

Minutes of the 30. EFOSA General Assembly Meeting

June 22, 1999, Strasbourg, France.

The 23rd EFOSA General Assembly Meeting was held on June 22, 1999 in Strasbourg. 22 countries with a total of 46 people participated, 21 of whom were delegates and 25 of whom were guests. An list of those present is enclosed with these minutes.

1. Opening

EFOSA President, Jüri Kurol, opened the meeting at 11:15 AM. He warmly greeted all those present. The President then handed over to the secretary, Wolfgang Schmiedel, who read out the names of all members and asked them to stand up and introduce themselves. After reading out the attendance list, it transpired that additional guests from Germany, Turkey and Slovenia were present. Their presence at this normally closed meeting was deeply welcomed.

2. Apologies for absence

Kurol informed the General Assembly that Frans van der Linden, a member of the "Nomination Committee" had sent an apology for absence.

3. Changes in and amendmends to the agenda

Kurol informed the General Assembly that items 8 and 9 on the agenda would be heard in reverse order. Cyprus should be added to item 10, England, Finland, Italy and Cyprus to item 11 and the re-election of the "Nomination Committee" to item 18. Objections were not raised and so the new order of agenda was approved.

4. Minutes of the 22. General Assembly Meeting of June 2, 1999, Mainz (Germany)

The minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting, which were sent with the invitation to Strasbourg, were approved unanimously as they stood.

5. Correspondence

Schmiedel reported in detail on the most important correspondence of the previous year. He especially underlined the correspondence with the Irish and Austrian Ministries for Health, reported about his letter to Roberto Martina in Italy and the letter from the EFOSA President to the European Commission, which had not as yet been answered. Schmiedel closed his report by stating that he had sent the most important correspondence with the invitation to all members. There were no questions.

6. Information from the Council

Kurol reported that in future, it might be necessary for the Council to make urgent decisions without asking the General Assembly for prior permission. He asked the General Assembly for their permission in those cases. The active EFOSA members eligible to vote approved unanimously to allow the Council to do this in the future.

The Vice-President of EFOSA, Ronald Bijlstra, reported on an EFOSA questionnaire which was currently being drawn up to find out the number of inhabitants of a country, the number of practising orthodontists, and the members of national professional associations. Bijlstra hoped to have the questionnaire available for the next Council Meeting in Autumn 1999 in order to have it approved.

7. Report of the Secretary

Due to the large number present, Schmiedel gave an overview of EFOSA projects and activities of the previous 23 years. He also read a written report which will be attached to the minutes.

8. Report of the Treasurer: Status of account / Recources / Proposal for new annual contributions

EFOSA Treasurer Paul Karvelas reported on the income and the expenses of EFOSA from the beginning of 1998 until June 10, 1999. The statement of account had been sent to every member enclosed with the invitation. Karvelas proposed setting up a budget for the next financial year which he would estimate at 22,000 DEM. He told the General Assembly that the Council had made the following proposals due to an increased number of future EFOSA activities:

1. The currency of the account should be immediately converted to EURO.
2. The basic contribution for active members should be converted from 500 DEM to 250 EURO so that it remains the same.
3. The former membership fee of 2.00 DEM for every individual member of the national associations should be raised to 2.00 EURO.

The 23rd General Assembly approved these proposals unanimously.

9. Report of the auditors

The elected EFOSA Auditor Ulrich Fellner (Germany) gave a statement on behalf of Bauris Faure (France) as well, about the true and correct accountancy of the Treasurer. The statement has been enclosed with the minutes.

10. Situation of the orthodontic Specialty and the national Orthodontic Associations

Reports from: Austria, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom.

Kurol informed the General Assembly that EFOSA had received applications from the following countries: Finland, Italy, England and Cyprus. The listed countries would report under item 11.

The following countries reported on the status of orthodontics in their countries:

Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Turkey. Two delegates from different national associations spoke for Belgium. They could not reach an agreement about which association would represent their country in EFOSA in the future. It was decided that all speakers should send a short written report about the status of orthodontics in their own countries to the EFOSA Secretary, who would then enclose it with the minutes.

11. Application for membership: Iceland, England, Finland, Italy, Cyprus

EFOSA President reported upon the application by Iceland for an active membership in EFOSA. He told the General Assembly that the documents were in order. In the absence of the Icelandic delegates and upon proposal by the Council, Iceland was elected unanimously as the 8th active member of EFOSA.

Kettler reported that England had introduced a state orthodontic register, called the "specialist list" on July 1, 1998, with the result that England had set up the conditions for an active membership. In the absence of the English delegates and upon proposal by the Council, England's provisional membership was converted into an active membership and England was elected unanimously as the 9th active member of EFOSA.

Kurol reported upon the recent application by Finland for an active membership in EFOSA. He told the General Assembly that the documents were in order. In the absence of the Finnish delegates and upon proposal by the Council, Finland was elected unanimously as the 10th active member of EFOSA.

Karvelas reported upon the recent application by Cyprus for an affiliated membership in EFOSA. He told the General Assembly that the documents were in order. In the absence of the Cypriot delegates and upon proposal by the Council, Cyprus was elected unanimously as the 2nd affiliated member of EFOSA.

Schmiedel reported that it had fortunately been possible to reach a last minute agreement between the two Italian associations SUSO and ASIO, which had both applied for membership of EFOSA. The presidents of the two associations compromised to form a new association uniting the two existing ones. The name of the new association is FISO. The president of the former ASIO became the new president and the president of the

former SUSO became the new secretary-general. The Council and the attending Delegates expressed their pleasure at this solution. On behalf of Italy, FISO applied for an active membership in EFOSA. In the absence of the Italian delegates and upon proposal by the Council, Italy was elected unanimously as the 11th active member of EFOSA.

Schmiedel was pleased to inform the General Assembly that as of now Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg and Portugal were the only four West-European countries who were not members of EFOSA. He hoped that these countries would be members of EFOSA by the end of the year 2000, after solving their internal problems with the help of EFOSA.

12. Definition of the term "Specialist in Orthodontics"

In accordance with EFOSA Bylaws, paragraph 6, and upon proposal by the Council, the General Assembly agreed to form a committee which will work on a clear general definition of the term "specialist in orthodontics". Committee Members will be Keaton (Ireland), Kettler (England), van der Linden (Holland) and Canut (Spain). In their work the Committee are to consider the suggestions and contributions of the General Assembly on this subject.

13. Relations with the EOS

Schmiedel reported on the co-operation with the EOS. He gave a brief historical overview and stated the responsibilities of both organisations. The following areas are of mutual interest to EFOSA and the EOS:

1. Accreditation
2. Quality Assurance
3. Education of Specialists
4. Specialist Examinations for Europe
5. Recognition of the Specialty

Kurol and Schmiedel reported about misunderstandings concerning the co-operation and the question about the responsibilities of the two organisations, which had recently occurred. They warmly greeted the EOS delegate Hans Serogl, who has the status of a co-opted member in EFOSA. All those present expressed their wish to continue the co-operation between EFOSA and EOS without any restrictions and expressed their hope that misunderstandings would be avoided in the future through even closer personal contacts.

Schmiedel reported that the next Co-operation Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held in autumn of this year. One of the items on the agenda will be the passing of a common letter to the Advisory Committee in Brussels.

14. Relations with the FEO

Schmiedel reported about the FEO. He informed the General Assembly that EFOSA did not consider this European association an opponent to the academic national associations but that the two associations should support and complement one another in their work. He thanked Athanasiou also on behalf of Bijlstra for inviting them to the Annual Meeting of the FEO.

15. Relations with the EU authorities

Kurol reported on the aims and composition of the Advisory Committee. All letters that were sent to this Committee either personally by him, by EFOSA or by the EOS and EFOSA together had as yet not been answered. Intensive discussions developed amongst those present on the General Assembly Meeting to find out the best way to influence this Committee. All delegates thought it would be best in the future to use personal contacts with the members of the Advisory Committee in the respective countries to bring up requests.

16. Relations with the EURO-QUAL

Kurol and Schmiedel reported on the EURO-QUAL project which had been temporarily completed. Within the scope of the EURO-QUAL Final Congress in March 1999, Schmiedel had been able to present the work of EFOSA. EFOSA will use the good scientific results of the EURO-QUAL for their future projects.

Kurol informed the General Assembly that all documents such as overhead transparencies and floppy disks with Power-Point presentations could be requested from the EFOSA Council.

17. Internet web-site / EFOSA Newsletter

Karvelas informed the General Assembly that the preparations for an EFOSA Internet web-site had almost been completed. EFOSA was hoping to be able to distribute all important information to the members via this medium from Autumn 1999. Schmiedel was of the opinion that EFOSA had given too little information to their members in the past. They should think about editing their own Newsletter which would then permanently inform the members about the activities of EFOSA and the Council. If it was, however, possible to set up an EFOSA Internet web-site on time, this idea should be abandoned. The 23rd General Assembly expressed their gratitude to Karvelas for his work on the web-site project.

18. Nomination Committee / EFOSA-Bylaws (Roster): Election of one Councillor

Kurol reported that the term of office of the Nomination Committee would normally end in June 2000. Bijlstra proposed extending the time in office until the next General Assembly Meeting in June 2000 and to confirm the members (Kettler, van der Linden, Faure) in their offices. The delegates passed this proposal unanimously.

The Vice-President of EFOSA's term of office ended at the 23rd General Assembly Meeting. A re-election was possible and Bijlstra was prepared to declare himself as a candidate once more. As both the Nomination Committee and the Dutch National Professional Association, the DMO, supported his re-election, Kurol proposed that he be re-elected for the post of Vice-President for a further four years. The delegates passed this resolution unanimously. Ronald Bijlstra was affirmed in his office.

19. Any other business

At Bijlstra's suggestion, Schmiedel asked the members if in future the General Assembly Meeting should be held independently from the Congress of the EOS. They could begin the meeting in the morning and continue in the afternoon after lunch together. This would have the advantage of allowing more time, and in the future, being able to have more intensive and detailed discussions.

As opinion over this was divided, the Council will work on further ideas over future meetings.

20. Date of next meeting

Kurol announced that the next General Assembly Meeting of EFOSA would take place at the beginning of June 2000 in Crete along with the EOS Congress. EFOSA members will be informed of the exact date and venue in due course.

21. Date of next meeting

The President of EFOSA, Jüri Kurol, thanked all the members for their interesting contributions to the discussions, wished them all a safe journey home and ended the 23rd General Assembly Meeting at 1:55 PM.