

Minutes of the 40th EFOSA General Assembly Meeting Wednesday June 10th, 2009 Helsinki, Finland

Attendance:

35 delegates of member societies/associations from 24 countries, 6 guests from non-member countries, 1 extra guest of 1 member country, 2 guests/observers from FEO, 1 special guest from AJO&DO, and 1 secretary non-delegate. In total 46 participants from 29 countries.

Distribution of printed information to the delegates.

The EFOSA Headlines issue No 5, The Quality News(letter) issue No 3, and the updated guide of the European Orthodontic Health Insurances were handed out.

01. Opening.

The president Lars Medin (Sweden) welcomed all delegates and guests to the 40th EFOSA General Assembly, he thanked the Finnish Orthodontic Society for a wonderful Get together party last night, and opened the meeting at 9.15 hours.

02. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Switzerland and Latvia; Italy had planned on being present, but was not; Serbia had not replied to the invitation.

03. Introduction of delegates.

All delegates gave a brief introduction of who they are and where they come from.

04. Changes and amendments to the agenda.

The president announced that point 17 of the agenda would be moved up to the morning session because vice-president Alexandros Kokkas (Greece) will be representing EFOSA in the EOS Council meeting in the afternoon.

Martina Drevensek (Slovenia) asked to move up point 21 also because she too has to be in another meeting.

05. Address by AJO&DO editor in chief David Turpin.

After a very interesting lecture on the change of printed orthodontic journalism towards internet publication, a lively discussion took place on getting orthodontists involved in the scientific and social developments of orthodontics. The president thanked David Turpin for his contribution to this GAM and presented to him a gift from EFOSA. A warm applause showed the appreciation of the delegates for this lecture.

06. Membership status of the different European countries.

The president expressed his wish that all European countries participate in EFOSA and become active member as soon as possible. He then brought up the problem of Serbia not coming to the meetings, not replying emails, and not paying its dues. The suggestion of the Council to expel Serbia was discussed. It was mentioned that Serbia has a lot of internal problems, and that in first instance EFOSA probably should offer helping Serbia solve these; if then Serbia still continues the same relationship to EFOSA expelling Serbia should be on the agenda on the next EFOSA GAM. This proposal then was accepted unanimously.

The president asked the delegate from the Netherlands to inform the GAM on the situation there now. Gery Mazeland (the Netherlands) described the difficulties the Dutch orthodontists are facing. The government had set higher fees for general practitioners practicing orthodontics than for the specialists. She said that the Dutch Orthodontic Society has now only 100 members since the certified orthodontists, and especially those being new in the profession, do not register as specialists anymore. On December 10th, 2008 the Orthodontic Society won a trial against the State on the intention for an even further decrease of the fees of specialists orthodontists. At this moment what will happen next is quite unclear. The General Assembly asked the Council to be in close contact with the Dutch Orthodontic Society and take action if it is asked for. There will be a report of the situation next year.

17. EFOSA Committee 'European Health Insurances'.

The chairman of the committee, Alexandros Kokkas presented the updated guide of the European Orthodontic Health Insurances for the year. He said that all country

members had received their previous year's report so that revisions could be made. The new information was added to the guide. This year a comparison was added. It was prepared by Kristin Heimisdottir (Iceland) and member of the Committee. Kristin Heimisdottir explained how she made the chart and asked the delegates to let her know if any modifications are needed. Alexandros Kokkas also presented the new EFOSA Headlines issue No 5.

21. Date and venue of next meeting.

Martina Drevensek suggested to next year (2010) have the GAM one day earlier before the EOS congress. Pros and cons were discussed in the light of the long traveling time necessary from the airport to the meeting place and the extra day this would cost delegates planning to also attend the EOS congress. In the GAM there was not a majority in favor of this proposal. The Council will in a later stage decide.

07. Applications for membership.

No new applications have been received since last GAM. Hungary announced that it will apply for membership before the next GAM (2010); Luxembourg announced that is probably will be possible to do so too.

08. Minutes of the 39th General assembly Meeting of June 10th, 2008, Lisbon, Portugal.

The minutes were approved without any comment. In addition to the minutes the president informed the meeting that probably next year EFOSA will present in CED.

09. EFOSA Semi-annual report.

The president pointed out that this report has been published on the website and was sent to the members by email. He asked the delegates to please inform the Council if they would prefer additional information in this (next) report.

10. Report of the secretary.

As your secretary I have assisted the President in preparing agendas for the Council and the General assembly meetings and also discussed with him and the other Council members the Semi-annual Reports that have been published on the website this last year. I have been in contact with the member countries for updates of country reports, Excel files and lately also of the so called 'Paris posters'. I have tried to make country report update simple by offering each country an individualized report asking for specific changes/updates only. Despite this assistance still many countries have not replied even after several reminders, and the same goes for the Excel files. From this experience I have not sent out reminders for the 'Paris posters', and so far we have only received five. It was thought that internet would make things simple and quick, but so far no good.

An important role of EFOSA is being informed and sharing this information with the members. For this purpose we depend on your cooperation, and I would like to use this opportunity to ask for this cooperation once more. Like in previous years all information concerning this General Assembly Meeting was sent out by email to the delegates, and has been available on the website. A draft of the minutes of the last meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, has been on the web shortly after that meeting. It is my intention to have a draft of the minutes of this meeting in the next update of the EFOSA website which is due by the end of August.

I thank you for your trust in my work for you.

Upon the request of Jonathan Sandler (UK) which countries had sent in an update of the 'Paris posters' the GAM was informed that these were: Denmark, France, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden.

11. Information from the Council.

The president reminded the delegates about the investments done in ESAS and that ESAS now is the spearhead in EFOSA's quality policy. The president informed the GAM about the question that was raised in the Council about Orthodontic Therapists in the UK, and asked Jonathan Sandler to please inform the GAM: orthodontic therapist demands a 12 months training of which 1 month at a university. The task then originally allowed to do placement, replacement and removing of appliances, supervised by orthodontists. In the meantime anybody with a dental qualification can however employ an orthodontic therapist (therapists doing orthodontics in a general practice...). The last development is even that dental practices may be run by a therapist employing a dentist. The BOS (British Orthodontic Society) has tried in vain to make a ruling that these therapists can be employed by orthodontists only.

12a. Report of the Treasurer: status of Account/Resources.

The treasurer Claude Bourdillat-Mikol (France) reminded that all material has been published on the website, she read the financial report, which on request could be shown by power point as well.

12b. Report of the Auditors.

Julien O'Neill (UK) reported on behalf of the auditors, that he and Abraham Kyriakides (Cyprus) 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.

12c. Discharge of the Council regarding the responsibilities concerning the accounts of the past financial year (2008-2009).

The General Assembly discharged the Council.

12d. Budget 2009-2010.

The treasurer explained the EFOSA budget 2009-2010 which was then accepted by the General Assembly.

12e. Membership dues 2009-2010.

The treasurer explained that there is no need for a change in membership dues. This also was unanimously accepted by the General assembly.

13. Election of auditors (2009-2011).

There were no other candidates than had been proposed by the Nomination Committee with the agenda. Lutgart de Ridder (Belgium) and Abraham Kyriakides were elected by acclamation.

14. Election of Nomination Committee (2009-2011).

From the delegates Eva Czochrowska (Poland) was nominated as a third candidate. Jonathan Sandler, Bart Vande Vannet (Belgium) and Eva Czochrowska were elected by acclamation.

The president specially thanked Wolfgang Schmiedel (Germany) who had stepped down from his last official task (NC member) in EFOSA after having served EFOSA on many levels for many years.

15. EFOSA Committee ‘Orthodontic Training Programs and Examinations’. The president explained that at this moment there are no initiatives from this committee. We wait for information from and cooperation with the Teacher’s Forum and EPSOS.

16. EFOSA Committee ‘Quality Working Group’.

The chairman of the committee, Frank de Winter (Netherlands) informed the General Assembly that as an addition to ESAS a postgraduate students version (i.e. separate database) is available now. A preview of the 5-minutes ESAS promotion for the EOS congress was shown. Julian O’Neil then gave a very nice and informative presentation of ESAS from a user’s perspective.

The delegates were once again asked to help find at least 1 study club in their country willing to start using ESAS and thus helping build up a useful database; and also bring forward someone who will take care of translating the Patient Satisfaction questionnaire into the appropriate language.

18. EFOSA website.

The webmaster Frank de Winter pointed out the problem of deleting the old website .org which unfortunately is still un the web, but shows obsolete information. Suggestions were done how to force stopping the old website, and eventually if everything fails, mirror .eu in .org .

The webmaster reminded the delegates that updates will take place only 4x/year, and to please send in all information in exact the required format to make updating go smooth, quick AND cheap.

19. European Postgraduate Students Orthodontic Society (EPSOS).

Their president Olga Annussaki (Greece) gave a power point presentation on EPSOS, what it stands for, what was the Helsinki program, and about the initiative through questionnaires getting postgraduate curriculum details from all European postgraduate

training institutions. So far this was a good start from a limited number of schools. The General assembly offered help to EPSOS in making contact for them with postgraduate training institutions in the countries of the delegates. For this purpose EPSOS would make the questionnaires available as jpg by the end of the Summer so that they then could be sent out to the delegates.

20. Any other business.

The president asked Christian Scherer (Germany) what has happened since last year when he explained about the MSc in orthodontics by the Krems university (Austria). Christian Scherer explained that now German universities start offering the same. Government wants to save money and dentists seem to be willing to have costs down for orthodontics. The only success seems to be slowing things down. It shows that orthodontics is under a lot of (financial) pressure in many countries and this certainly is something to be discussed in CED.

Exceptions are the countries where orthodontics is provided by orthodontists only: Croatia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovakia, Norway.

Gabriela Cuckova-Curcieva (F.Y.R. of Macedonia) announced that they will apply for membership of EFOSA.

22. Closing.

Wolfgang Schmiedel thanked on behalf of the delegates Lars Medin for a nice meeting and for his presidency. The president thanked all for their presence and their participation. The meeting was closed at 16.30 hours.