

**Meeting of the Council  
of the European Academy of Teachers  
in General Practice (EURACT)  
*held in Eilat, Israel, March 1 - 4, 2000***

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**Members present:**

- Prof. Jan Heyrman, *Belgium, President*
- Dr. Adam Windak, *Poland, Secretary*
- Dr. Athanasios Simeonidis, *Greece, Treasurer*
- Dr. Justin Allen, *United Kingdom, EB member*
- Dr. Igor Svab, *Slovenia, EB member*
- Dr. Okay Basak, *Turkey*
- Dr. Owen Clarke, *Ireland*
- Prof. Harry Crebolder, *The Netherlands*
- Dr. Dolores Fores, *Spain*
- Dr. Bernard Gay, *France*
- Dr. Eva Jurgova, *Slovakia*
- Prof. Michael Kochen - *invited*
- Dr. MAYrten Kvist, *co-opted member*
- Dr. Margus Lember, *Estonia*
- Prof. Gernot Lorenz, *Germany*
- Dr. Ivar Ostergaard, *Denmark*
- Dr. Gertraud Rothe, *Austria*
- Dr. Andreas Rothenbuhler, *Switzerland*
- Dr. Philip Sciortino, *Malta*
- Dr. Dag Sovik, *Norway*
- Dr. Janos Szabo, *Hungary*
- Prof. Paula Vainiomaki, *Finland*
- Dr. Mladenka Vrcic-Keglevic, *Croatia*
- Dr. Bernardina Wanrooij - *observer*
- Dr. Yonah Yaphe, *Israel*
- Dr. Egle Zebiene, *Lithuania*

**Members absent:**

- Dr. Michael Boland, *co-opted member*

- Prof. Maria Luciana Couto, *Portugal*
- Dr. Gio Batta Gottardi, *Italy*
- Prof. Igor Denisov, *Russia*
- Prof. Grigoriy Lisenko, *Ukraine*
- Prof. Bengt Mattsson, *Sweden*
- Dr. Adrian Restian, *Romania*
- Prof. Kvetoslav Sitr, *Czech Republic*
- Prof. Chris van Weel, *President ESGP/FM (invited member)*

# **Program of the Meeting**

**Wednesday 1 March 2000**

**Pre-Conference Executive Board Meeting**

**Session 1: Review of activities**

**Thursday 2 March 2000**

**Session 2: Business meeting**

- **Report from Zagreb**
- **EURACT membership**
- **New Council members**
- **Financial report**
- **Teaching Cancer Care Network**
- **New Council members**
- **Report from EB meeting in London**
- **The WONCA conference in Vienna**

**Session 3: A Task Related Organization**

- **Group 1 □ Council Membership**
- **Group 2 □ Task Forces**
- **Group 3 □ External Task Forces**

**Session 4: Landscape**

**Session 5: Five minutes one slide presentations**

**Friday 3 March 2000**

**Session 6: Miscellaneous**

**Session 7: Supporting Committees**

**Session 8: Standing Committees**

**Session 9: Task Forces**

**Saturday 4 March 2000**

**Session 10: Reports from small groups sessions**

- **Supporting Committees**
  - **Communication (Publicity) Committee**
  - **Member Services Committee**
- **Standing Committees**
  - **BME Committee**
  - **Specific (Vocational) Training**
  - **CME Committee**
- **Task Forces**

- **Academisation**
- **Attractions of the profession**
- **Hippocrates project**
- **Membership**

### **Session 11: Future meetings**

#### **Post-Conference EB meeting**

- **Membership**
- **Co-optation and observers**
- **Procedures for acceptance of business plan**
- **Travel reimbursement**
- **Reporting about payments**
- **Spain 2001**
- **Next Council Meeting**

### **Summary of EURACT Council decisions - Eilat 2000**

# Report of the Meeting

**Wednesday 1 March 2000**

## **Session 1: Official opening of the meeting, review of activities**

The President of EURACT Professor Jan Heyrman welcomed all the Council Members. He especially thanked Dr. Yonah Yaphe for his efforts in organizing this meeting. Then Dr. Yaphe expressed his thanks to the sponsors of the conference:

- The Israel Minister of Health Mr Yair Amikam
- The Israel Medical Association (Dr. Udi Kantor)
- The Israel Association of Family Physicians (Dr David Zacharovich)
- Claliat Health Services (Dr. Michael Rosenbluth)
- Maccabi Health Services (Dr. Anthony Heiman)
- Mediline Ltd (Mr Ronen Rosenberg)
- Department of Family Medicine, Tel Aviv University (Dr Eli Kitai)

The President also welcomed the new observers to the Council: Dr Bernardina Wanrooij (Teaching Cancer Care Network) and Prof. Michael Kochen who used to be a Council Member and now can contribute to the work of the Council again. His official position in the Council will be discussed latter.

The country reports were read in silence by all the present and questions were asked for clarification. The full version of the country reports can be found in Annex 1.

By request, Dr Gertraud Rothe explained the idea of a Master Degree for General Practice. It is seen as an effort for better university education, which could be the first step towards the development of family medicine as an academic discipline. Dr Justin Allen remarked that it could be also dangerous to create two different standards of GPs.

Prof. Harry Crebolder was astonished to read that it is not possible to introduce the ICCP system in Germany. Prof. Gernot Lorenz explained that ICD-10 is obligatory for the whole German health care system. There were some efforts to introduce ICCP in the past but they were not successful. Many colleagues agreed that introduction of ICCP could be crucial for the discipline in Europe. Some efforts should be undertaken on the European level.

Dr Allen noticed in the Irish report that Ireland is probably one of very few glorious exceptions where there is no shortage of candidates to VT in GP. Dr Owen Clarke explained that it is perhaps due to new regulations on this field. This gave rise to the discussion about what is the right number of trainees in family medicine. How should one evaluate it? The shortage of candidates could also be due to the "burn out" syndrome and to the tendency that doctors do not want to practice separately any more e.g. in rural area (UK). Dutch GPs observe however the opposite tendency (shortage of candidates for this profession in big cities). This topic was very crucial

for many Council Members, so the President proposed to create the "ad hoc" committee to discuss it further.

Dr Eva JurgovA! explained the credit point system for CME introduced in Slovakia. This system is rather new. At the end of 2001 first doctors who will not fulfil the criteria can lose their contracts with the insurance funds. A similar revalidation system in which doctors may lose their certification is going to be introduced in UK. The changes to the program of the Council Meeting due to the changes of the Israeli Conference were announced and accepted.

## **Thursday 2 March 2000**

### **Session 2: Business meeting**

- Report from Zagreb

The Zagreb report was discussed. Prof. Crebolder asked for the list of the decisions or tasks committed by the Council Members to be attached to the next report. The possibility was discussed in view of the new working style. It is generally possible and welcomed.

- EURACT membership

Agnes Goethuys presented the list of new applicants. They all were approved. Albania has reached already the threshold of three members and has the right to nominate the national representative to the Council. This is going to be a problem due to the fact that new council election is coming in one year. It was decided to create "ad hoc" council membership committee to discuss it.

- New Council members

Election for Switzerland was finished. Dr Andreas RothenbA1hler was present for the first time. The procedure for Sweden and Portugal is still going on. Some members did not show up for three consecutive meetings (Dr Adrian Restian, Dr Gio Batta Gottardi). According to the bylaw the new representative should be elected. This was widely discussed. Different views were presented. This issue was also shift to the "ad hoc" membership committee.

- Financial report

The treasurer reported his problem with data collection about the finances. He reminded the decision about collecting fees every year, and bringing it in cash to the spring meeting or sending to the bank account. He also reminded the meeting of the three paying categories of the countries which are as follows:

< 5000 GDP	- 5 EURO
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5000-10000 GDP	- 20 EURO
- 40 EURO	- 20 EURO

Some countries moved to a higher group. Now members from Greece and Portugal have to pay 40 EURO, Slovenian members have to pay 20 EURO. Malta as a new country has to pay 20 EURO. The rule is that the first payment is valid for two years so those who paid the first fee in 2000 do not need to pay higher fee in 2001. The new higher rates will be valid from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001.

Expenses of the Council members are allowed due to the mailing and printing. Expenses up to 100 EURO do not need prior EB approvals. The Council members seeking travel reimbursement for travel to Council meetings (only those who were not sponsored for the travel from other sources), should apply for it on the first day of the meeting. The amount claimed should be calculated in DM and, together with a copy of the ticket, presented to the Treasurer. The Post-Council EB Meeting will then decide on the reimbursement on the basis: 90% for Council members from the countries with the fee of 5 EURO, the rest divided between other applicants.

There is money available for the projects, but Council members do not apply for it. It was a general feeling that we need clearer rules and maybe even application forms.

- Teaching Cancer Care Network

Dr Bernardina Wanrooij presented the European Network of Teaching Cancer Care in General Practice. The group originated from the small group of 5 countries (Denmark, Ireland, UK, Netherlands, Sweden) which was created in 1993. In 1997 the group was enlarged to 15 countries. They focus on three areas:

- Smoking prevention
- Communication skills
- Palliative care

The group members meet each other three times a year and exchange the experiences from their countries. The group has critical problems with the funding from the EU. However they still work together to share ideas and information about the projects carried out in different countries. The Network outcomes are as follows:

- mutual inspiration for courses
- definition of evaluation techniques
- common reporting format to compare efforts
- mutual support in obtaining funding
- recognition of the work to be done

It is currently working on statements on morphine use and euthanasia in Europe. The organization wants to get in contact with EURACT to promote its expertise in the field and make their outcome more visible and useful across the Europe. The EURACT Council offered space on its website to the organization and any other help we can afford.

- New Council members

Dr Philip Sciortino from Malta introduced himself to the Council. He works full time as a GP in a single-handed practice. He is involved in many activities leading to the professional development of general practitioners in his country. He is a member of the Malta College of Family Medicine. He presented also the work of his society towards the development of the discipline. The establishment of the first university department of family medicine was mentioned by him as an example of successful efforts. Maltese GPs are also developing the VT program for family physicians.

Dr Andreas RothenbA1hler has been practised since seven years. In EURACT Council he replaces Prof. Werner Ringli - the former Swiss representative. Dr. RothenbA1hler is going to continue his policies. In the near future he is going to join the university for 20% of his professional time.

- Report from EB meeting in London

The London report had been distributed for comments.

Dr. MAYrten Kvist proposed the change of regulations about the national expenditure of the Council members. He suggested that every expense needs a receipt, but for amounts of less than 100 EUR does not need a previous EB approval. The Council generally accepted this.

Legal status was discussed again. The President explained again that the efforts to be registered by the court in Luxemburg were abandoned due to the costs.

The issue of the audit was discussed and the decision was made - MAYrten Kvist and Albert Hercek were appointed auditors.

The EB report from London was approved.

- The WONCA conference in Vienna

The issue of attendance at the coming WONCA conference in Vienna was discussed due to the political situation. Most of the members did not want to cancel the meeting in order not to isolate the Austrian GPs who cannot be held responsible for the situation. However most of them want to avoid the participation of any government officials present at the conference. This position will be presented to the EB of ESGP/FM with the request to make it public. The EURACT representative to EB of ESGP/FM were representatives to EB of ESGP/FM were asked to pass the decision of EB to all the EURACT Council members.

### **Session 3: A Task Related Organization**

The new working style of EURACT had been widely discussed by EB in London. Several changes were proposed. The new working structure was presented by the President. He briefly described the whole idea and pointed out following issues:

- Council membership

- enlarged role description
- local secretariat / budget
- Running task forces
  - central task forces leaders
  - "ad hoc" task forces
  - business plan / budget control
- External task forces
  - opportunities / weaknesses
  - "Saturday - TF day"?

The above topics were subject for discussion in three small groups. After the discussion the group leaders reported to the Council.

- Group 1 □ Council membership (*Reported by Dr. Athanasios Simeonidis*)

The previous document describing the duties of the Council member has been used as a basis for the discussion. The following changes were suggested:

- change in the layout: first requirements, then duties
- adding to the requirements: "should be general/family practitioner"
- procedure for the situation of consistent absence:
  - warning letter after two meetings;
  - after the third absence - a letter to members (wait four weeks for response);
  - new election
  - if this failed - contact with the national organisation represented in WONCA

- Group 2 □ Task forces (*Reported by Prof. Jan Heyrman*)

The clear terminology and division of tasks is needed. The group proposed the following:

- Standing committee - new term used in relation to BME, VT and CME task forces
- Support committee - new term used in relation to the Members service committee (former Service Task Force) and Communication committee (former Publicity Task Force)
- Task group - task oriented and time limited group appointed to perform clearly defined tasks. Every task group should be linked to one of the standing committees.

Further to the above discussion the group members concluded that there is a need to devise plans to execute those out of 10 basic aims of ESGP which are related to education. Each plan should consist of following parts:

- Statement of aims
- Strategic plan
- Business/funding plan

The next issue discussed by the group was "How to maintain "production" between the meetings?" More extensive use of an e-mailing contacts and telephone conferences when need was recommended as one of possible solutions. All task forces must appoint responsible people linked to the activities. Inclusion of external experts was also advised. Each of the standing committee should be obliged to prepare a brief presentation (kind of a short report) describing the progress of its work at Council meetings.

- Group 3 - External task forces

The role of external members would relate to the products. Workshops or other working meetings could be needed in some cases to allow external members fully contribute to the work of task forces. The work of standing committees (BME, VT, CME) with the participation of external members must be well co-ordinated. The group suggested for consideration the creation of a new officer post (academic director?) who would be responsible for these issues and would support the President in this field.

External members should be also involved in courses, literature production or even preparation for Council meetings. Probably there should be a possibility to create the local task forces. Anyway there must be a clear relation between structure ? process ? outcome. During the discussion following the presentations several Council members stated that more detailed description of the expertise available within the Council would facilitate planning of the work and help to assess the needs for external support.

#### **Session 4: Landscape**

Dr. Igor A