

Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e.V. [Association Food without Genetic Engineering] (VLOG): Executive Board activities and responsibilities

Duties

As in every non-profit organisation, the VLOG Executive Board is responsible for ensuring that the formal management requirements of the Association are met. The primary focus is on duties related to the purpose of the Association. These duties are clearly defined in Section 2 of the Articles of Association: In addition to managing the organisation and issuing licences for the uniform “Ohne GenTechnik” (Non-GMO) seal, the Association’s guiding principle is to represent the interests of companies that produce or market “Ohne GenTechnik” food or feed suitable for this purpose. – i.e. not only the interests of Association members.

The bulk of the Association’s work is handled by the VLOG corporate office, specifically by its Managing Director and employees. In addition to purely administrative work, this includes coordinating the substantive duties performed by the Executive Board members. The work assignments of the individual Executive Board members vary widely and depend on their respective availability and capabilities. There are always phases and projects to which individual Executive Board members make significant contributions. Without this effort, the success that VLOG has achieved so far would not have been possible.

In routine matters, the Executive Board maintains a trusting relationship with the current Managing Director, who has broad decision-making discretion. Nevertheless, the Executive Board holds regular 1 ½ hour meetings via video conference every two weeks, with prepared agendas, to discuss information and jointly make pending decisions.

Full-day in-person or digital Executive Board meetings are held about three to four times a year, two of which are joint meetings with the Advisory Board.

VLOG Advisory Board

The Advisory Board, which is occasionally invited to participate in the video conferences, plays an important role. This volunteer body of experts, currently comprising four people, advises the Executive Board in virtually every area. It is composed of industry, federal government and civil society representatives.

Standard Technical Working Group

Moreover, one Executive Board member is currently participating in the Standard Technical Working Group. This Standard Technical Working Group advises VLOG with respect to the further development of the “Ohne Gentechnik” Standard. Various industries are represented to ensure that information regarding food production with its upstream and downstream areas is reflected in the standard.

Voluntary office

In general, the Executive Board members serve on a voluntary basis, but an annual expense reimbursement in the amount of EUR 1,500 can be paid on request.