

**Minutes of the 39th EFOSA General Assembly Meeting Tuesday, June 10th, 2008**  
**Lisbon, Portugal**

Attendance: 36 delegates of member societies/associations from 23 countries, 4 guests from 4 (non-member) countries, 2 extra guests of 2 member countries, 2 guests from the CED (Council of European Dentists), one observer from each the EOS and the FEO were present, and 1 secretary non-delegate.

- 01. Opening:** The president Lars Medin, Sweden, welcomed all delegates and guests to the 39<sup>th</sup> EFOSA General Assembly, and opened the meeting at 09.05 hours.
- 02. Apologies for absence:** Apologies for Absence had been received from active member Poland, guest Lithuania, observer Albania. Observer Serbia had not replied to the invitation; Provisional member Spain had planned on being present, but was not.
- 03. Introduction of delegates:** All delegates gave a brief introduction of who they are and where they come from.
- 04. Changes in and amendments to the agenda:** The president announced that the second point 08 on the agenda should be 09, and proposed to have first 06 and then 05 so that 05 would be a latest update, and to have first 08 and then 07; it also was announced that 17 would be taken before lunch because the committee's chair Alexandros Kokkas had to leave representing EFOSA in the EOS Council meeting; finally it was announced that 19 would be handled when the EPSOS board comes in.
- 06. Applications for membership:** The president announced that Slovakia had applied for active membership, and that Croatia had applied for affiliated membership. The General Assembly elected both countries respectively as active and affiliate member of EFOSA.

- 05. Membership status of the different European countries:** EFOSA now has 21 active members, 3 provisional members and 3 affiliated members. The president mentioned that a letter had been received from Luxembourg pointing out that the specialty of orthodontics still isn't recognized in the country. The same holds true for Austria and Spain. In these countries there are objections against recognition from government and/or dental association.

It was suggested by the Assembly to despite earlier efforts of support, again send out letters explaining the sort of isolated position of these countries in Europe to their dental associations and/or governments pleading for recognition of the orthodontic specialty.

**08. Council of European Dentists (CED). Presentation**

After a special word of welcome from the president Lars Medin to Orlando Monteiro da Silva, CED President and dentist from Portugal, and to Roland Svensson, Council Member of CED and orthodontist from Sweden, they presented to the General Assembly about the Council of European Dentists. The former Liaison Committee is now CED, financed by the dental associations, and is representing about 300.000 dentists in Europe. The activities concentrate on lobby in Brussels for realizing the key objectives of CED being promoting of high standards of oral health, dentistry and dental care in Europe, and representing the interests of the dental profession in the EU. Also the patient security issue has high priority. For this purpose CED has also a staff in Brussels. CED has a website ([www.eudental.org](http://www.eudental.org)) on which it publishes a newsletter ± 5/yr. In CED it is the feeling that problems basically are the same in all countries: it is about numbers and quantity, and nobody talks about quality. The CED president suggested that on orthodontic matters a cooperation with EFOSA would be possible and that maybe EFOSA once should present in CED as CED have done now in EFOSA.

- 17. Report of the EFOSA Committee “European Health Insurances” :** The report had been distributed in the Assembly and was introduced by Alexandros Kokkas, chair of the committee. This report should be a basis for future detailed comparison. Insurance systems in this report show a wide variety from no insurance at all to complicated systems. Because of these very different systems comparison is not easy and will be the task for next year.

This report will be on the EFOSA website and will also be sent out in digital format to the delegates.

**07. Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of June 20<sup>th</sup>, Berlin, Germany:** they were approved without any comment.

**09. Correspondence:**

- Greece: The president explained that the Greek Association for Orthodontic Study and Research GAOSR had sent a letter asking for (also) representing Greece in EFOSA, while the other Greek societies (the Greek Orthodontic Society, and the Hellenic Professional Union of Orthodontists) want the HPUO to continue representing Greece. The Council had looked into the details, regrets that this national issue is brought up in EFOSA and announced that in their opinion the Greece representation should stay as it has been. There was no opposition or comments to this standpoint in the GAM.
- The Netherlands: a letter from the Dutch Association of Orthodontists explained the situation in the Netherlands where many orthodontists have withdrawn from the specialists register, but they still can be a member of the association. The Council suggested that since all these members once had been registered as a specialist after they had fulfilled all requirements for becoming a specialist by all means of EFOSA, although this Dutch situation is unfavorable, the Netherlands should remain member of EFOSA under the condition that the situation should be evaluated in the General Assembly meeting of next year.
- The secretary: The EFOSA secretary Frank de Winter had sent a letter in which he questioned whether the Netherlands could stay as a member of EFOSA, but even if they could he would not be a delegate anymore because he had resigned from his membership of the Dutch Association of Orthodontists (because he didn't agree with the way they handled the situation in the Netherlands), and therefore concluded that he couldn't be a secretary anymore according to the EFOSA Constitution. The Council advised the General Assembly to consider that the secretary was elected for a 4 year period, and that at that time he had fulfilled all requirements, so that in their opinion he therefore should continue as a secretary. The General Assembly supported this Council's view, and the secretary accepted.

- 10. EFOSA Semi-annual report:** The president reminded that the semi-annual report had been published on the website in February like in other years. He mentioned that this kind of information was perfectly suited for being forwarded to the officers of the EFOSA member societies/associations informing them about EFOSA. He also urged the delegates to please forward the new issue of the EFOSA Headlines to the individual members of the member societies, and especially the section 'Tasks and Responsibilities' in these Headlines (also available on the website) should be passed on to be known.

It was reminded from the Assembly that already last year it was asked to have the EFOSA logo on the Headlines.

- 11. Report of the Secretary:** there wasn't much different to report from last year, so the secretary suggested because of reasons of time to read the report of the secretary in last year's minutes and just change 'first year' in 'second year'.

12.30-14.30 lunch with all present at the GAM

- 12. Information from the Council:** The president informed the GAM that EFOSA has applied and been approved for an affiliate membership of the WFO; that EFOSA is planning an update of the so-called 'Paris posters' for the WFO meeting in Sydney 2010; and maybe the ESAS could be presented some way in Sydney too, although it became clear that in Sydney there won't be a European Village as there was in Paris. British Orthodontic Society delegate Julian O'Neill, also the FEO Secretary, informed the GAM that the FEO has decided to arrange a similar set up as in Paris.

- 13a Report of the Treasurer: Status of Account / Resources:** The treasurer Claude Bourdillat reminded that all material had been sent out to the delegates, she read the financial report, which on request could be shown by power point as well.

- b Report of the Auditors:** Julien O'Neill, UK, reported on behalf of the auditors, he and Abraham Kyriakides, Cyprus, that they 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.
- c Discharge of the Council regarding the responsibilities concerning the accounts of the past financial year (2007-2008):** The General Assembly discharged the Council.
- d Budget 2008-2009:** The treasurer explained the EFOSA budget 2008-2009, which was then accepted by the General Assembly.
- e Membership dues 2008-2009:** The treasurer explained the need for a raise in membership dues and proposed these dues to become € 300 per country (before €250) plus € 2,80 per member (before € 2,50). This was unanimously accepted by the General Assembly.

**19. European Postgraduate Students Orthodontic Society (EPSOS).**

**Presentation:** The president welcomed 4 members of the board of EPSOS and then the president of EPSOS, Morten Godtfredsen, informed the General Assembly about EPSOS by a power point presentation. Key points of interest of EPSOS: finding out about specialists training programs, promoting standardization of requirements of postgraduate programs, and promoting high level of training, coincide with those of the EFOSA Committee "Orthodontic Training Programs and Examinations". This Committee, EOS' Teachers Forum and EPSOS try working together on these subjects.

EPSOS explained that to stay independent of dental industry they are seeking for financial support also from EFOSA.

- 14. Changes in the Bylaws (Proposal from the Council): 3.1 Attendance of the Assembly:** The proposal of the Council was accepted unanimously to change the bylaws: 3. Assembly, 3.1 Attendance, 3.1.1 The attendance of the Assembly is restricted to the delegates and the invited guests, 3.1.2 Each member can invite 1 guest from its own country, 3.1.3 The Council can invite guests.

**15. Report of the EFOSA Committee “Orthodontic Training Programs and Examinations”** : The president reminded that the Committee has not taken new initiatives but is trying in cooperation with EOS’ Teachers Forum and EPSOS getting insight in the diverse European specialist training situation. The committee is chaired by Krister Bjerklin, Sweden, and Luc Dermaut, Belgium, is a member of the committee

**16. Report of the EFOSA “Quality Working Group”:** introduction to EFOSA’s Self Assessment System: Frank de Winter, chair of the committee, apologized for the delay the committee had with finishing up the ESAS program. Tor Torbjørnsen, who helped a lot in the beginning, had left the committee since he and the majority of the committee had different ideas about the flexibility of the ESAS for future development. It then showed that part of the ESAS program had to be rewritten. Unfortunately the wireless internet connection could not be established in the meeting room; therefore the demonstration that the online version of the ESAS indeed is available could not be given. Frank de Winter, explained the principles of the ESAS and invited all present in the General Assembly to just try the ESAS until September 1, 2008. Per that date ESAS then will be officially on line available to all members of the EFOSA member societies/associations, and all data from the period before will be deleted. So until than fictitious patient data could be used when trying getting familiar with the ESAS. From September 1, one can register as an ESAS user only if ESAS recognizes the Email address of the applicant. Therefore all countries were urged to send in updates of the Excel file of Email addresses of their members to the EFOSA secretary. Those who have (legal) problems publishing these addresses could just add that the addresses are not meant for the EFOSA website, but for internal ESAS use only. Since the questionnaires about Patient Satisfaction of course must be in the patient’s native language, the delegates were asked to inform Frank de Winter whether they or somebody else in their countries could make a translation: instructions how this translation could be implemented then would be forwarded.

**18. EFOSA – Website:** The maintenance and update of the EFOSA website so far had been done by help of a student. The EFOSA website is hosted by a different company than the ESAS site is. It is considered by the Council whether maybe having 1 hosting company for both websites and professional maintenance/updating wouldn’t be more efficient and effective.

**20. Any other business:**

- Christian Scherer, Germany, warned that since the EU Bologna program (Bachelor-Master) some universities have come up with a Msc. in orthodontics which may give the impression of a specialist which it is not! One 'so called' university: the Donau University in Krems, Austria, is very active in supplying this Msc. for a lot of money and little training. People should be warned for this type of programs, and certainly try to prevent competent authorities getting the impression that this might be sort of equivalent to an orthodontic specialist.
- Martin Brock, Austria, invited all to come to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Austrian Orthodontic Society (December 5-6, 2008)
- Christian Scherer informed that in some countries there is a discussion, initiated by governments and insurers, whether there actually are evidence based benefits of orthodontic care to oral health.

**21. Date and venue of next meeting:** Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Helsinki, Finland

**22. Closing:** The president thanked all for their presence and participation. The meeting was closed at 15.50 hours.

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