

Minutes of the 31. EFOSA General Assembly Meeting

June 2, 2000, Hersonissos, Crete, Greece

The 24th EFOSA Annual General Assembly Meeting was held on 2nd June 2000 in the Congress Center of the Creta Maris Hotel in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece. 19 countries took part in this meeting with a total of 34 people, of which 24 were delegates and 10 were guests.

1. Opening

The EFOSA President, Jüri Kurol, opened the meeting at 11.15 am. He warmly welcomed all those present. The President then handed over to the Secretary, Wolfgang Schmiedel, and he in turn asked all those present to stand and introduce themselves. After reading the list it was noted that additional guests were present from Belgium, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands. All the delegates consented to the guests staying at the meeting, which is not normally an open one. Schmiedel reported that according to the council resolution, only members were to be invited to this year's meeting and so therefore Belgium, Portugal and Luxembourg had not officially been invited.

2. Apologies for absence

Schmiedel reported that Boris Faure and Charles Bolender from France were unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. Faure was regrettably sick and Bolender was not able to arrive in time due to a cancelled flight. The Auditor, Ulrich Fellner from Germany, also had to decline for personal reasons. Iceland was not able to send a representative this year due to technical reasons but has definitely promised to attend next year. Consequently France and Iceland did not actively take part in the 2000 Annual General Meeting.

3. Changes in and amendments to the agenda

Kurol and Schmiedel notified the meeting that the Irish delegates had handed over papers prior to the meeting to confirm that the specialised area of orthodontics in Ireland is now recognised by the state. Therefore Ireland wanted to propose a motion under Item 10 of today's agenda to convert their provisional membership to an active one. Those present held no objections.

4. Minutes of the 23. General Assembly Meeting of June 22, 1999, Strasbourg, France

The minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting, which were sent out with the invitation to Crete, were unanimously agreed without any changes being made.

5. Correspondence

Schmiedel reported again in detail on the most important correspondence from the previous year. He mentioned correspondence from Spain, Austria, Luxembourg, Belgium, Turkey, Ireland, Italy and Bulgaria. He drew special attention to correspondence from the former EFOSA President, Norman Flood. Schmiedel ended his report by advising that the most important correspondence had been sent out to all members along with the invitation. Questions were therefore not taken.

6. Informations from the Council: Change of the Constitution, Article 5.3

Kurol informed the meeting that a change in the EFOSA constitution at Item 5, Paragraph 3 was required for reasons of clarity and accuracy. The word "and" is to be changed to "or". Norman Flood had already pointed out in his previously mentioned correspondence, that the present wording at this item of the constitution did not make sense and could lead to a misunderstanding. Karvelas again explained that the change in the constitution was especially needed to make "affiliated membership" possible.

After a short discussion the members concluded that a change in the constitution at Item 5, Paragraph 3 was necessary and agreed unanimously to this. Item 5, Paragraph 3 of the EFOSA constitution now reads as follows after the change:

Affiliated membership is confined to professional orthodontic associations or groups from European countries that fulfil the requirements of article 5 paragraph 1 or 2, but of countries that do not belong to the European Union or do not have an arrangement of free movement and the right of free establishment within the European Union countries on the basis of mutual specialty recognition.

7. Report of the secretary

As in the past, Schmiedel gave an overview of the work and activities undertaken by EFOSA in the previous year. He also read a written report which is attached to the minutes of this meeting. Towards the end of his report he paid tribute to the former Vice-President, Ronald Bijlstra, who had stood down due to private reasons. He thanked him both personally and on behalf of the committee for his 21 years of exemplary work with EFOSA.

8. Report of the auditors

Unfortunately, because both of the elected auditors could not be at the meeting in person, Schmiedel read a written statement which had been sent to him on 1st June 2000 by Boris Faure, one of the auditors. The statement quotes:

"The presentation of the financial report is perfectly done and approved by both of the auditors of the EFOSA."

The members noted this and approved.

9. Report of the treasurer: Status of account / Resources

The EFOSA Treasurer, Paul Karvelas, reported on EFOSA credits and debits during the period June 1999 to 31st March 2000. As decided last year in Strasbourg, the currency for the account has changed to Euros (€). The balance on 31st March 2000 stood at 3,474.30 Euros (€). There are no further credits at present and so long-term we must consider a possible increase in the annual contributions. Questions on the financial development of EFOSA and the increase of annual contributions were answered in detail by Karvelas.

10. Application for membership: Austria, Poland

Kurol informed the meeting that applications within the time limit had been made by Austria and Poland for acceptance into EFOSA. The attached papers for these applications have been examined by the EFOSA Council and show that the necessary requirements for acceptance into EFOSA have been met. These are for Austria as a provisional member and Poland as an affiliated member.

Silvia Silli from Austria answered questions from the meeting and gave a short report on the situation in her country. Subsequently, in the absence of the Austrian representative, Austria was unanimously accepted as the 3rd provisional member of EFOSA.

Anna Komorowska from Poland gave a short report on the situation in her country. Subsequently, in the absence of its representative, Poland was unanimously elected as the 3rd affiliated member of EFOSA. The members warmly welcomed both new members with a round of applause.

The Irish delegates had brought papers prior to the meeting, which confirmed that the specialised area of orthodontics was now recognised by the state. The Irish representatives, McSherry and Keating, confirmed this welcome fact which happened with the support of EFOSA. There is now no obstacle to prevent Ireland from converting from a provisional membership to an active one. The meeting decided unanimously to accept this proposal. Ireland will become the 12th active member of EFOSA.

As of 2nd June 2000 EFOSA has 12 active, 2 provisional and 3 affiliated members. Belgium, Luxembourg and Portugal are now the only 3 countries in Western Europe not to be represented. The meeting hopes that these countries will be represented by the end of 2001 when they have solved their internal problems with the support of EFOSA.

11. Definition of the term „Specialist in Orthodontics“

Kurol and Schmiedel thanked the members of the working group on behalf of all those present. This group consisted of van der Linden (Netherlands), Canut (Spain), Keating (Ireland) and Kettler (U.K) and had been asked by EFOSA to work on a definition for the term "Specialist in Orthodontics", under the leadership of van der Linden. This definition had become necessary in order to provide a clear and universally accepted term in Europe which stated what was meant by "Specialist in Orthodontics" and which fulfilled all these requirements.

In addition to this the working group submitted a proposal which would be sent out with the papers for the invitation to the 24th Annual General Assembly Meeting.

After detailed discussions by the members the following binding definition was finally decided upon for all countries and occupational associations:

„An Orthodontist (Specialist in Orthodontics) is a registered dentist who limits his or her practice of dentistry to orthodontics and:

either

is entered in the register or list of specialist orthodontists held by the competent authority in a country within the European Union, or a country that has an arrangement of free movement and the right of free establishment within the European Union countries on the basis of mutual specialty recognition, in compliance with the EC Dental Directives 78/686/EEC and 78/687/EEC.

or

holds a recognised postgraduate university degree or certificate taken after completing a three year fulltime university training programme in orthodontics which complies with the recommendations of the "Erasmus Programme (1992)" and the European Orthodontic Society (1996).

or

holds a recognised postgraduate university degree or certificate in orthodontics, after completing a university training programme in orthodontics of less than three years which complies with the requirements which were current at the time it was undertaken.

12. Relations with the EOS: Letter to the European Union

Schmiedel reported in detail on the co-operation with the EOS. Here he particularly gave details of the 4th EOS/EFOSA Co-operation Committee Meeting, which took place in London on 30th October 1999. Particular emphasis was placed by both sides on the joint

wording of a new letter to the representatives in Brussels, which examined the content of education and further education in the specialised field of orthodontics. Kurol and Schmiedel reported from the "Forum", the information meeting of the national occupational associations, which was jointly organised by the EOS and EFOSA. This meeting took place prior to the 24th EFOSA Annual General Meeting on the morning of 2nd June. The most important item on its agenda was the report on the letter to the Advisory Committee.

13. Relations with the FEO

Schmiedel reported on the good co-operation with the FEO. He warmly welcomed their President, Athanasios Athanasiou (Greece) and their Vice-President, Thierry de Coster (Belgium) as observers at the EFOSA Annual General Meeting.

It has become a good tradition that both organisations invite each other to their respective meetings. The EFOSA Treasurer, Paul Karvelas attended the FEO meeting on 19th February 2000 in Athens, Greece.

14. The ECSQDM

Schmiedel reported on several pieces of correspondence from the ECSQDM, a group which concerns itself with the introduction of a new specialist title. Since no representative from this group accepted the invitation and the majority of the delegates present were of the opinion that they did not have to work together with this group, this item on the agenda was closed after a short discussion.

15. EFOSA Web-site

Karvelas reported in detail on the situation regarding preparations for EFOSA setting up its own Web-Site on the Internet. It was agreed by all those present that this medium will be invaluable in the future for faster and better exchange of information. Karvelas' idea to develop and create a Web-Site was welcomed by all. It was decided that the present secretary of EFOSA, whoever this may be, will take responsibility for the contents and creation of the Internet site. Paul Karvelas and Emile Janssen (Netherlands) will work alongside the Secretary. These 3 should jointly see that the EFOSA Web-Site is established if possible by the end of 2000 and can be accessed on the Internet.

16. EFOSA Questionnaire

As we were informed at the last Annual General Meeting in 1999, the Vice-President of EFOSA, Ronald Bijlstra, together with Schmiedel, drafted a questionnaire. This questionnaire should help to complete the EFOSA documents. In addition it should answer questions in our specialised field in the individual European countries. Schmiedel

distributed the questionnaire to all those present with a request for them to be completed and returned by the end of 2000. When this questionnaire has been evaluated the answers and evaluation can then be accessed via the Internet on the EFOSA Web-Site.

17. Elections: Vice-President / Secretary / Auditors / Nomination Committee

Ronald Bijlstra cited personal reasons for his early resignation. He stressed that this decision was of a purely private nature and mainly had to do with the fact that he was shortly to give up his practice. The meeting thanked Ronald Bijlstra with continuous applause for all he had achieved for EFOSA in his 21 years. At the proposal of the Nomination Committee Boris Faure (France) was unanimously elected as Vice-President of EFOSA in his absence. His term of office will be for 3 years.

Also at the proposal of the Nomination Committee, Wolfgang Schmiedel (Germany) was unanimously confirmed in his office as the EFOSA Secretary for a further 4 years. After his election Frans van der Linden warmly thanked him both personally and on behalf of those present for his great dedication to EFOSA.

The meeting then re-elected the previous Auditor, Uli Fellner (Germany) and newly elected Paolo Picchioni (Italy) as a successor to Boris Faure. Both offices as auditors run for 2 years.

The Nomination Committee was re-elected for a further 2 years in office. Van der Linden (Netherlands) and Kettler (U.K) were confirmed on this committee. The delegate Francesco Miotti (Italy) was elected in place of the new Vice-President of EFOSA, Boris Faure as the 3rd member of this committee.

18. Any other business (e.g. venue and time of future meetings ...)

Schmiedel once again expressed his displeasure at the form of the Annual General Meeting. They are in his view too impersonal and there is too much pressure of time. He suggested the following possibilities for discussion:

Separating from the Annual EOS Congress, another start time, other days than the Tuesday before the EOS Congress, combining the EFOSA Annual General Meeting with a lunch or dinner.

The meeting had controversial and emotional discussions over the different alternatives for future meetings. Finally the following decision was reached with a large majority:

Keeping the EFOSA Annual General Meeting with the Annual EOS Congress. Bringing forward the EFOSA Annual General Meeting to the Monday before the EOS Congress starts. Keeping the start time at 11.00 am with the length of the meeting to be as long as

required. Finally Schmiedel will try to organise a dinner or get together party on the evening of the meeting.

19. Date of next meeting

In agreement with the resolution under Item 18 of the agenda the date of the next Annual General Meeting will be Monday 18th June 2001. The conference will take place within the EOS Congress in Ghent, Belgium. The exact meeting place will be announced in due course.

20. Closing

The President of EFOSA, Jüri Kurol, thanked Schmiedel for the excellent organisation of this meeting. He warmly thanked all the members for their interesting contributions the discussion and wished them all a safe journey home. He closed the 24th Annual General Meeting at 2.00 pm.