

Annex 5

President's Report

**EURACT Council meeting
April 25-29, 2009
St. Petersburg, Russia**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 17, 2009

EURACT Council meeting St Petersburg, April 25-28, 2009

Since the last Council meeting in Cyprus some activities took place which I would like to report to the Council.

- Participation in the Retirement Ceremony of former EURACT President prof. Jan Heyrman. Very impressive ceremony was arranged at the University of Leuven, with participation of distinguished Professors from all the departments of the Medical Faculty. Book which was presented to the Council in Cyprus by Jan Degryse, was introduced, and received extremely good comments. Jan's professional career was presented by his colleagues, and Jan also made a very interesting lecture about different aspects of Family Medicine. I was asked to give a short presentation "Challenges for European General Practice: harmonisation with respect to diversity". The challenge was to introduce very shortly the international GP development to academic society of other medical specialties, highlighting significant contribution of GP/FM and also current developments. The presentation was well accepted.
- **WONCA Europe EB meeting, Basel, February 7.**

WE President's Report

One of the Italian organizations is voicing to start a Coordination centre or Secretariat for European Primary Care research. Decision: we have EGPRN anyway, so any activities on research should be coordinated with them.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

The expenditure budget of 2009 was approved. Networks will be funded on the previous agreement 10 000 USD per year. According to the previous agreement between EURACT and WE, the loss of Assessment course in Rome of 1875 EUR will be covered additionally to the annual financing we receive from WE. .

European Journal of General Practice

Manuscripts: there is a flow of manuscripts; the time to the chief Editor is sometimes 3 months. Calle Bengtsson is doing very well as a temporary Editor until the Chief Editor is appointed by WE. The issues 3 and 4 of 2008 will appear shortly.

Chief editor: Job description and advertisement papers have been produced, adapted and sent around. The text is ready and will be sent to National Colleges, networks and WESIGs.

Reports from the Network Organisations

- European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN) finishing work on **EGPRN research agenda** which will be ready for Basel. Council should have a chance to give ideas.

What is the formal position of the networks within Wonca Europe? The question was raised by Arno Timmermans. Decision: Job Metsemakers will look at the bylaws and prepare a paper.

Wonca Europe/ Wonca World Matters

- *Memorandum of understanding between WE/WW* Decision: will be prepared by the end of the February 2009 as draft to the EB.
- *Wonca bursary for participation of delegates from lower income countries in Wonca World conferences.* That has been agreed earlier: € 15,000.

Rules for applications will have to be developed. We will pay for registration, travel and subsistence (hotel). The applications will have to be sent to the Wonca Europe secretariat.

Network project funding

The proposal has been discussed and accepted.

Decision: The proposal to be approved by the council in September. No deadline. Guidelines for submitting a proposal are not relevant. Send to the Secretariat. Job Metsemakers, Tony Mathie, Meta Wiborgh and Igor Svab to decide on proposals. Egle Zebiene to prepare a final document.

Communication with networks, WESIG's and other groups

In relation to recent discussion between conference organizers WE decided that in the future all abstracts for Wonca Europe Conferences should go through peer review with no exceptions for member networks. The conference organiser should ensure visibility of the networks, WESIG's.

Swiss request for a Wonca Europe resolution on a specialist title of Family Medicine

The Swiss request in a resolution that WE asks for special title and a specified 5 year length of training. In a way this is more an UEMO issue than ours. WE can understand the Swiss problem as similar problems exist in Germany and France. We agree that a loss of general practice would be a problem and that we support their efforts to strengthen the position of the GP/FP.

WE 2009 Conference Basel, Switzerland, 16 – 19 September

Elaborate report from the HOC tabled. EURACT within offered 3 hours of programme will have General Meeting and 2 workshops.

WW 2010 Cancun, Mexico, 19 – 23 May

Wonca Cancun 2010 Scientific Program - 15-20 minutes of presentation by Wonca Europe, EURACT, EQUIP, EGPRN.

EURACT EB meeting in Vienna, February 27-28, 2009. Minutes were sent to the Council.

Ongoing activities:

- ✓ WONCA Europe EB liaison person for the WONCA Europe 2009 Conference in Basel.
- ✓ Member of WONCA Working Party on Education.

Egle Zebiene