

## **Minutes of the 5. EFOSA Meeting, Paris, 24 November 1978**

The meeting opens at around 2.40 pm. By 2.30 only Mr. Bolender, Mr. Gysel and Mr. Bertzbach have arrived. Mr. Flood and Mr. Falconi arrive at around 3.30 pm, both got stuck in a traffic jam on the road from the airport to the place where the meeting convenes. Mr. Wilson from Britain is severely ill, while there is no notice from Mr. Bailey. Mr. Caspersen from Denmark has sent his apologies due to a pressing obligation in Denmark. Mr. Bijlstra has not sent any notice.

Mr. Bolender reports on his efforts to establish contact with the Comité de Liaison which has been working in an advisory capacity for the EEC Commission for about seven years. Its current president is Mr. Michelsen from Denmark, who is the successor of Mr. Gardinjer, France. What makes the establishment of contact difficult is the Liaison Committee's pronounced reserve towards the specialties. It emerges from all discussions during the meeting that, since the establishment of the Advisory Committee in accordance with the Council's guidelines, the role of the Comité de Liaison has been totally unclear. In a telephone conversation, Mr. Michelsen said that the reason why our letter had not been answered yet was that due to a packed agenda the accession of the EFOSA could not be addressed at the last meeting. Mr. Gysel reports that this reserve towards the specialists is typical for Belgium, too.

Mr. Gysel further reports that the registration of international associations is dependent on requirements which are not met by the EFOSA constitution.

On the basis of a model constitution, a lengthy discussion ensues on possible changes to the EFOSA constitution. Essentially, these changes concern the following points:

1. Registration is not extended to associations which are primarily devoted to the defence of joint economic interests. It is, however, extended to organisations such as religious associations, international scientific societies or societies pursuing pedagogical aims. The EFOSA constitution must be changed accordingly, so that these requirements are clearly met under Title III, "Objectives".
2. It is agreed that, due to the EFOSA's relationships to the EEC, registration of the EFOSA in Belgium is desirable. However, Mr. Bolender should still attempt to achieve registration of the present constitution in France. On a national level, Mr. Bolender also pursues the accession of the EFOSA to the ADF, the CNSD or the FOFTA, because, according to Mr. Bolender, the French government negotiates with those organisations which have been officially recognised. Recognition depends on the number of members.
3. The seat of the EFOSA must have an address. For reasons of administrative expediency, Mr. Gysel suggests an address in Brussels (which should be an

orthodontic specialist's practice, given the tensions with the Belgian dentists' associations). Any change of this address must be publicised within one month. Any move within Brussels requires a decision by the General Assembly.

4. The membership association must be a "person in physical standing", but it is not clear whether this person must be identical with a registered society. Re article IV/ 4 of the constitution, it must be added that members who leave the association lose any entitlement to its financial support.
5. In Title V, it must be explicitly stated that all powers lie with the General Assembly Meeting. It must be clarified whether voting rights on one or more items on the agenda may be transferred onto another county if a delegate is unable to attend. Furthermore, it must be stated that there can be a vote only on matters previously listed on the agenda.
6. The Executive Committee must have 5 members. There is no way to bypass this requirement. One of these members must be a Belgian (not necessarily the President, Treasurer or Secretary). This regulation is discussed at length. It cannot be avoided. As all powers lie with the General Assembly, there are no reservations. In my opinion, however, the voting powers of the Executive Committee are not clear, particularly on issues concerning the Executive itself. There must be provisions according to which members of the executive can be voted out of office by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority at the General Assembly Meeting. It has to be included that the Aggregate Meeting must take a vote on the Treasury, following a summary of its work by the Executive (in other words, the Aggregate Meeting has to discharge the Treasurer).
7. The constitution must determine who is authorized to sign in the name of the EFOSA when its president is not available. During the discussion, it is suggested that the President should propose a member for that specific purpose. This solution is recommendable due to its great flexibility.

In Denmark, orthodontic specialists are now no longer recognized by the dentists' association, but by the government.

Mr. Bertzbach reports on the development of medical and dental specialties in Germany. The ensuing discussion provides us with the opportunity to point to the impending problems arising from the decline in the number of children for orthodontics in general and for the German orthodontic specialists in particular.

Following the report, Mr. Bolender suggests that every country provides the EFOSA with a written summary of the actual situation in that country regarding dental specialties, but also the social insurance systems in relation to orthodontics. This strikes me as a good solution, as it will enable the BDK to voice its opinion on issues which are generally accessible in the first place.

Mr. Falconi reports on disturbing developments in Italy, where dental technicians frequently practice as dentists (or orthodontists), even at dental medical institutes. University lecturers from abroad (Gugino is mentioned, but also a Frenchman has been named) offer courses in orthodontics which are open to everybody. In Italy, large number of technicians are thus trained. This situation will in all probability continue on the basis of an established right accruing to those technicians who are already practicing as dentists, once the licence to practice as a dentist has been introduced as announced.

The meeting closes at 5.45 pm. There is some discussion on the next meeting. It will probably convene on 1 June 1979, again in Paris. The French orthodontic society will hold its conference at that date.

Signed: Bertzbach

Postscript:

Mr. Gysel will provide all member associations with the model constitution and suggestions for the necessary changes.

Bremen, 5 December 1978