

Minutes of the 24. extra EFOSA General Assembly Meeting

May 25th, 1996, Paris, France

An extra meeting of the European Federation of Orthodontic Specialists Associations was held at 8 Avenue Simon Bolivar, Paris on Saturday the 25th of May 1996. Dr. Flood (Ireland) presided. Other delegates present were Dr. Bolender (France), Dr. Schmiedel (Germany) and Dr. Bijlstra (the Netherlands).

Also in attendance were Dr. Faure (France), Dr. Jongsma (the Netherlands) and Dr. Karvelas (Greece).

Invited guest was Prof. van der Linden (the Netherlands). Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Moerens-Duque (Belgium), Dr. Ferrini (Italy) and Dr. Markostamos (Greece).

The main topic on this extra meeting to be discussed was " the Future of the Orthodontic Specialty in Europe".

At 9.25 a.m. Dr. Flood opened the meeting and called upon Dr. van der Linden to give further comments on the memorandum that he had sent around. The memorandum was called: Remarks and suggestions regarding the organization of specialists in Orthodontics in Europe. He explained that he had been asked by several colleagues from different European countries to give his opinion on this matter and to organize a meeting where this topic could be discussed by the several parties involved.

Dr. van der Linden emphasized the fact that he had no personal interest what-so-ever and that he will step back as soon as things are organized.

He told that he had heard signals that the E.O.S. intended to change its Constitution and that a reorganization committee had been installed. One of the items this committee should investigate was the possibility to expand the activities of the E.O.S. by establishing a professional branch.

Dr. van der Linden considered this highly undesirable for the following reasons:

1. Only about 25 % of all European orthodontists are members of the E. O. S.
2. The E.O.S. is not a specialists organization but has many general practitioners as a member.
3. The E.O.S. has members from all European Countries and not only from E.U.-countries.

Dr. Bolender told that according to this information the council of the E.O.S. had decided that the E.O.S. should stay a pure scientific organization. Dr. van der Linden was not so sure about that.

He underlined the importance of a strong body consisting of representatives of the national specialists organizations in those E.U.-countries, where things were well structured. That means that:

1. the specialty must be recognized.
2. that there must be a specialist register and
3. there must consist a national association of only specialists, which is representative for the specialists in that country.

In his memorandum he proposed to establish a new federation of orthodontic specialists organizations called "EFASO". National associations of countries who fulfill the above mentioned criteria can become members, while associations of non E.U.-countries with comparable standards can become affiliate members. He had the following reasons for this proposal:

1. He had the feeling that the image of EFOSA was not too good. Many colleagues from all over Europe that he had spoken, had never heard of EFOSA or were not familiar with the activities of EFOSA.
2. In the construction of the supranational body as he proposed it, some of the present members of EFOSA should not fulfill the requirements for membership. This means that when EFOSA should remain existing and was changing its Constitution some of the existing members have to be excluded. Establishing a new body would be a more elegant solution.
3. A strong representative body is needed in the future for communication with the E.U. authorities in Brussels. He expected that in the near future more and more will be dictated by Brussels in the field of dentistry and its specialties.

Members of the Advisory Committee will be invited to take part in the discussions about all these matters.

As was to be expected a vivid discussion followed after this explanation.

Dr. Schmiedel disagreed with Dr. van der Linden about the image of EFOSA. He stated that EFOSA had been very active, was very well known in Germany and had an excellent Constitution.

Dr. Bolender also found that EFOSA had been of great help to some countries especially in the past and that EFOSA could very well continue after necessary alterations of its

Constitution. He thought that for a good communication with Brussels it was better to have an organization that existed already when the first directives of the E.C.C. were published.

Dr. Flood was also in favor of keeping EFOSA existing.

Dr. Bijlstra supported the ideas of Dr. van der Linden and saw advantages in transforming EFOSA into EFASO.

During the discussion it became clear that all agreed that something had to be done. Dr. van der Linden explained that the meeting, that he will organize in Brighton a brainstorming meeting and that only representatives of E.U. countries, who can fulfill the above mentioned criteria, will be invited to form a working committee. It was emphasized by Dr. van der Linden and Dr. Bijlstra that only the councils of the national associations can take important decisions.

At the E.O.S.-meeting in 1997 in Valencia decisions should be taken.

During the discussion the situation in Denmark, the U.K., Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Austria was reviewed.

It became clear that probably only the following countries might fulfill the requirements: Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, France and Greece. The next item in the discussion was about who will be invited at the meeting in Brighton. Dr. van der Linden proposes to invite two delegates from each E.U. country, where at least a more or less representative body exists, to whom an invitation can be sent. Furthermore two delegates from the E.O.S., the EFOSA and the Advisory Committee will be invited as well as one representative of Switzerland and Norway, being non E.U. countries with comparable standards.

Dr. van der Linden read the text that he prepared for the invitation. Dr. Flood proposed to change the passage - the EFOSA is willing to cooperate - into the EFOSA will be pleased to cooperate. Dr. van der Linden gratefully accepted this proposal.

Our French hosts organized a very good lunch in the meeting room, after which Dr. van der Linden and Dr. Jongsma left the meeting.

The remaining EFOSA delegates discussed the outcome of the morning session. Dr. Bijlstra asked if the October meeting must take place or that we will wait and see what will happen in Brighton.

Decided was that the October meeting will take place on October 12th in Paris. Dr. Flood will send a copy of the Constitution to all delegates and Dr. Bolender points to the necessity of purifying our Constitution so that we also can present a Constitution at the meeting in Valencia.

Decided was that Dr. Schmiedel and Dr. Bijlstra will represent the EFOSA in Brighton and that Dr. Flood and Dr. Bolender will be present as representatives of their country.

Dr. Schmiedel presented a current state of accounts and explained that the cost of the directory was doubled, compared with the last but one.

He had to lend private money to the EFOSA to be able to pay for the directories. He therefore asked the delegates to take care of immediate payment after he has sent the bills.

At 03.00 p.m. the President closed this very interesting meeting.