

Minutes of the 8. EFOSA Meeting, 2 June 1980 in Paris

Attendance:

1. France: Dr. C. Bolender
2. Ireland: Dr. N. Flood
3. Belgium: Dr. C. Gysel
4. Netherlands: Dr. Bijlstra
5. Britain: Dr. Bailey
6. Italy: Dr. Genone
7. Germany: Dr. P. Bertzbach

The main part of the meeting is devoted to the discussion of the draft constitution. No essential changes are made. However, it is obvious that the finances of the EFOSA require further consideration, even with the rules established by the constitution. According to the constitution, the basic costs are covered by uniform fees claimed by all member associations, while the financing of special tasks must be decided upon by the General Assembly. Apparently there is a tendency to find formulations and definitions which keep the basic costs low, so that most of the EFOSA's expenses require a special decision. Thus, the financing of the EFOSA has not really been settled yet. Initially, several members (Belgium, Ireland, Holland) apparently intended to define all issues of funding in the procedural rules. However, French law requires the division now incorporated in the constitution. Undoubtedly the work of the EFOSA places a particularly large burden on the individual members of the small associations (above all Ireland). This was expressed in the fact that at the end of the meeting the Irish delegate ceded his vote to Mr Bolender for the next meeting. The French version of the constitution will once more be checked against the English translation by Mr. Flood, Mr. Bolender and Mr. Gysel. The objections raised by the BDK were taken into account. There was a lengthy discussion on the conditions under which the Executive Committee and the General Assembly Meeting actually have a quorum. However, all members feel that the present draft guarantees the EFOSA's ability to function even under difficult circumstances. The French version of the draft is then signed by all members in attendance.

I raised the point that, according to the constitution, any member association whose country leaves the EC will be forced to quit the EFOSA. It is decided that this rule be upheld.

I agree with Mr. Bolender's concern that the ability of the EFOSA to exert influence on the EC authorities in charge would suffer if the EFOSA included associations from non EC countries.

I relate the request by the BDK executive for the EFOSA to propose in Brussels that orthodontic training within the EC should take place exclusively on a university level. Mr. Bijlstra relates that the Liaison Committee is currently hampered by financial difficulties. Therefore, following the proposals of the BDK, it is decided on the suggestion of Mr. Bolender that the EFOSA directly contact the relevant offices in Brussels. For this reason, the next EFOSA meeting is scheduled for October/ November this year in Brussels.

In passing, some interesting pieces of information were relayed at the meeting:

There are plans in France to limit vocational training to 2 ½ days a week (for reasons of finance). The rest of the week can be spent in a free practice (which may be a general dentist's practice). Professional training is provided by four universities.

In Holland, the social insurance authorities are regulating patients's admissions to the practices in such a way that 280 patients per year are fully funded, and a further 90 patients receive 70% funding. This applies to treatments with removable appliances, in the case of treatment with fixed appliances one patient counts for three. This *modus operandi* prevents the emergence of oversized practices. However, it must be taken into account that only about 70% of Holland's total population are covered by the social insurance system.

In France, health insurance benefits are limited to patients whose treatment has begun before the age of 12. Also in France, the *numerus clausus* for medical studies and dentistry will be lowered in order to avoid a glut of doctors (and dentists). There are about 600 orthodontic specialists in France at the moment. As soon as the total limitation of professional training to universities sets in, about 60 orthodontic specialists will be trained every year. This training is accompanied by continuous theoretical intermediary examinations.

Belgium is planning the introduction of a four-year training programme, which will also be limited to universities, in particular to the four Belgian universities of Brussels, Ghent, Liège,...

It is again agreed upon that the next edition of the annuary will be send out directly by the printing house. Members' address stickers must be sent to the printer's as soon as possible (Imprimerie Sarregueminoise S.A.R.L., 12. Rue Poincaré, 57202 Sarreguemines, France). As all members, the BDK will receive an additional 10% of copies for distribution to new members. I suggest that the annuary be bound in a manner suitable for filing with the BDK manual (suitable eyelets).

Mr. Bolender again raises his concern that some countries might recognize inferior diplomas, which would cause difficulties for orthodontists to gain recognition abroad. He requests information on which EC diplomas have been recognized by the relevant

authorities in the individual countries. We agree that the BDK shall seek this information. In the opinion of Mr. Bolender, which is shared by all members, the EFOSA should make every effort for Brussels to pass a rule which prevents any dodging of the guidelines. As an example, Mr. Bolender points to the widely differing training periods and regulations within the United States (attachment). Mr. Genone (Italy) reports about major difficulties in the preparation of orthodontic training, the validation of training facilities and training management. He asks for an official letter drawing out the conditions of orthodontic facilities at institutes and universities which he can then use in his negotiations. For example, he would like to know whether the orthodontists employed at those institutes and universities are required to be full-time orthodontic specialists (sideline jobs, working hours, etc.) Mr. Genone obviously attaches a lot of importance to this matter, as he repeatedly reiterates his request during our ensuing joint lunch.

The meeting closes at around 2 pm.

For the BDK, it is important that procedure rules are now drafted, on the basis of the constitution, which regulate the financing of any expenditures (including travel costs).

In the course of our discussions, I relate that in Germany there are demands that a fourth year of training in orthodontics be introduced for dentists, too (even though against a different background). I also mention that remuneration of orthodontic services is expected to drop significantly in 1981. Furthermore, I relate that the decrease in the number of children has caused employment problems to some orthodontic practices, so that one place of residence has been moved already.

Dr. Peter Bertzbach

Bremen, 3 June 1980