

Annual Report of the *Mitteleuropäische Brautechnische Analysenkommission (MEBAK e.V.)* 2018

MEBAK held two scheduled plenary sessions in 2018:

The spring session marked the 91st gathering of the MEBAK members. It took place from March 22nd – 24th 2018 in Kulmbach. The meeting was hosted by IREKS GmbH (MEBAK member Matthias Hansen) at the IREKS company, Lichtenfelser Str. 20, 95326 Kulmbach. The autumn session (the 92nd meeting) took place from October 4th to 6th. Hosted by Birra Menabrea (Dr. Franco Thedy) and MEBAK member Dr. August Gresser, this session was held at the Hotel Agorà, located in Biella, Italy.

During the spring session held in Kulmbach, the current board members were elected:

The board members all agreed to stand for re-election and were unanimously chosen to continue in their current roles:

- Chairman: Prof. Dr. Frank-Jürgen Methner
- Vice-chairman: Helmut Klein
- Treasurer: Dr. Gerold Reil
- Secretary: Dr. Martin Zarnkow

As in past years, MEBAK's financial situation continues to be satisfactory with an acceptable balance of expenditures and income. An internal review of the finances produced no discrepancies and the general assembly approved the work done by the treasurer.

In 2018, MEBAK extended membership invitations to:

- Madeleine Adolf; Radeberger Group (Kulmbach plenary session)
- Marcus Jentsch; Institut Romeis (Kulmbach plenary session)
- Dr. Nils Rettberg; VLB Berlin (Kulmbach plenary session)
- Dr. Annika Langemann; Bitburger Braugruppe (Biella plenary session)
- Henrike Vorwerk, VLB Berlin (Biella plenary session)

Furthermore, two new guests were welcomed in 2018:

- Andreas Gahr, Barth-Haas Group (Biella plenary session)
- Dr. Philip Wietstock, Technische Universität Berlin (Biella plenary session)

The current organizational structure has been improved so that each person leading a working group (WG) now has a substitute. Moreover, MEBAK members have now been assigned to specific working groups, which in turn can be expanded to include external experts as well. The following working groups have been established:

- WG: *Gersten-und Malzanalytik* (Vorwerk)
- WG: *Hopfenanalytik* (Schmidt)
- WG: *Wasser* (Dr. Ahrens)
- WG: *Würze- und Biermischgetränke* (Dr. Reil)
- WG: *Biermischgetränke* (Dr. Jülich)
- WG: *Mikrobiologie* (Dr. Hutzler)
- WG: *Spezialanalytik* (Klein)

- WG: *Online* (Dr. Bender)
- WG: *Sensorik* (Dr. Zarnkow)
- WG: *GuP* (Dr. Zürcher)

Due to the age distribution of its members, MEBAK will be looking for new candidates in the future to become active members of the organization.

The MEBAK home page has been updated. It is now more clearly organized and data protection guidelines have been added.

In the future, the analysis results from collaborative trials will be published on the MEBAK home page.

WG: Sudhauskontrolle (Prof. Jacob)

Prof. Jacob, the head of the working group *Sudhauskontrolle* (Brewhouse Operations), announced to the members of MEBAK that the new MEBAK® guideline *Sudwerkskontrolle* will be printed in the spring of 2019 and be translated into English soon thereafter. The working group met three times over the course of the year to modify the guideline for compliance with the new DIN 8777 standard.

WG: Würze, Bier, Biermischgetränke (Dr. Reil)

The working group met twice in 2018. Given the enormous scope of the material and the effort it requires, the revision of this volume will not be possible by spring of 2019 as originally planned. Among others, one reason is the complicated conversion necessary make the methods accessible online. In addition, the reference values and the statistics must be updated. As a result, it was agreed that an order will be placed to print a minimum of 500 copies of the current volume.

WG: Wasser (Dr. Ahrends)

Members of this working group held one meeting during the year in Fulda, Germany. The organization of the volume was optimized which should help with the progress of this working group.

The goal is to have a rough draft of the volume completed by mid-2019. The scope of this volume will be extended to include the guidelines governing water in other EU countries (D, A, CH, CZ, I), particularly those applicable to drinking water, mineral water, well water, table water and wastewater.

WG: Mikrobiologie (Dr. Hutzler)

Owing to its complexity and problems encountered with numbering the chapters, finalization of this volume has been moved to 2019.

WG: MEBAK-Methoden Online (Dr. Bender)

The working group Online is addressing the fundamentals required for the MEBAK volumes to be offered online. To this end, two meetings were held with potential service providers. Work on the contracts has begun and is expected to be completed in 2019.

WG: (Vorwerk)

The English version of the volume *Rohstoffe* (Raw Materials) was published in 2018.

WG: Filtration (Dr. Kreis)

The filtration guideline for kieselguhr filtration has been completed and now work will begin on a similar guideline for the membrane filtration process.

Prof. Dr. Frank-Jürgen Methner

Chairman

Helmut Klein

Vice-chairman