

Minutes of the 35th EFOSA General Assembly Meeting

Sunday, June 6th, 2004, 15.15 – 19.00 hours Auditoriehuset, University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark

Attendance

The meeting was attended by 32 member participants from 19 countries including EOS and 11 guests/observers from 8 countries including FEO and one observer from the Greek Association for Orthodontic Study and Research (GAOSR). The attendance list is enclosed as part of these minutes.

Before the opening of the meeting Birte Melsen, President of the European Orthodontic Society (EOS), welcomed the delegates and wished EFOSA General Assembly Meeting for constructive discussions and wise decisions. She also explained the huge painting in the stair hall made to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the University of Aarhus.

01. Opening

The office-holding EFOSA President, Wolfgang Schmiedel warmly welcomed the delegates and guests of the 35th EFOSA General Assembly Meeting and opened it at 15.15. In order to introduce the delegates the EFOSA Secretary Lars Medin, by tradition, called upon each delegate.

The President expressed many thanks to the Danish Society of Orthodontic Specialists (FSO) President Preben Dömgaard and Secretary Kirsten Holm for hosting the Get Together Party after the Meeting.

02. Apologies for absence

The President reported that Iceland had sent apologies for absence. Ireland and Lithuania have not answered the invitation to attend the GA meeting. Slovakia had posted two representatives who didn't attend.

03. Changes in and amendments to the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes with the addition of Cyprus and Slovakia on Point 13. Applications for membership: Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Serbia-Montenegro.

04. Minutes of the 28th General Assembly Meeting of June 9th, 2003, Prague, Czech Republic

The minutes of the 28th EFOSA General Assembly Meeting were approved unanimously without changes.

05. Correspondence

The President reported from correspondence with Austria, Luxembourg and Spain where Orthodontics not yet is officially recognized as a specialty. The common problem is the General Practitioners in the countries respectively who are against.

06. EFOSA Semi-annual report

The purpose of the Semi-annual report from the Council is to give the Member Organizations continuous information about the activities of EFOSA. Unfortunately Francesca Miottis name is forgotten on page 3, paragraph 5 in the report from 2004. Francesca is Program Chairman for the WFO Congress in Paris 2005.

Next Semi-annual report will appear in the beginning of 2005.

07. Country reports

The president informed the Assembly that each member organization has the obligation to deliver a country report. The Council has decided that this should be done before November 1st each year.

To make it easier for the member associations and also get appropriate information the report will have a special structure in the future with headlines and information about the number of approved specialists in each country.

Every four years the EFOSA Questionnaire will be updated and included in the Country report.

08. Report of the Secretary

Dear representatives of the EFOSA member organizations, dear guests, dear colleagues.

This has been my second year as EFOSA Secretary. I am also the President of the Swedish Association of Orthodontists and the Angle Society of Europe since January this year.

Our President Wolfgang Schmiedel has done a lot of work also this year that should be done by the Secretary like taking care of the website, the roster and sending out the material to this meeting. Thank you very much Wolfgang.

I was responsible for taking the minutes at the meeting of "The Forum of National Orthodontic Societies" last year on June 10th in Prague. The minutes have been available

on the EFOSA web site as well as the EOS web site since the end of last summer. The "Forum Meeting" is a common meeting of the organizations EFOSA, EOS and now also FEO for mutual information and will take place again this year, tomorrow at 10.00 in Auditorium 3.

As Secretary of the EFOSA I have been in contact with the member organizations concerning the "Country reports" and comments to the "Code of Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct". I have also contributed to the discussion inside the Council with the FDI and EU policy statements on Ethics.

I have assisted the President in preparing the agendas for the Council and General Assembly Meetings and also discussed with him the semi-annual report. 5 out of the ten new EU countries have answered a questionnaire on the situation of the profession in their countries respectively. I have also written the report from the November Council Meeting last year.

In the future I hope that all parts of the organization even the subcommittees will report continuously to the Council about their activities to keep "the EFOSA" well informed. This information as well as a draft of the minutes from the last General Assembly meeting should also be available at the web site, maybe covered by a password, at the earliest convenience. The EFOSA web site will be of great importance to reach this goal.

Lars Medin

09. Information from the Council

The EFOSA President Wolfgang Schmiedel has been interviewed in the Portuguese and Spanish Journals of Orthodontics and also participated in the first Serbia-Montenegro International Orthodontic Meeting.

Wolfgang Schmiedel and Frans van der Linden will lecture at the 3rd International Orthodontic Symposium in Prague, Czech Republic later this year.

The 2002 report on "Orthodontics in Europe" will not be published in the European Journal of Orthodontics (EJO). The article is available through Frans van der Linden or Wolfgang Schmiedel for publishing in the different national Journals in Europe. It has already been published in the Netherlands, Spain and Israel. Later when a majority of the member countries have published the article it will be available on the web site.

10. Report of the Treasurer: Status of Account / Resources

Dear colleagues, dear delegates,

This is the annual report about the 2003 EFOSA finances.

The Financial report you received was until the end of December, due to my professional Accounted Supervisor According to our new financial statement, the Annual Financial report has to go until the end of March. So I made an addendum and sent the pieces needed to the auditors on time before this general Assembly. I brought with me the new Annual report, and you can have it at this desk.

Since the last meeting in Prague, the 2002 Annual report was approved by Ulrich Fellner and Paolo Pichioni. The auditors for 2003 were Frank de Winter and Michail Kalavritinos

BANK ACCOUNTS

Since 2002, the EFOSA's found were sited in a French Bank called: "Caisse d'Epargne" As decided during the Council Meeting, some arrangements were made, in order to get more interests:

- 1. An average bank account to pay the current expenses (Council, Reports, Questionnaire Account Supervisor, etc...).

I can pay by check or by wire the expenses At the end of March, 2004, this account was 2598,65 Euros

- 2. A saving account called "Livret A", the money is available at any time, and the interests are 2,25%. If I need more money than the average account I can transfer the funds from this "Livret A" to the bank account without any charge.

At the end of March 2004, the amount on this account was: 22 771,96 Euros (with the interest)

- 3. A saving account with better interests: called "Parts Sociales" from the Caisse d'Epargne.

This money has 5,20% interests, but the money is stopped for one year, the birthday is March (we have to tell the bank if the funds still keep on for one more year)

If, for some reason, we need the money meanwhile, then we lose the interest for the whole year.

At the end of March 2004, the amount on this account is 10 340,72 Euros (with the interests)

So at the end of March 2004 the federation owns: 35 711,32 Euros.

EXPENSES

The reimbursements were mainly for the council's meetings: 1573,4 Euros We also had some expense for the reports, questionnaires, committees: 8634,89 Euros

Prior to the General Assembly, there is a Council Meeting to prepare this Assembly.

Until last year, the Council's expenses were paid by the Councils members Countries.

The expenses for the Council meeting in Paris (which is the official meeting of the year) were paid by EFOSA.

During the last Council meeting in Paris, it was decided that those two meetings will be paid in future by EFOSA. A compensation of expenses of 80 Euros per day for the Council was decided for extra- expenses, such as breakfast, etc .

It was also decided to send a questionnaire to the EFOSA's members about Orthodontic.

So next year the expense will increase.

PAYMENTS

For 2003, all the countries have paid their annual fees, thank you for that. For 2004, at that time, some Countries have not paid their annual fees on time: may I ask them to pay quickly.

The annual fees for 2003 gave to EFOSA: 16 978.70 Euros We had profit on sale of security: 299.36 Euros

The 2004 annual fees were sent be mail to the Countries at the early days of January. A reminder was sent on March. I asked the affiliate and active members to pay before May 2004, in order to have all the payments before our General Assembly.

In order to minimise the bank fees, the countries were kindly asked better to pay by transferring the funds from bank to bank:

IBAN : FR76 1786 5006 0008 2752 9320 148 Swift code(BIC) : CEPAFRPP786 Name: EFOSA (Mrs Bourdillat Mikol Claude)

However, it is still possible to pay by bank check, but it cost more bank fees.

At that time, it is not possible to pay by Internet.

ANNUAL FEES PROPOSAL

Since two years the fees remind the same. As exposed yet, we have to know that the expenses will increase.

The council decided not to raise the fees. It was also decided that the 10 new EU Members from Eastern Europe will pay 50% of the fees during the first four years.

Thank you very much for your attention! Should you have any questions, please feel free to ask me!

Claude Bourdillat-Mikol

11. Report of the Auditors / Resolution

The Financial Auditors, Michail Kalavritinos, Greece and Frank de Winter, The Netherlands reported that they had done a throughout examination of all financial transactions from April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004 and found all documents complete, well kept and in proper order. Therefore they recommended the General Assembly to approve the financial report from the Treasurer.

The General Assembly decided to approve the EFOSA Financial Report of the Treasurer during the period April 1st, 2003 to March 31st, 2004.

The report of the Financial Auditors is enclosed as a part of this report.

The financial statements of the accounts in detail were included in the material sent to the delegates before the meeting.

12. New European Union Countries / EFOSA Questionnaire sent to New EU Countries

The Secretary reported that Cyprus, Hungary and Latvia had not answered the Questionnaire. Malta has not so far due to lack of contact person and address got the Questionnaire.

Allen Thom, President of the FEO reported that he had an address to get in contact with the three orthodontists in Malta.

13. Applications for membership: Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Serbia-Montenegro and Slovakia.

Belgium: Belgium may apply next year for Active Membership with the new organization, Belgium Union of Orthodontic Societies, BUOS. Bart Vande Vannet, Belgium explained the situation and asked for a letter to enhance the process.

Cyprus: Cyprus must update the Questionnaire before applying.

Czech Republic: Czech Republic has applied for Active Membership this year. The documents have been checked by the Council and found in order. According to the Constitution and the Bylaws Czech Republic was unanimously elected as Active Member of EFOSA. The President Wolfgang Schmiedel congratulated Milan Kaminek, President of the Czech Orthodontic Society.

Estonia: Estonia can apply for Active Membership next year.

Lithuania: Lithuania can apply for Active Membership next year.

Poland: About 250 of the 450 registered orthodontists in Poland belong to the Polish Association. According to the Bylaws 70 % of the orthodontists in the country should belong to the organization to be a member of the EFOSA.

Frans van der Linden commented that EFOSA should stimulate the member organizations to attract members. Alex Kokkas, Greece asked, "What does EFOSA do for the member organizations?" Work outside instead of inside calculating the number of members in the different organizations. Giuliano Maino, Italy wants EFOSA to do something for the members that they can touch. Frank de Winter, The Netherlands commented that according to the Constitution and Bylaws a change of the "70%" needs a 2/3 majority vote.

EFOSA General Assembly decided to leave the problem with Poland until next year with a 12-0 vote, 1 abstention.

Portugal: Portugal has applied for Active Membership this year. The documents have been checked by the Council and found in order. According to the Constitution and the Bylaws Portugal was unanimously elected as Active Member of EFOSA. The President Wolfgang Schmiedel congratulated Afonso Pinhao Ferreira, President of the Portuguese Orthodontic Society.

Serbia-Montenegro: Serbia-Montenegro has applied for affiliated membership this year. The documents have been checked by the Council and found in order. According to the Constitution and the Bylaws Serbia-Montenegro was unanimously elected as Affiliated Member of EFOSA. The President Wolfgang Schmiedel congratulated Mirjana Sasic, President of the Serbia-Montenegro Orthodontic Society.

Slovakia: Slovakia can apply for Active Membership next year.

Odile Hutereau, Luxembourg and Hans-Peter Bantleon, Austria pointed out that a letter from EFOSA would help in changing the opinion of not accepting Orthodontics as a recognized specialty and also in accepting the "Grand Father Clause" in the two countries respectively.

14. Relations with the EOS

The President reported that the relations with EOS are extremely good. EOS is co-opted member of EFOSA and vice versa. Roberto Martina, EOS appreciated Wolfgang Schmiedel for his hard work on creating good relations.

The "Forum Meeting", a joint information meeting for the orthodontic societies between EFOSA, EOS and FEO will be held June 7th, 2004 at 10.00 hours, chaired by the FEO and the EOS will take the minutes. The President read the Agenda for the meeting.

15. Relations with the FEO

A document concerning "Tasks and responsibilities", similar to the document between EFOSA and EOS, has been worked out and agreed upon between EFOSA, EOS and FEO Presidents in February this year. This document is included in the material sent out before this meeting.

The President reported that the EFOSA Council has approved not all parts of the agreement. EFOSA wants to continue the discussions, especially concerning accreditation of training programs and recognition of the specialty.

EFOSA will look upon the document as a draft and ask for a new meeting with the two other organizations to revise the document.

16. Report of the EFOSA "Ethics Committee" (Chris Kittler) / Discussion / Resolution

The President reported that five countries have given comments on the document "The Code of Ethical Behaviour" and proposed, due to lack of time that the discussion should be postponed until next year 2005 in Amsterdam. He also invited the countries that so far not have given their comments to do so before the end of October 2004.

Bart Vande Vannet, Belgium advised EFOSA to stick to the already existing ethical codes.

It was decided that the Committee should consider comments and remarks from the member organizations and present a revised version of the document next year.

The Committee consist of Chris Kettler, chairman, Uli Fellner and Michail Kalavritinos.

17. Report of the EFOSA Committee "Orthodontic Training Programs and Examinations" (Francesca Miotti)

Francesca Miotti reported about the 20 pages Questionnaire that had been put together and sent to about 200 institutions for postgraduate training last week. The answering time is rather short but she hopes that some results can be presented at the Council Meeting in the middle of November 2004. A statistician will take care of the material together with the members of the Committee.

The Committee consists of Francesca Miotti, chairman, Frans van der Linden and Krister Bjerklin.

18. EFOSA Questionnaire sent to all Orthodontic Training Centers in the EU Countries

240 Questionnaires have been sent out to all Training Centres in the EU Countries. Uli Fellner asked about Private Training Centers and Francesca answered that she welcomed information about existing centers with addresses.

19. Report of the EFOSA "Quality Working Group" (Claude Bourdillat-Mikol)

Claude Bourdillat-Mikol referred to the written document "A review of quality initiatives: A way forward" included in the documents sent out to the delegates before the meeting.

The role of EFOSA can be summarized in the following 10 points:

- - To continue reinforcing a minimum academic graduate specialist training program according to the Erasmus programme
- - To support a code of practice
- - To propagate the implementation of a self assessment quality system
- - To develop and maintain a database for self assessment by using quality indicators
- - Highlight the importance of quality issues, and demonstrate the differences in provision between orthodontists within and between countries
- - To endorse current and develop new orthodontic guidelines/managed clinical care pathways
- - To develop strong communication pathways between all stakeholders
- - To support a programme of evaluation to sustain improvement of orthodontic care
- - To support existing agencies to develop EFOSA's own agenda to improve quality initiatives
- - Develop a "Bulletin" or "Newsletter" to promote quality initiatives across Europe

Alex Kokkas, Greece asked: Is promotion of our profession a role of EFOSA

The Committee consist of Claude Bourdillat-Mikol, chairman, Stephen Richmond, and Frank de Winter.

20. Foundation of the EFOSA Committee "European Health Insurances" (Giuliano Maino)

Giuliano Maino presented the document "The organization of orthodontic health care in Europe" included in the material sent out before the meeting. He focused on one of the objectives for the Committee "Which kind of organization will be the best for a certain

situation". For the next 10 years point 5 in the document "Future perspectives" will be of most importance.

The Committee has delivered a description of the project. Some of the questions put forward in the document can be answered by other EFOSA Questionnaires.

The Committee consist of Giuliano Maino, chairman, Jan Ödegaard and Charles Bolender.

21. WFO: 6th International Orthodontic Convention 2005, Paris

The EFOSA Council members Wolfgang Schmiedel, Francesca Miotti and Claude Bourdillat-Mikol are all represented in important COCIO committees. Also Charles Bolender has an important role in organizing the meeting held September 10th-14th, 2005.

There will be three parallel programs running. A staff program will be available for all days of the Convention. There are still 10-minute slots available for presentations. Abstracts will be presented on the web site.

EFOSA is offered a special exhibition where every country can expose.

22. EFOSA Web site

The web site has a new look since last year. The Secretary will in the future be responsible for the web site. Some parts will be protected by a password and only available for members and another part will be kept for the Council.

23. Statement of the President

Dear delegates, dear colleagues, dear friends,

In accordance with our Constitution I am leaving the EFOSA Council today after having been eight years in it.

Due to this reason permit me to say a few words and to make some personnel remarks. Let me begin with a brief survey about the history of the Efosa:

Once again I would like to thank Charles Bolender for his far sighting idea and his tremendous work in founding the EFOSA in 1977. At this time only Belgium, Denmark, Germany, England, France, The Netherlands, Ireland and Italy were members of the EFOSA.

On the initiative of Frans van der Linden and Sweden we began to create a new constitution in 1996. At the very beginning I was not in favor of reinventing the wheel

again, particularly when it came to change the name EFOSA into EFASO. I will never forget this meeting in Birmingham. However, the so called "Constitution Working Group" worked harmoniously together during its meetings in Amsterdam and Copenhagen. Finally we got a new Constitution in 1997. Following our new and strict regulations we unfortunately had to expel some of our old founding members, which was hard to understand for them.

However, since our new Constitution became valid the Efosa started to grow and to flourish. Looking back in this regard I would like to thank you once again, Frans.

Today all western European countries and some new European countries are members of our organization. By the way, I do not very much like the difference between West and East, old and new Europe, and I sincerely hope and believe, that in a few years we will talk about one Europe only.

Talking about the 10 new European countries, which joined us in May of this year, I am of the opinion, that concerning our profession the EFOSA will surely play an important role in this process of harmonization and will be faced with most challenging tasks in the next future.

Dear delegates, dear Council members,

During my work in serving the EFOSA I did not always succeed, sometimes I failed. As you may probably know, it was one of my goals to see all western European countries as active members of the EFOSA before handing over my duties. Unfortunately as of today we are still waiting for the official recognition of our specialty in Austria, Luxembourg and Spain. Nevertheless, the reports given this afternoon and the latest developments make me a little optimistic.

Anyhow, I am very proud to be one of those people who have served for the EFOSA in the previous years. The ones who know me a little better will surely confirm that I did it with passion and with my heart.

I often called the EFOSA "My Baby", however it was given birth by Charles Bolender. I later took over his duties and was happy to learn that our baby has grown up now and is going to be stronger and stronger every year!

This work for the EFOSA has positively influenced my whole life in many respects. For instance, I had the chance to meet and make new friends in almost all parts of Europe. All of you should know that I am mostly grateful for that.

My thanks today go to all people, with whom I was pleased to work together, particularly to the members of the EFOSA Council and members of our various working groups. I always had an excellent cooperation with all of them.

My special thanks go to Frans van der Linden, whose personnel support was very helpful for me in the previous years. By the way, Frans, most of the time I followed your advices, sometimes I did not. Today I can tell you very frankly, that there were moments when I regretted very much not having followed your advices.

Dear friends, I will not leave the EFOSA at all, but I will continue my work as a normal delegate representing Germany in the future.

We will now have to elect a new President in a couple of minutes following this statement of the old President. Let me tell you all that I assure the new President my support wherever and whenever it may be needed and I will always back him in his work for the EFOSA.

I would like to thank you all for your contributions, for your praise and for your criticism. May the EFOSA further grow, may we succeed in reaching our goals as they are described in our Constitution.

May our common work be successful for the benefit of our profession, the benefit of our patients and all our colleagues in Europe!

Thank you all very much for your attention!

24. Elections: New President

The Nomination Committee has proposed Frans van der Linden as President for the next four years. No other proposal was present.

Frans van der Linden was unanimously elected as new President for EFOSA.

Frans van der Linden thanked the member organizations for electing him and promised to do his best for the EFOSA. He also thanked Wolfgang Schmiedel for his hard work for the organization during his eight years in the EFOSA Council as President, Secretary and Treasurer.

25. Elections: Nomination Committee

It was proposed that Wolfgang Schmiedel should replace Frans van der Linden in the nomination Committee. No other proposal was present.

It was decided unanimously to elect Wolfgang Schmiedel for two years as a member of the EFOSA Nomination Committee.

The Committee consists of Charles Bolender, chairman, Jüri Kurol and Wolfgang Schmiedel.

26. Any other business

The President reported that the Council will propose a reduction of 50 % of the membership fees for the new EU countries which formally belonged to Eastern Europe during the first four years.

It was decided with a 9-0 vote and 1 abstention to approve the proposal of the Council.

27. Date and venue of the next meeting

The next General Assembly meeting will be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and preliminary June 2nd, 2005 where the 2005 EOS Congress will be held. The precise date and time will be announced in appropriate time and will also be available on the EFOSA web site as soon as the program for the EOS Congress in detail has been known.

25. Closing

The President Wolfgang Schmiedel thanked all delegates, guests and observers for their contributions and closed the Meeting at 19.00 hours. On behalf of the Danish colleagues he invited all delegates to the Get Together Party at Restaurant "See food".

Lars Medin

The Council members of the EFOSA (European Federation of Orthodontic Specialists Association) hereby confirm according to point 24, that Frans van der Linden, the Netherlands, was elected President of the organization EFOSA.

President

- Frans van der Linden
- Pauluslaan 15
- NL-6564 AP H. Landstichting
- The Netherlands

Vice President

- Francesca Miotti
- Via Jabelli 16
- I-35121 Padova
- Italy

Secretary

- Lars Medin
- Karlbergsv 16

- SE-791 36 Falun
- Sweden

Treasurer

- Claude Bourdillat-Mikol
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