

Minutes of the 21. EFOSA Meeting

8 Avenue Simon Bolivar, Paris 75019, on Saturday, 27 November, 1993.

Prof. Ch. Bolender (France) presided. Other delegates present included:

1. Drs A. Ferrini (Italy)
2. K. Markostamos (Greece)
3. W. Schmiedel (Germany)
4. R. Bijlstra (The Netherlands)
5. R. Moerens-Duque (Belgium)
6. N. Flood (Ireland)

Also in attendance were Drs B. Faure (France) and P. Picchioni (Italy). An apology was received from Dr. J. C. Bailey (Great Britain), while Dr C. Gysel (Belgium) was sadly absent due to ill health. All present expressed their concern, and asked that their good wishes for a full recovery be conveyed to our old friend.

The minutes of the 1992 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved by all delegates.

1. REPORTS FROM MEMBER DELEGATES

NETHERLANDS

The economic recession has pushed the Government into cutting back expenses for health care. Orthodontic fees are to be reduced. Nonetheless, the Government is contemplating reopening one of the dental schools it closed a few years ago.

Within the orthodontic profession there is a proposal to introduce regulations obliging further education, inter-collegial inspection and quality control. The two Universities are now inspected every five years.

GERMANY

Political union has cost much more than anticipated. Fees in Western Germany have been reduced by about 20%; orthodontic fees in the East are about 80% of the Western level, but these will tend to converge to a lower level. Other restrictions include a reduction of fee levels by 10% on those orthodontists reaching an annual limit of 490,000DM; the reduction increases to 20% from 607,000 DM:, and 30% from 750,000 DM.

There are regulations restricting the number of orthodontists that can practice in any one region. At present the ratio is one orthodontist to 30,000 population. The BDK would like this changed to one per 16,000.

A further regulation prohibiting any orthodontist over the age of 55 from establishing a new practice is now being contested in the German Courts. If necessary, the BDK is prepared to take the issue to the European Court. By a unanimous vote, EFOSA has pledged its assistance and support to the German Orthodontic Society.

GREECE

The Orthodontic Society has 150 members, of whom, 100 are qualified specialists. All new members must have suitable orthodontic qualifications to be admitted.

Orthodontist treating patients financed by Mutual Insurance schemes are perturbed that some general practitioners are trying to obtain patients from the system by offering cut rates. The Greek Dental Association has offered to write to the Insurance Companies suggesting that only qualified orthodontists should be contracted.

Every two years, the University of Athens accepts four postgraduate students for its three year orthodontic training.

ITALY

The political and economic crisis overshadows all else. Fees have been reduced, and too many are practising orthodontics. The profession want a register, but the Government is too preoccupied with other problems.

There are now eight orthodontic schools accepting medical doctors or dentists for postgraduate training.

BRITAIN

In a written submission (circulated to all delegates) Dr Bailey outlined the fluctuations of expectations within the U.K. Early in 1993, the various orthodontic associations had reached agreement with the General Dental Council on proposals for the establishment of a Specialist Register. Now, all developments are frozen pending new EC legislation or clarification. Some authorities are claiming that all specialities should require seven years postgraduate training.

The proposed merging of the British Associations of Orthodontist with the Consultants and Community orthodontist or form a new organisation may have the unwanted side-effect of including Generalists with an interest in Orthodontics. This would effectively exclude the U.K. from EFOSA.

IRELAND

The Orthodontic Society of Ireland has petitioned the Dental Council to establish a specialist register along EC guidelines. Events in Britain have suspended negotiations until the overall picture becomes clearer.

BELGIUM

A Commission has been set up to examine the principles of specialisation. Many Generalists are opposed to the idea of a specialist register. Postgraduates receive four year part-time training at a University. There are 7,000 dentist and 200 orthodontists practising in Belgium.

FRANCE

The SDODF now has 768 members. The National Association of Schoolteachers has approached the Society for an Insurance Contract to augment the National health Insurance.

The age limit for commencing orthodontic treatment for National Insurance patients has been raised from twelve to eighteen.

This propose has not been accepted by the goverment.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Schmiedel reported a healthy balance of plus 18,700 DM.

3. ELECTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS for 1993-95.

1. PRESIDENT: Prof. Ch. Bolender
2. VICE-PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY: Dr N. Flood
3. TREASURER: Dr W. Schmiedel.

Prof. Bolender expressed his desire to retire from the Presidency in 1995. By agreement of the meeting, his place is to be taken by Dr Flood.