

## **Minutes of the 38th EFOSA General Assembly Meeting**

Wednesday, June 20th, 2007, Hotel Maritim Berlin, Berlin, Germany

### Attendance:

30 delegates of member societies/associations from 20 countries, 6 guests from 6 (non-member) countries, 5 extra guests of 5 member countries and one observer from each the EOS and the FEO were present

### 01. Opening:

The president Lars Medin, Sweden, welcomed all delegates and guests to the 38th EFOSA General Assembly Meeting, and opened the meeting at 9.20 hours.

The president expressed his thanks for the very nice 'Get together Party' which was hosted by the German Orthodontic Society BDK at the charming and interesting site Hörsaalruine of the Charité university.

### 02. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence have been received from Luxembourg; Serbia had not replied to the invitation

### 03. Introduction of delegates:

All delegates gave a brief introduction of who they are, where they come from and what is up in orthodontics in their country at this moment.

### 04. Changes in and amendments to the agenda:

The president proposed to have point 16 after 09 because the president of the committee Alexandros kokkas, Greece, in the afternoon will represent EFOSA as its vice-president in the EOS Council.

### 05. Minutes of the 37th General Assembly Meeting of July 4th, 2006, Vienna, Austria:

The minutes of the 37th EFOSA GAM were approved unanimously without changes.

#### 06. Correspondence:

The secretary informed the Assembly that some discussion with Italian and Greek orthodontic societies about who should be EFOSA member and about the right of being present at the GAM. The council considered these questions being a national 'problem' which is not up to EFOSA for being solved

The Council had received all information which is required for applying for membership from Estonia and Slovenia, and close to all requirements from Croatia.

#### 07. EFOSA Semi-annual report:

The President asked for comments to the Semi-annual report sent out already in March. There were no comments or proposals from the delegates.

#### 08. Report of the Secretary:

(abstract) This was my first year as your secretary, and this is my first chance to thank you for your trust given to me when I was elected last year. In fulfilling my task I had a lot of help from my colleagues council members that make a good team. You all could make my task a little easier however by providing us with e-mail addresses of your national societies and informing us about changes in your e-mail address or change of delegate for your country as soon as possible. It has shown to take a lot of time to sometimes finally contact the right person. We would also appreciate your prompt answer when asked for and when possible. Holding track of things on their way takes a lot of time. With your help we may make EFOSA function even better, although I think today's program will show that there is a lot of progress thanks to an enormous output of our committees and several individuals.

#### 09. Information from the Council:

The President informed about contacts with the Council of European Dentists (CED). The Council of CED consists of 8 members, the President is from Portugal, Orlando Monteiro da Silva and two Council members are orthodontists, the Swedish and the Finnish representative. Next year in Lisbon two representatives, the President and the Swedish Council members will attend the EFOSA GAM and let us know about CED. The CED has a website [www.eudental.eu](http://www.eudental.eu) where you can read about its key objectives to promote high standards of oral health and represent the dental profession inside EU. You can also read about the CED policy and take part of CED information in a Newsletter regularly distributed.

The President announced that the EFOSA's Headlines, first issue, already distributed as PDF-files, different formats (A4 and A3) also has been available in print. The Headlines were appreciated very much and it was considered an important contribution for communication. It was suggested to have the Headlines and the Quality Newsletter more look the same showing EFOSA identity/house style, and to in these publications list the members of EFOSA so that readers realize.

The Council has decided to ask the different member organizations to deliver The EFOFA Headlines, the Quality Newsletter, Tasks and responsibilities EFOSA/EOS/FEO and the Semi-annual report to their members on request of the EFOSA Council. It is up to the member organization to choose format. Information in the National Journal, enclosures, other type of printed material or as attachments to e-mails to the individual members.

The President informed about a mistake last year not to elect a new Nomination Committee (NC). The latest NC was elected three years ago in Aarhus for a period of two years. He apologized for the mistake. This year the Council has proposed a candidate for a new Council member (point 11) and also urged the members to propose alternatives.

There should also have been a complementary election of a second financial auditor as Alexandros Kokkas was elected Vice president and cannot at the same time hold a position as financial auditor. This year the other financial auditor alone, Chris Kettler has done the job.

#### 10a Report of the Treasurer: Status of Account / Resources:

The report, which had been sent out to the delegates with the agenda, was introduced by the treasurer: Claude Bourdillat-Mikol, France. It was commented that finally all countries had paid there dues, although quite a few did do so late, except for Serbia that had not responded at all.

#### b Report of the Auditors:

The report was read by the auditor Chris Kettler, and it was recommended to the GAM to accept and adopt the accounts

The General Assembly unanimously accepted.

#### c Budget 2007-2008:

The treasurer introduced this first time ever budget based on estimates. The Council had discussed the budget, approved it and is now proposing the GAM to accept it. The treasurer reminded the General Assembly that the budget for the ESAS (which was accepted in Amsterdam) is a one-off.

The GAM unanimously accepted the budget.

#### 11. Election of a new Council member:

Milan Kaminek was the only candidate and was unanimously elected as the new council member.

#### 12. Election of Nomination Committee members:

The president asked the GAM to come up with candidates for these posts. It was decided to postpone these elections until after lunch.

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#### 14. Report of the EFOSA Committee "Orthodontic Training Programs and Examinations":

The president informed the Assembly that in spite of reminders there is no report of the past activities of this committee from the former chairman of the committee Francesca Miotti, Italy. The newly installed committee which exists of Krister Bjerklin, Sweden (chairman), and Luc Dermaut, Belgium, will work together with EOS's Teachers Forum and EPSOS to get the information needed. They had a meeting last evening where it was decided to refrain from questionnaires. EOS Teachers Forum is working with a group of 5 people who will make phone calls to all chairs of orthodontic departments, and so try finding answers to about 10 questions.

#### 12. Election of Nomination Committee members:

From the delegates it was suggested to become members:

Jonathan Sandler, UK

Bart Vande Vannet, Belgium

Wolfgang Schmiedel, Germany.

These candidates were elected unanimously and it was decided that the committee itself will elect a chairman. The NC was elected for a period of two years.

### 13. Election of Auditors:

From the delegates it was suggested to become auditors:

Julian O'Neill, UK

Abraham Kyriakides, Cyprus.

These candidates were elected unanimously. The financial auditors were elected for a period of two years.

### 15. Report of the EFOSA "*Quality Working Group*": introduction to EFOSA's Self Assessment System:

As an introduction to the subject Frank de Winter reported being happy and proud that the Self Assessment System according to plan is on line now, which is according to schedule and within the budget, thanks to a lot of work by all members of the committee. The framework is set now, but data are needed. Therefore all delegates are urgently requested to find (at least) one study club in their country that is willing to co-operate with the project by entering data of treated patients as well as from now on prospective data. Tor Torbjørnsen showed by power point presentation all ins and outs of the ESAS, and finally it was demonstrated that the ESAS indeed is on line, although the direct link from the EFOSA website still has to be made. All participants of this GAM will be informed by e-mail when this is done. The General Assembly welcomed the ESAS with applause. It was decided that the ESAS should be available to members of EFOSA's member societies/associations.

### 16. Report of the EFOSA Committee "*European Health Insurances*" :

The chairman of the committee, Alexandros Kokkas, appointed by the Council, reported that a first inquiry has lead to information that has to be re-edited making comparison possible. A second member of the committee, Christian Scherer, Germany has also been appointed by the Council to replace Wolfgang Schmiedel who due to a heavy workload had to resign. The third member of the committee Jan Ødegaard, Norway has retired and will at the moment not be replaced.

As soon as the material received is sorted out it will be presented on the web-site.

#### 17. EFOSA – Website:

The secretary informed the General Assembly that the website will be updated every quarter of a year (deadlines: March 31st, June 30th, September 30th and December 31st). In between only very urgent matters will be eligible for direct updating. Members are asked to send in information for updates as soon as possible, also changes of board/council, and please try to send in country reports when asked for. The delegates were also asked to please check the website on errors and mistakes and inform the secretary when found.

#### 18. Changes in the Bylaws (Proposal from the Council): 3.3.2: Representation in the Council:

The proposed change in the Bylaws 3.3.2: 'The Nomination Committee shall strive for representation in the Council from different parts of the European Union', was accepted unanimously.

#### 19. Applications for membership:

The president announced that Estonia and Slovenia have applied for membership and that they have fulfilled all requirements. The Assembly elected Estonia and Slovenia unanimously as new active members of EFOSA.

#### 20. Membership status of the different European countries:

The president gave an overview about the present situation, Austria, Luxembourg and Spain are provisional members. For Luxembourg this may change soon into active membership, in Austria however there seems to be no change. Spain continues to be a provisional member, although last year it looked like upcoming recognition of the orthodontic specialist nothing has happened. EFOSA is striving for full participation of all European countries. Next year, 2008 in Lisbon, the Council expects countries like Slovakia, Lithuania and Latvia to apply for active membership. Hungary, Malta, Bulgaria and Romania will be contacted. Croatia will for sure apply for affiliated membership.

#### 21. European Postgraduate Students Orthodontic Society (EPSOS):

The president informed the Assembly about the contact with EPSOS yesterday and the conclusion that this group of students seems to be very ambitious and probably co-operation could be useful. It is planned to keep in contact. The Council of the EPSOS

will be asked to give a short presentation of their organization next year. The website address is [www.epsos.net](http://www.epsos.net)

## 22. Presentations of PR initiatives: towards a European orthodontic PR program?:

Abraham Kyriakides gave a power point presentation of initiatives in Cyprus which after a great success in the first year that they were implemented will be continued as an annual orthodontic week with as central theme an art competition. Claude Bourdillat-Mikol informed the Assembly of a one day per year free phone facility in France, where orthodontists answer questions. Michiel Bierman told about initiatives in the Netherlands where a closer contact with the public is tried to being established by a new name of the association of orthodontists, a new house style and a new website.

After some discussion it was concluded that promoting orthodontics is different from promoting orthodontic care by specialists! And that is what should be done. For the time being PR is considered a national initiative and not an EFOSA task. It could be very helpful however to in the country report have a section for PR activities recently done and planned for the near future.

## 23. Any other business:

Michiel Bierman pointed out the new situation in the Netherlands where the fee for orthodontic treatment by government stepwise will be decreased until 2009 by a total of 29% as compared to the fees of 2001. The fee for orthodontic care by general practitioners is about 30% higher than the fee for orthodontists. About 40% of orthodontic care in the Netherlands is provided by general practitioners. It is feared that over 50% of the orthodontists may step down from being registered as a specialist and become general practitioners as a consequence of these government measures. There was a lot of unbelief in the Assembly about this sort of governing, but there was not offered a solution for this problem.

The Greek Association for Orthodontic Study and Research, being present as a guest of Cyprus, brought up the question that since the Forum doesn't exist anymore, they feel information being withheld from them when not automatically and always welcome in the EFOSA GAM. The president explained that since all members of EFOSA represent at least 70% of the orthodontists in their country the information of what takes place in the EFOSA GAM can be supposed to be known to the member countries, besides every member may bring one guest. Moreover the Forum was an EOS initiative therefore this complaint should be brought up in the EOS business meeting.

24. Date and venue of next meeting:

Monday June 9, 2008, Lisbon, Portugal.

25. Closing:

The president specially thanked Chris Kettler for his many excellent contributions to the EFOSA in the long period he has represented the UK, which ends today. Among all the EFOSA "Code of Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct" was mentioned. The meeting was closed at 15.45 hours.

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