

Minutes of the 32. EFOSA General Assembly Meeting

June 18, 2001, in the Congress Center, Ghent, Belgium

The 25th EFOSA Annual General Assembly Meeting was held on 18 June 2001 in the Congress Center in Ghent, Belgium. 22 countries took part in this meeting with a total of 37 people, of which 25 were delegates and 12 were guests. The list of those present at this meeting is attached with these minutes.

1. Opening

The EFOSA President, Professor Jüri Kurol, warmly welcomed all those colleagues present to the Annual General Meeting. He opened the meeting at 3.15 p.m. and then handed over to the EFOSA Secretary, Dr. Wolfgang Schmiedel to introduce those present.

Schmiedel reported that this year representatives from Belgium, Israel, Luxembourg, Portugal and Turkey had been invited as guests, in addition to the EFOSA delegates. He warmly welcomed Professor Hans Sergl from Mainz, Germany, who was participating as per agreement, at the Annual General Meeting as the EOS representative. He also welcomed the FEO representatives, who traditionally take part as observers at the Annual EFOSA meeting. In this connection he welcomed Professor Athanasios Athanasiou from Athens, Greece, the present FEO President as well as Thierry de Coster from Belgium, the FEO Vice-President.

In addition he informed that Paul Karvelas from Athens, the present EFOSA Treasurer, had been elected in April 2001 as President of the HPUO (Hellenic Professional Union of Orthodontists) and gave his congratulations on behalf of all those present. He also reported that Dr. Preben Dømgard had been elected as President of the FSO (Danish Society of Orthodontic Specialists) at the beginning of the year and congratulated him on his election. Those present applauded the delegates on their elections.

Schmiedel reported that he had obtained name badges for all those present and asked that everyone wear them clearly on view so that we could become better acquainted and know whom we were addressing. Then he called out all the delegates in alphabetical order to welcome them personally and hand out the name badges.

Finally Schmiedel reported that the Belgian colleagues had invited all the delegates to a "get-together" with dinner in the evening following the EFOSA Annual General Meeting. He thanked them on behalf of the Council and all those present, which was followed by loud applause. He expressed his hope that this social gathering would further strengthen the personal relationships between the delegates.

2. Apologies for absence

Schmiedel reported that he had unfortunately received an apology for absence from Iceland at the last minute. The Icelandic colleagues would not be present due to unforeseen circumstances at this year's Annual General Meeting of EFOSA. He reported that Iceland regretted this very much and that the President of the IOS (Icelandic Orthodontic Society), Arni Thordason, had confirmed he would be present at the coming Annual General Meeting in Italy.

3. Changes in and amendments to the agenda

Kurol reported on correspondence from the European Commission, which had been sent to him with a request for a reply. He suggested discussing this under Item 11 of the Agenda. The title of this working paper reads "The Future Regime for Professional Recognition". Schmiedel reported on correspondence from the BOS (British Orthodontic Society) in which they expressed a desire to discuss ethical problems. It was decided to discuss this under Item 18 of the Agenda.

4. Minutes of the 24th General Assembly Meeting of June 2, 2000, Crete, Greece

The minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting, which were sent out with the invitation to Ghent, were unanimously agreed without any changes being made. Professor Frans van der Linden from Holland thanked Schmiedel for preparing such exceptionally detailed minutes and for his excellent preparation for the Annual General Meeting. Those present applauded loudly.

5. Correspondence

Schmiedel reported again in detail on the most important correspondence from the previous year. He especially reported on the numerous written exchanges with the different Belgian orthodontic unions to try and solve the problems existing in that country. He again mentioned that all four Belgian unions had been invited to today's meeting as guests and that they would be given every opportunity under Item 10 of the Agenda to comment on the situation in Belgium in detail.

Schmiedel ended his report by advising that the most important correspondence had been sent out to all members along with the invitation. Questions were therefore not taken.

6. Informations from the Council

Kurol and Schmiedel reported that Professor Hans Sergl, who had participated for many years as a co-opted member of the EOS at the Council Meetings and the EFOSA Annual

General Meetings, would be retiring from his office as Head of the Orthodontic Department at Mainz university, Germany at the end of this year. For this reason he would probably only participate at this meeting as the official EOS representative. It has not yet been decided who his replacement will be, possibly Professor Rainer Reginalds Miethke from the Humboldt university in Berlin. Kurol and Schmiedel heartily thanked Hans Sergl for his years of support for EFOSA's work and for the extremely good co-operation between EFOSA and the EOS. The assembly greatly applauded this.

7. Report of the Secretary

As in the past, Schmiedel gave an overview of the work and activities undertaken by EFOSA in the previous year. He also read a written report which is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

8. Report of the Auditors

Dr. Ulrich Fellner, Germany gave a report on the Annual Audit. He explained that along with the second auditor, Dr. Paolo Picchioni, Italy, he had meticulously examined the EFOSA accounts, bank receipts and all the credits and debits made between June 2000 and May 2001. He reported that everything was in good order and recommended to the assembly that they accept the audit. The members noted this and approved.

9. Report of the Treasurer: Status of account / Resources

The EFOSA Treasurer, Paul Karvelas, reported on EFOSA credits and debits during the period June 2000 to March 2001. He reported that the statement of account on May 25th 2001 stood at 11.559,99 Euro. Questions on the financial development of EFOSA were answered in detail by Karvelas.

10. Application for membership: Belgium, Israel, Luxembourg, Portugal, Turkey

Belgium Kurol once again gave all the representatives of the four Belgian orthodontic unions the opportunity to discuss in detail the problems of the official state recognition of the specialised area of orthodontics in Belgium as well as the problems of the different unions. After sometimes-controversial discussions, mainly between Thierry de Coster and Bart Vande Vannet, the Belgian representatives informed us that the state recognition of professional orthodontics would probably occur in June 2001. Those present expressed their hope that after the state recognition one joint union can be created from the four existing unions.

They can then be the sole representatives from Belgium to come to EFOSA as members. Schmiedel offered to help solve the existing problems in Belgium if this was required.

Israel The Israeli representative, Dr. Naphtali Brezniak from Tel Aviv, proposed Israel's acceptance into EFOSA. Although Israel had fulfilled all the requirements set down in the EFOSA constitution for active membership, the assembly came to the conclusion that Israel could regrettably not be accepted as a member of EFOSA, as Israel is not a European country. As its name and constitution suggests, EFOSA represents only countries in Europe. Schmiedel confirmed that a representative from Israel will be invited in the coming years as a guest at the Annual General Meeting of EFOSA in order to receive the information given out there. No-one present objected to this proposal.

Luxembourg The representative of the Luxembourg orthodontists, Dr. Odile Steil-Hutereau, gave once more the reasons why the specialised area of orthodontics in Luxembourg is not yet state recognised. The main reason is resistance from the general dentists. She asked for further support from the 15 colleagues in her country. She was also invited to be a guest of EFOSA at the Annual General Meeting in the coming year.

Portugal The Portuguese representative, Jorge Dias Lopes, clarified the situation with regard to orthodontics in his country. He reported that the state recognition of the specialised area of orthodontics in Portugal could possibly be expected in the foreseeable future and confirmed that in this case Portugal would want to become a member of EFOSA.

Turkey The Turkish representative, Dr. Hakan Iscan, reported on the situation with regard to orthodontics in Turkey. As Turkey has obviously fulfilled all the requirements set down in the EFOSA constitution for provisional membership, the hope was expressed that the TOS (Turkish Orthodontic Society) would soon apply for acceptance for membership into EFOSA.

Finally Kurol reported that he had given a lecture in the Czech Republic and had sent greetings from EFOSA. In this connection Schmiedel pointed out that one of the most important tasks facing EFOSA in the coming years would be the support and preparation for entry into EFOSA of many orthodontic unions in Eastern Europe.

11. Relations with the EOS: Letter to the European Union

Schmiedel reported in detail on the co-operation with the EOS. He particularly mentioned the letter jointly prepared by EFOSA and the EOS to the Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Practitioners in Brussels. He reported that this letter was sent on September 14th 2000 and it was confirmed with great pleasure that for the first time in the history of EFOSA a reply had followed. In this reply the Secretary of the Committee confirmed that the letter from EFOSA and the EOS had been noted for information. Schmiedel confirmed that the correspondence would be published on the EFOSA Web-site as soon as possible.

Kuroł and Schmiedel finally made it known that the following day, Tuesday June 19th 2001, the joint information meeting of the EOS and EFOSA, known as the Forum, would take place.

12. Relations with the FEO

Schmiedel reported on the good co-operation with the FEO. He warmly welcomed their President, Athanasios Athanasiou (Greece) and their Vice-President, Thierry de Coster (Belgium) as observers at the EFOSA Annual General Meeting. It has become a good tradition that both organisations invite each other to their respective meetings. Athanasiou thanked them for the invitation and confirmed the invitation for one or two representatives of EFOSA to the coming Annual General Meeting in autumn 2001 in Harrogate, England.

13. Relations with the EURO-QUAL

The Vice-president of EFOSA, Dr. Boris Faure, gave a report on the latest situation at Euro-Qual and its planned activities. In addition he read out a detailed report to the delegates. The assembly agreed that the relationship with Euro-Qual should be strengthened and in future EFOSA should be involved in discussions over questions about the quality of our professional standing. The assembly applauded Faure for his presentation.

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

Kuroł and Schmiedel reported on the situation regarding preparations for the World Congress of Orthodontists to be held in 2005, organised by the World Federation of Orthodontists (WFO). Schmiedel made it known that EFOSA would be actively supporting this congress and that he himself, as a member of the committee "Educational and Professional Legal Environment" together with Professor Charles Bolender, would actively be taking part in the preparations.

15. EFOSA-Questionnaire: Results

Schmiedel reported on the results of the evaluation of the questionnaires, which were developed by EFOSA and handed out at the last Annual General Meeting in Crete. He regretted that, in spite of his request for the questionnaires to be sent back by September 2000, some of them only arrived a few weeks ago after several reminders and this made the evaluation and presentation somewhat difficult. He then projected the answers from all those participating countries on the wall and gave clarification to individual answers to the 44 questions.

Schmiedel told the assembly that on basis of the evaluation of the returned Italian questionnaire unfortunately the conclusion was reached that the active membership

status had to be altered in a provisional membership. The reason was that the answers implied the lack of state recognition and the lack of an official register. Further examination will be taken of the procedure and should the occasion arise a new decision will be given at the coming Annual General Meeting. Meanwhile after detailed discussions Italy had to step down from an active membership to a provisional one.

In conclusion Schmiedel handed out to all those present a diskette with the results of the questionnaire and explained that these findings would be published soon in the "European Journal of Orthodontics" (EJO). Furthermore all the results would shortly be available to each member on the EFOSA Web-site on the Internet.

The assembly recognised the great input by Schmiedel in developing and evaluating the questionnaire. He was loudly applauded.

16. EFOSA-Website: Presentation / Discussion

Schmiedel thanked Paul Karvelas for his initiative and preparation in setting up EFOSA's own Web-site. He emphasised once again the importance of this medium for the future representation of EFOSA and the co-operation of individual members.

Finally he gave a presentation of the further developed EFOSA Web-site: www.efosa.org. He explained in detail the formation and functions and then asked the members to freely discuss the appearance and contents of the new Web-site. The assembly expressed their approval and pleasure over the Web-site and thanked Schmiedel for this outstanding work. He in turn thanked Emile Jannsen from the Netherlands for his assistance with the work.

17. Elections: Treasurer / Nomination Committee / Terms of Office

The period in office of the Treasurer, Paul Karvelas, came to an end in Ghent. Because of his election as President of the Greek Orthodontists Karvelas does not wish to stand for a further term in office. The assembly thanked him with applause for the work he had achieved over the previous years. Because of the situation at Item 15 the original nomination from the Nomination Committee for a successor for Karvelas could not be accepted. Dr. Francesca Miotti of Italy could not be elected as the EFOSA constitution only allows active members to be elected by the Council. The Chairman of the Nomination Committee, Frans van der Linden, therefore suggested Dr. Christopher Kettler from England as Treasurer. There also came from the assembly an unexpected counter proposal. Kari-Line Roald from Norway proposed the President of the Norwegian Orthodontists, Annlaug Stensland, as Treasurer. Since further proposals were not made, according to the constitution, there had to be a secret ballot. The result of the secret ballot was 5:5 votes, so that according to the EFOSA constitution, Article 11, the President has

the casting vote. Kurol decided to favour Annlaug Stensland, who is now the new Treasurer of EFOSA.

The Nomination Committee (Frans van der Linden (Chairman), Francesca Miotti and Chris Kettler) remains unchanged for a further year until the next Annual General Meeting in Italy.

18. Any other business

Frans van der Linden returned to the discussions under Item 13 on the agenda. He stressed the importance of EFOSA strengthening questions of quality safety, quality control and quality management. After detailed discussions it was decided, upon the request of Frans van der Linden to create an EFOSA working group, which would be concerned with this topic in close co-operation with Euro-Qual. After detailed discussions about the size and composition of the working group, Boris Faure, Annlaug Stensland and Ulrich Fellner were proposed and elected.

19. Date of next meeting

Schmiedel was pleased with the timing of the EFOSA Annual General Meeting, which is held the day before the EOS Congress. Those present agreed as this allowed more time for detailed discussion than in previous years. It was decided to keep the same arrangement for the coming year.

Monday June 3rd 2002 was confirmed as the date for the next Annual General Meeting. The venue will be Sorrento, Italy. The meeting will begin at 3.00 p.m. and end at approximately 6.00 p.m.

20. Closing

The President of EFOSA, Jüri Kurol warmly thanked all the members for their interesting contributions in the discussions and wished them all a safe journey home. He closed the 25th Annual General Meeting at 6.30 pm.