

Minutes of the 44th EFOSA General Assembly Meeting

09.00 hrs June 26 2013. Harpa Conference Centre, Reykjavik, Iceland

Attendees:

Alexandros Kokkas	President		AK
Bart Vande Vannet	Vice-President		BVV
Christian Scherer	Treasurer		CS
Julian O'Neill	Secretary		JO
Maja Ovsenik	EOS co-opted member		MO
Eva Sramkova	Council member		ES
Silvia Silli	Austria	Martin Brock	Austria
Karlien Degeyter	Belgium	Mladen Slaj	Croatia
Mihovil Strujic	Croatia	Yiannos Hadjiprokapis	Cyprus
Ivo Marek	Czech Republic	Elizabeth Borchorst	Denmark
Marja Perkiomaki	Finland	Riaja Kiuru-Skytta	Finland
Claude Bourdillat Mikol	France	Alain Vigie du Cayla	France
Sascha Milkerheit	Germany	Anastasios Zafeiriadis	Greece
KristinHeimisdottir	Iceland		
Owen Crotty	Ireland	Alessandro Greco	Italy
Odile Hutereau	Luxembourg	Melissa Disse	Netherlands
Geri Mazeland	Netherlands	Kari Line Roald	Norway

Hege Alst	Norway	Ewa Czochorowska	Poland
Beata Walawska	Poland	Branislav Vidovic	Serbia
Gabriela Alexandrova	Slovakia	Anders Sjogren	Sweden
Jose Gandia	Spain	Barbara Jaeger	Switzerland
Ilhan Ramoglu	Turkey	Serdar Usumez	Turkey
Jonathan Sandler	UK		

01.

AK opened the meeting at 9.15am and welcomed our delegates to Iceland.

02. Apologies:

Apologies have been received from Estonia, Israel, Portugal and Latvia. Following this the delegates introduced themselves. AK then asked Ewa Czochorowska to present a short DVD about the EOS meeting in Warsaw in 2014.

03. Changes to the agenda:

there were none

04. Reports from the Council:

- AK gave a presentation on the role of EFOSA and discussed its future direction. The proposed meeting, later that afternoon, between the EFOSA Council and NEBEOP was also mentioned. AK outlined a number of the threats facing the specialty throughout Europe. Firstly, the term “Masters in Orthodontics” is being used widely and the Council believe that we should not use this term. AK is also worried that orthodontic companies are marketing directly to general practitioners and perhaps are not showing enough respect for the specialty of orthodontics. There is evidence of increasing numbers of general dental practitioners undertaking orthodontics and in addition an increase in the number of people undertaking orthodontic training, particularly in Spain and Italy. This may result in a reduction of income for specialist orthodontists in many countries. AK cited the difficulties facing UK orthodontists who are unable to attract NHS contracts. In addition, Jonathan Sandler stated that in the UK an increasingly large number of therapists are being used at the same time as a significant number of senior orthodontists will be retiring. This may lead to problems. AK asked how could EFOSA

help? He cited one example where a letter was provided to the Swiss society about the specialism which was forwarded to their government. AK stated that the EFOSA Council was considering producing a document which would outline the problems in different countries. A discussion ensued. Barbara Jaeger stated that Swiss universities will have a 4-year training programme which is longer than the current one in that country. In addition, dentists and orthodontists are coming from many other countries. Swiss orthodontists are concerned that young specialists in that country will lose out. Claude Bourdillat stated that there is a private orthodontic course being run in Portugal and that course organisers are now hoping to run a similar course in southern France. This is concerning to French orthodontists. Mladen Slaj stated that in the USA the American Dental Association had a group (COAD) which provides recognition for different university degrees. CS stated that in Germany there was a culture of “welcome” to foreign dentists and that those wishing to work needed only to be able to speak German satisfactorily.

Report from the Secretary

JO stated that the main issue facing the Secretary was communication with the member delegates and society officers. He encouraged delegates to log on to the member sites and keep their details updated as the society officers change. It had been suggested by BVV that we would provide a laptop at the GAM in 2014 to allow instant updating.

ACTION: JO

JO also reported on the increased activity with the ESAS and this would be covered under item 6.

Report from the Treasurer

CS reported that EFOSA's accounts were in good shape. He reiterated that there had been a number of difficulties contacting individuals in the different countries and again requested that delegates updated their website or asked their society officers to do so. CS reported that EFOSA assets were 37,770 Euros and that our expenditure to date this year was 16,900 Euros. We had therefore have come in under the budget and showed a small surplus. CS said that next year this surplus would be reduced due to the expenditure in Reykjavik.

05. Auditors' Report:

The auditors are Alain Vigie du Cayla and Kristin Heimisdottir. Alain provided the auditors' report and stated that he was happy with the accounts. KH agreed fully. AK asked the GAM delegates if the accounts could be accepted and this was agreed. Melissa Disse asked a question posed by the Dutch Orthodontic Society treasurer requesting a reduction in the membership fees. CS felt that this would not be possible as there was no buffer, particularly with the expenditure for 2013.

06. ESAS:

JO reported that there had been significant increased use of ESAS by specialist practitioners in the Netherlands. Apparently the VVO is using ESAS as a tool for revalidation in the Netherlands as part of practice assessment carried out by orthodontists. In addition, there has been some activity in the Orthodontic Department at the University of Jonkoping in Sweden, where a number of postgraduates have been requesting access over the last few months. JO explained to the General Assembly the function of ESAS and how to access it. Claude Bourdillat provided further history and BVV demonstrated the website in real time.

07.

- **European Orthodontic Guide**

AK circulated copies of the guide which he has produced, asked the delegates to read it and make comments. AK has also edited the original submitted country reports. AK will produce an online version of the orthodontic guide as a pdf. Owen Crotty asked what would be done with the document once completed. AK stated that the document had already been requested by Martina Drevensik to assist them in their country where changes are planned. Claude Bourdillat suggested that the guide could be made into a poster for London 2015, as previous guides had been used in Sydney and Paris.

ACTION: AK

- **European Radiation Guidelines**

BVV distributed copies of the EFOSA radiation guidelines which he has produced. He asked delegates to take these back to the societies for comments. This document will be enlarged and BVV wishes that this will occupy a significant part of the agenda in 2014.

ACTION: BVV

Lunch

Orthodontics in the Czech Republic

Eva Sramkova

ES gave an excellent Powerpoint presentation on orthodontics in the Czech Republic. This stimulated an animated discussion and was of particular interest as problems facing Czech Republic orthodontists are perhaps not as severe as in other parts of Europe. AK thanked ES for her presentation and the work involved in putting the paper together.

08. EFOSA/AAO Joint Meeting:

AK reported on his meeting in Philadelphia with the AAO. CS provided details. He stated that we have common problems in both the EU and the USA. The AAO has a significant amount of money which is used in part to run a continuous advertising programme in the USA. The main focus of this campaign is educating the public about the specialty. This was followed by some discussion and one comment was that perhaps specialist provision of orthodontics would become a niche market.

09. Membership status:

- It was noted that Croatia would join the EU in five days' time. Mladen Slaj was congratulated and told that they would continue to pay a restricted membership fee for a further three years.
- Spain – The assembly was told that in Valencia there are now three private universities and one public, all producing dentists. This, along with other problems, is producing unemployment in dentistry. It was stated that specialism is becoming big business for universities in Spain and currently around 200 orthodontists are being produced yearly, with some universities training 20 specialist per year.
- Serbia – It was agreed that Serbia would pursue active membership of EFOSA for their new society. The Serbian representatives were asked to check the bye-laws and constitution and in due course to forward the relevant paperwork to allow this to be considered.

10. Membership:

Austria – Martin Brock reported that in Vienna the postgraduates now receive a three-year full-time training. This is a positive move and MB asked members of the Assembly did any countries undergo interim regulations prior to full specialisation recognition? MB also requested evidence from the literature which showed differences between treatment carried out by specialists and that carried out by general dental practitioners. BVV showed a short video clip of a Canadian news programme which illustrated one patient who had undergone orthodontic treatment by her general dental practitioner and had ended up worse than when she started.

11. Charles Bolender Award:

It was suggested that the Charles Bolender Award could be related to issues of quality. JO suggested that perhaps there was a way of supporting NEBEOP, an organisation which pursues many of the same aims as EFOSA. It was suggested that NEBEOP perhaps would benefit from some financial support from EFOSA and perhaps the Charles Bolender Award could be used to reward some work carried out in pursuit of some NEBEOP's aims. AK told the Assembly that the Council would be meeting NEBEOP representatives, Stavros Kiliarides, Anna-Marie Kuipjers-Jagtmann and Pertti Pirttiniemi. It was hoped that this meeting would allow these ideas to be explored and the Council would report back to the 2014 General Assembly on progress.

12. Elections – Nomination Committee:

AK suggested that Jonathan Sandler and Owen Crotty should stay on for a further term of office on the Nomination Committee. This was unanimously accepted. AK suggested Claude Bourdillat would join the Nomination Committee to replace Martina Drevensik, and this was agreed. Claude Bourdillat therefore becomes a member of the Nomination Committee.

13. Any Other Business:

There was no other business.

14. Date and Venue of next meeting:

The 2014 General Assembly Meeting of EFOSA will take place in Warsaw, Poland, at the EOS Congress. The GAM will take place on 18 June 2014 with the get-together party and council meeting the previous day, 17 June.

18. Closure of Meeting:

The meeting was closed at 15.30 hrs by AK.