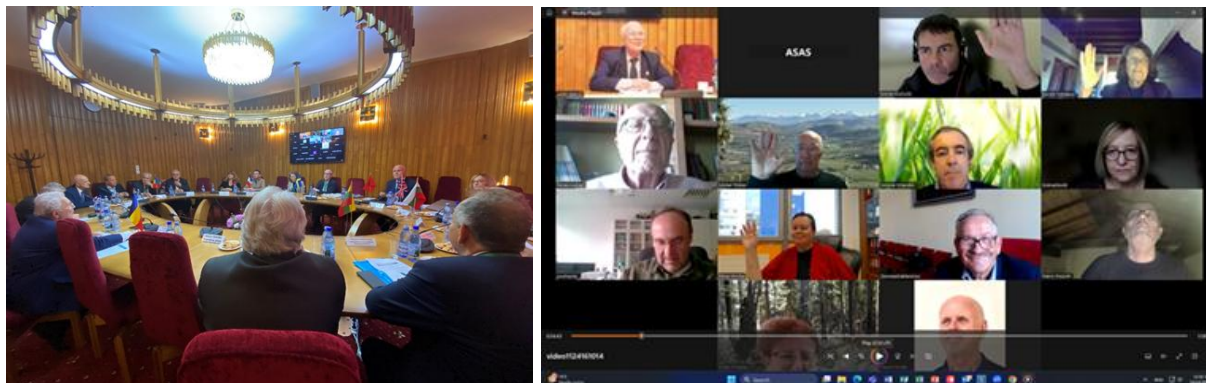
CONCLUSIONS

Between October 10, 2024- September 21, 2026, inclusive, 9 meetings of the UEAA SC took place, 8 in Bucharest, online, and the last, the 9th in Tirana, Albania, in a mixed mode.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Michel Thibier, former vice president and president of the UEAA, who support me as an advisor. His invaluable guidance and constant encouragement were essential in helping me navigate this period of great responsibility.

A constant of each meeting was the drafting and approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly and the UEAA Steering Committee meetings. I would like to express my special thanks to my colleagues, Cipriana-Rodica BUDEANU and Cristian CORDIȘ, for ensuring excellent secretarial work and technical support.

I would like to note the good functioning of the UEAA website, for which I would like to especially thank Marek Waldhauser from the Czech Republic for his promptness in updating and posting on time the news that is significant for the UEAA's activity.



For the involvement and efficient coordination in the activity of the electronic working groups on Forest strategy, Gene editing, Water, CAP, I note the special contribution of Kerstin NIBLAEUS, Simone ORLANDINI, Michel THIBIER and Mario PEZZOTTI, as well as Carmel Cahill - the latter during the presidency of Elena HORSKA, 2022-2024. I believe that a priority for the future of the SC is the resumption of the activity of the electronic group for CAP and the commissioning of the new Group for Water.



An element that functioned with great regularity throughout the period 2024-2026 was the maintenance of the UEAA Newsletters up to date, a special merit of Nazim GRUDA, who managed a rigorous planning of this action, as well as an extremely useful work of drafting and ensuring the structural unity and homogeneity of their content.

During the analysed period, two editions of the UEAA Best Abstract Competition took place and issues related to the organization of the third competition 2026-2027 were discussed. I would like to highlight Michel DUCLOS's exceptional contribution to the Competition. He not only ensured its smooth execution and mobilized strong participation, but also drove substantial improvements to the event's regulations, structure, and abstract submission process. As in other UEAA activities, I would emphasize the contribution of Vice President Nazim Gruda in supporting this action, as well as many other activities carried out over the last two years.