

Minutes of the 41st EFOSA General Assembly Meeting Tuesday June 15th, 2010 Portorož, Slovenia draft

Attendance:

35 delegates of member societies/associations from 23 countries, 3 guests from non-member countries, 1 extra guest of 1 member country, 1 guest/observer from FEO, and 1 secretary non-delegate. In total 41 participants from 26 countries.

Distribution of printed information to the delegates.

The EFOSA Headlines issue No 7, The Quality News(letter) issue No 4 were handed out.

01. Opening.

The president Lars Medin (Sweden) welcomed all delegates and guests to the 41st EFOSA General Assembly, he thanked Martina Drevensek, president of the Slovenian Orthodontic Society for a wonderful Get together party last night, and opened the meeting at 08.45 hours.

02. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Denmark, Estonia, Italy and Lithuania.

03. Introduction of delegates.

All delegates gave a brief introduction of who they are and where they come from. Problems that used to be mentioned here, and that seemed to exist in many countries, were postponed to a later stage in the agenda.

04. Changes and amendments to the agenda. The president Lars Medin announced that point 15 of the agenda would be moved up to after point 08 because vice-president Alexandros Kokkas (Greece) will be representing EFOSA in the EOS Council meeting in the afternoon.

05. Address by professor Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman.

The Teacher's Forum was installed in 2006 in Vienna as an open forum for all universities. The main purpose was: teachers to meet, exchanging information on teaching issues and research. It was an effort improving quality in a bottom up procedure instead of guidelines.

A new step forward in quality was the development of NEBEOP: Network of Erasmus Based European Orthodontic Programs. The training program of members of NEBEOP must fulfill minimum requirements on clinical activity, theoretical activity and research activity. Program directors can apply for provisional membership, then after 2 years they can apply for full membership, which involves external assessment plus site visit. In 2010 there are 68 provisional members. In 2011 external assessment plus site visits will be started. For full membership these will be repeated every 7 years.

The Erasmus program was developed in 1992 and still is a good base, although it needs some updating and measurement of quality. The new WFO guidelines for training programs seem to be very much based on the Erasmus program but there are some important differences like: 24 months of training instead of 36, 30 patients instead of 50, qualified staff instead of university linked, very detailed description on labs etc. instead of a general description.

A warm applause showed the appreciation of the delegates for this lecture.

It was discussed that it is the responsibility of the delegates to inform their society to strive for the training programs in their country cooperating in the Teacher's Forum and NEBEOP. It was asked whether this lecture could be available on the EFOSA website, which was permitted.

06. Membership status of the different European countries.

The president Lars Medin announced that Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania are on their way in and have promised to apply next year in Istanbul.

He then brought up the problem of Serbia not coming to the meetings, not replying emails, and not paying its dues; a registered mail was received by the Serbian society but remained unanswered as well. Mladen Slaj (Croatia), informed the GAM that there is another Serbian orthodontic society and that he could arrange contact between that society and EFOSA. The suggestion of the Council to expel Serbia was discussed. It was suggested to expel Serbia now so that in future maybe another Serbian society might become EFOSA member. This proposal was accepted by vote: Serbia is no longer member of EFOSA. The deficit still due was canceled.

07. Applications for membership.

The applications for active membership of Malta and Bulgaria have been accepted by acclamation.

08. Minutes of the 40th General assembly Meeting of June 15th, 2009, Lisbon, Portugal.

Referring to the minutes 20, it is mentioned that also in the countries Iceland and Slovenia, and Poland up until the age of 12 years, orthodontic care is delivered by orthodontists only.

The minutes were approved without any comment.

15. EFOSA Committee 'European Health Insurances'.

The chairman of the committee, Alexandros Kokkas announced that an update of the report from last year will be available on the website. Only minor changes have taken place.

09. EFOSA Semi-annual report.

The president pointed out that this report has been published on the website and was sent to the members by email. He asked the delegates to please inform the Council if they would prefer additional information in this (next) report. Bart Vande Vannet (Belgium) asked whether the report could be published earlier to enhance discussion in the national meetings. The president explained that the report is only prepared after the Council meeting in November, and always was intended to present information sort of halfway to the next GAM.

Headlines.

The vice-president, Alexandros Kokkas, editor of the Headlines reminded the GAM that the purpose of the Headlines is to be passed on to the members of the member societies of EFOSA.

10. Information from the Council.

The EFOSA Posters had been updated for the WFO meeting in Sydney. The council suggested that the content of the EFOSA Posters should be published in the national journals; for this purpose the Council should prepare an article including the posters to be offered to the member countries for being translated + being published.

The president had commented in Sydney that EFOSA is not happy with the new WFO guidelines for specialist training programs, especially that the minimum could be 2 years. Contact will be established with the chair of the WFO Training Committee, and an effort will be done coming up with a new and precise description.

The president informed the GAM that Reggie Miethke will step down as EOS co-opted member in the EFOSA Council, a new co-opted member will be elected in the EOS Council meeting.

The president mentioned that EFOSA as a routine has been inviting FEO in the General Assembly meetings already many years, but unfortunately this has not been mutually yet.

The Netherlands were invited to present a progress report on what is going on. Melissa Disse explained that the Dutch Orthodontic Association now has 214 members (orthodontists + former orthodontists i.e. orthodontists that have resigned from the specialists registration). The number of orthodontists that are still registered is 150, and not all of those are member of the association. There was hope for some change for the better for orthodontics and orthodontists in the past year, but the recent news from some days ago that the government intends a 34% cut of the fees for orthodontics made things worse than ever.

It was discussed that in many countries orthodontics is under a lot of pressure, and Jonathan Sandler (UK) explained again (=last year) the development of orthodontic therapists in the UK.

11. Report of the secretary.

The tradition of a report of the secretary to me is a nice opportunity to address this meeting. This has been my 4th year as your secretary which made the job more of a routine. Unfortunately much time is spend on reminding delegates, which fortunately finally often works. It never was my intention to only serve 1 term, but as discussed in the past I felt a need to resign as a member of the Dutch Orthodontic Association since this in my opinion was not a specialists society anymore. This meant that I could not be a delegate anymore, so eventual re-election became impossible and therefore you will be choosing a new secretary also. Please help making his job a bit easier by reading and answering your email. I am sure he will appreciate.

It was my pleasure serving you as a secretary and I want to use this opportunity to express my thanks to my fellow council members for the joy of working in a good team.

There isn't much to report about other than you have seen from me in written form already. I thank you all for your confidence and trust and wish all of EFOSA and the new Council all the best.

12a. Report of the Treasurer: status of Account/Resources. The treasurer Claude Bourdillat-Mikol (France) reminded that all material had been published on the website already; she explained the numbers by power point and made clear that EFOSA's financial position is healthy.

12b. Report of the Auditors. Julien O'Neill (UK) reported on behalf of the auditors, that he and Abraham Kyriakides (Cyprus) had found the papers to be complete, well kept and in proper order, and suggested to the General Assembly to accept and adopt these accounts.

12c. Discharge of the Council regarding the responsibilities concerning the accounts of the past financial year (2009-2010). The General Assembly discharged the Council.

12d. Budget 2010-2011. The treasurer presented the Council proposal for the EFOSA budget 2010-2011 which was then accepted by the General Assembly.

12e. Membership dues 2010-2011. The treasurer explained that there is no need for a change in membership dues, which is also the proposal from the Council. This also was unanimously accepted by the General Assembly.

The treasurer, who had served EFOSA for eight years with pleasure, thanked the delegates for their trust during this period.

13. EFOSA Committee “Orthodontic Training Programs and Examinations”.

The committee is supporting the Teacher's Forum and NEBEOP.

Christian Scherer (Germany) presented a progress report on the Masters in Orthodontics, which is not only offered any longer by the University of Krems but also by several German universities. Silvia Silli (Austria) informed the assembly that the Master's program of Krems seems to offer some good theoretical courses, but no clinical training. It was discussed that also in other countries e.g. UK Masters are available.

Concerning the WFO guidelines, the Council suggested to prepare a document that EFOSA on behalf of all member countries expresses the wish to WFO that in the guideline a 3-years Erasmus based program should be a minimum request. This proposal was accepted.

14. EFOSA Committee ‘Quality Working Group’.

The chairman of the committee, Frank de Winter (Netherlands) claimed that ESAS has a lot of potential, but he reminded the General Assembly that ESAS simply does need users! From the very beginning this committee had asked the delegates for help having per country at least 1 study club using ESAS for helping building up the data base + getting ESAS known by the public/orthodontists. As can be learned from the Quality News, issue 4, this unfortunately has not worked, and the delegates were urged again to help finding that study club since we, committee and EFOSA, do believe in ESAS.

The GAM was informed that some minor improvements have been made in the ESAS program for orthodontists, but for the post-grads a totally new version will be available in September offering comparison of 1 post-grad with the total data base of post-grads, 1 post-grad with the other post-grads in the same orthodontic department, and all post-grads of 1 orthodontic department with the total data base of post-grads.

16. Get together party.

The president Lars Medin announced that the Council suggests that an invitation for a get together party should be from the hosting country, but that if a small country has problems doing so, EFOSA will be glad to financially support. The GAM approved this suggestion.

17. Radiation guidelines for EU countries and rules for radiation protection.

Bart Vande Vannet introduced this point of the agenda after his experience having had a site visit on technical aspects of the X-ray appliance *and* procedures. His question to the delegates was: what is the regulation of radiograph systems control in the different countries. It was discussed that most countries have a control of technical aspects only. It was decided that the delegates would check in their country and report to EFOSA.

21. European Postgraduate Students Orthodontic Society (EPSOS). Their president Olga Annussaki (Greece) gave a power point presentation on EPSOS, what it stands for, what was the Portorož program, and presented a progress report on the questionnaires for getting postgraduate curriculum details from all European postgraduate training institutions.

It was mentioned that the EPSOS Newsletter could be forwarded to all postgraduate students in the EFOSA member countries through the delegates.

18. EFOSA website. The webmaster Frank de Winter informed the meeting that there is no plan for any major changes in the website design. It is functioning well with the every 3-4 month update.

19. Changes in the Bylaws.

It was discussed that the contradiction between Constitution and Bylaws should be solved. In this respect a change in the Bylaws 2.5 was foreseen, but seemed not to be able to correctly solve the problem. It was therefore decided to instead of changing the content of Bylaws 2.5 remove this article from the Bylaws.

The proposal for a change in the Bylaws 3.4.2 that 'Member' should be added as a fifth Council member, was accepted.

20. Elections.

Council members

There was no request for a ballot vote for the election of the Council members, and the candidates as suggested by the Nomination Committee were elected by acclamation:

President: Alexandros Kokkas, Greece

Vice-President: Bart Vande Vannet, Belgium

Secretary: Julian O'Neill, UK

Treasurer: Christian Scherer, Germany

(the term of Council Member Milan Kaminek, Czech Republic, has not yet ended)

Nomination Committee

Since Bart Vande Vannet was elected as Vice-president he could not remain a member of the Nomination Committee, from the floor it was suggested to elect Melissa Disse (the Netherlands) as a new member of the Nomination Committee which was accepted by acclamation

Auditors

The term of the auditors was ended and new auditors had to be elected, which accidentally had been done already last year but had not been implemented. As candidates the Nomination Committee suggested Lutgart de Ridder (Belgium) and Owen Crotty (Ireland), which was accepted by acclamation.

22. Any other business

There wasn't anything.

23. Date and venue of next meeting.

The next meeting will be in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunday June 19th, 2011

24. Closing.

The president Lars Medin, after having served EFOSA for 10 years, thanked all Council members for a fantastic job done and the delegates for their support, and the vice-president/president-elect Alexandros Kokkas thanked Lars Medin and all other Council members for all the good work done for EFOSA.

The meeting was closed at 17.00 hours.