

Minutes of the 20. EFOSA Meeting

8 Avenue Simon Bolivar, Paris 75019, on Saturday, 28 November, 1992.

Prof. Ch. Bolender (France) presided. Other delegates present included:

1. Drs. W. Schmiedel (Germany)
2. Attilio Ferrini (Italy)
3. R. Bijlstra (Netherlands)
4. C. Gysel (Belgium)
5. Norman Flood (Ireland).

Also in attendance were

1. Drs. R. Moerens-Dugue (Belgium)
2. B. Faure (France)
3. Paolo Picchioni (Italy).

An apology was received from Dr. J. C. Bailey (Great Britain) whose absence was occasioned by a family behaviour. Dr. K. Markostamos was welcomed as the delegate from the Professional Association of Orthodontists of Greece.

The minutes of the 1991 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved by all delegates.

Reports were given by each delegate regarding:

1. The official training available in his country for postgraduate orthodontics.
2. What parallel unofficial training systems exist.
3. What recognition his country gives to people trained outside the E.C.

1. REPORTS

GERMANY.

1. Postgraduates must undertake four years training that includes one year in general dentistry, one year in a University Clinic, and two years in an authorised specialist orthodontic practice. Ideally, the Universities would prefer students to attend two to three years in their Clinics, but with about 800 qualifying each year, it is difficult to provide sufficient training posts even under the present one year system.
2. It is interesting that general practitioners in Germany who practise exclusive orthodontics are legally obliged to treat patients who demand fillings or extractions.

3. No parallel unofficial systems exist.
4. No recognition is accorded to postgraduates obtaining diplomas outside the E.C. Germans returning from training courses in the U.S.A. must sit a written and oral examination to obtain a recognised orthodontic diploma.

NETHERLANDS.

1. Two dental and two orthodontic schools provide a four year postgraduate orthodontic course for 18 students, of which 4 to 5 qualify each year.
2. Some unofficial courses are given by orthodontists receiving fees from general practitioners.
3. Dutch dentists wishing to obtain orthodontic training outside the E.C. must first apply to the Registration Committee before going abroad. The Committee (consisting of University teachers and specialist orthodontists) will study details of the curriculum before giving official approval to the specified training course. If the course abroad consists of two years, the student must do a further two years on his return to Holland before he can obtain a diploma.

BELGIUM.

1. Orthodontic training in hospitals and universities consists of four year, full-time courses leading to a diploma. As orthodontics is not considered a specialty in Belgium, their diploma has no official recognition. Courses are not standardised, so training is variable.
2. One private school offers orthodontic training.
3. None. As there is no specialist register, no recognition is given to anyone from abroad.

UNITED KINGDOM.

1. Postgraduate Orthodontic Training. Official courses held at some of the undergraduate teaching hospitals and the Eastman Dental Hospital for postgraduates. A three year full-time course leading to the M. Orth. from one of the Royal Colleges. About 60 students, but probably 50% from outside the U.K.
2. No unofficial training programmes.
3. As there has not yet been ratification of the Specialists' Register, specialists are not officially recognised from anywhere.

IRELAND

1. The Dental Hospitals at Dublin and Cork offer a limited number of training posts, which are recognised for those sitting the primary and final examinations for the

Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry, R.C.S.I. Most Irish postgraduates spend some years training abroad, either in the U.K. or the U.S.

2. No unofficial training programmes.
3. Orthodontists not recognised as specialists, irrespective of origin.

ITALY

1. Three year full-time official courses given in Schools and Universities to stomatologists and qualified dentists. Diplomas recognised by the State.
2. Shorter courses exist, but are given no status.
3. Not recognised.

FRANCE

1. Four years part-time training leads to examination for orthodontic diploma: a postgraduate student may still spend three days weekly in a University, the remaining two days in private practice. Current transitory measures will cease in 1996, after which University training will be essential.
2. Many unofficial courses exist, but these are not given official specialty status in France as they do not meet University requirements. There is a danger that holders of these "inferior" diplomas may seek registration in other countries who are unaware that they are not recognised in France. French academic circles would like to see all courses standardised to University requirements.
3. All French postgraduates returning from abroad must appear before the Conseil National for assessment as to their suitability for specialist registration. The Conseil National consists of University professors who will consider the facilities available in foreign Universities. There are written, clinic and practical examinations; candidates also present five treated cases.

GREECE

1. There are about 200 orthodontists in Greece. A University diploma is obtainable after a three year full-time course. At present, four students are enrolled annually.
2. Unofficial courses have been discontinued.
3. Students returning from two year courses abroad are obliged to do a further year in Greece before facing an examination organised by the Department of Health.

2. GREEK APPLICATION TO JOIN EFOSA.

Copies of the Constitution of the "Association Professionnelle des Orthodontistes de Grece" were presented to the meeting. The application of the Greek Association to join the European Federation of Orthodontic Specialists' Associations was accepted

unanimously. Our new colleagues are warmly welcomed, especially Dr K. Markostamos who attended as Greek delegate.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The seat of the Federation of Orthodontic Specialists' Associations is to be changed from the University of Strasbourg to a new address in Paris.
2. The report of the Treasurer, Dr. W. Schmiedel, was approved and accepted.
3. Ireland has hitherto been represented by the Orthodontic Group, Irish Dental Association. This title has now been changed to the Orthodontic Society of Ireland.
4. Our Treasurer, Dr Wolfgang Schmiedel, wrote to Dr C. Munck inquire if the Danish Association would consider reactivating their membership of EFOSA. No reply was received.

4. RESOLUTION.

Article 4 of the E.C.Council Directive of 25 July 1978 states that:

"Each Member State... shall recognise the diplomas, certificates, and other evidence of formal qualifications of dental practitioners specializing in orthodontics... awarded to nationals of Member States by other Member States in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of Directive 78/687/EEC... by granting such qualifications the same effect in its territory as the diplomas, certificates and other qualifications which it itself awards."

The Federation of Orthodontic Specialists' Associations meeting in Paris on the 28 November 1992 is concerned that, despite this Directive of 1978, some countries of the E.G. have yet to introduce a register of orthodontic specialists. The Federation invites these countries to establish conformity with this requirement and with each other, so that orthodontists of equal qualifications should have equal status.

5. EF05A MEETING 1993.

The next annual meeting is scheduled for the end of November 1993.

Norman Flood, Secretary, 167 Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.