



Minutes from Wonca Europe Council Meeting 2002

Venue	The Long Room, Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London, SW7 1PU.
Date/time	Sunday June 9th 2002 at 1400 – 1700
Chair	Dr. Philip R. Evans, Wonca Europe President
Minutes	Dr. Bjørn Gjelsvik, Wonca Europe Honorary Secretary

Delegates

Abholz, Heinz-Harald, DEGAM, Germany
Benes, Vaclav, Czeck GP Society
Brennan, Richard, ICGP Ireland
Canhota, Carlos, Portuguese Association of General Practitioners
Duhot, Didier, Societe Francaise de Medicine Generale, France
Fjelsted, Katrin, Icelandic College of Fam. Phys.
Friborg, Søren, Danish College
Gay, Bernard, CNGE France
Kissling, Bruno, Swiss Society General Medicine SSMG
Kosunen, Elise, Finnish Association for GP
Källkvist, Anna, SFAM, Sweden
Maso, Guiseppe, Italian Academy of Family Physicians
Meinecke-Schmidt, Villy, ESPCG
Mendive, Juan, Spanish Society of Family Medicine (semFYC)
Merkouris, Bodossakis, Elegia (Greek Association of General Practice)
Rebhandl, Erwin, Austrian Society on FG/FM
Soler, Denis, Malta College of Family Doctor
Stensland, Per, Norwegian College of General Practitioners
Steylaerts, Carl, BSGP/FM (Belgian Society of Gen Pract/Fam Med)
Svab, Igor, Sloven Family Medicine Society
Van Essen, G.A., Dutch College of General Practitioners
Visentin, Giorgio, CSERMEG, Italy
Windak, Adam, The College of Family Physicians in Poland

Observers

Allen, Justin, EURACT
Banks, Ian, Men's Health Forum
Boland, Michael, President Wonca

Brix,Poul, Danish College
Birgul,Erdem,Turkish Association of Family Physicians
Fabian,Christina,President UEMO
Kokko,Simo,Finnish Association of GP
Kolbeinsson,Thorir, Icelandic College
Lionis,Christos,European Society for Primary Care Gastroenterology
Maier,Manfred, Austria
Meryn,Siegfried,Int Soc for Men's health/Austria
Newan ,Lotte, Past President Wonca Europe
Olesen,Frede,Past President Wonca Europe
Petric,Dragomir,Croatia
Pisco,Luis,EQuiP
Randall-Smith,J,EURIPA Executive Secretary
Rethans,Jan-Joost,EGPRW
Schmidt,Gisle,Norwegian College of General Practitioners
Stavdal,Anna,Norwegian College of General Practitioners
Timmermans,Arno E,Dutch College of GP
Van Weel,Chris,Past President Wonca Europe
Villegas,Pilar Kloppe,SEMFYC/ EUROPREV (?)
Wynn-Jones,J,EURIPA President

Agenda

1. **Welcome by the President**
President Wonca Europe Philip Evans welcomed the delegates and the observers attending. He especially welcomed the President of Wonca, Prof Micael Boland, former presidents of Wonca Europe Chris Van Weel, Frede Olesen and Lotte Newman, President UEMO Christina Fabian. The new Administrative Secretary Helene Flottorp was introduced to the Council.
2. **Approval of the agenda**
The agenda was approved.
3. **Approval of minutes of last meeting held at Alpine Heath, Drakensburg, South Africa 9th May 2001**
The Minutes were approved.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes**
No matters arose.
5. **President's Report**
President's report was tabled.
Wonca World President Michael Boland gave an orientation regarding the invitational conference on research policy to be organised in Canada in March 2003. The intention is to generate a research policy world wide, as has been done for education.
Dr Boland had also visited the US National Library regarding the indexation policy of medical journals. The advisory committee for indexation contains 18 members, none of them is a GP. Next time Wonca will be invited to make nominations to the advisory committee. The Wonca Chief Executive Officer will contact the member organisations in advance.
A report was given of the Wonca World Executive Meeting in London.

Fifteen new member organisations have been accepted in a new Ibero-American Region. There are discussions regarding the development of a Middle East region and a new Central Asian region.

6. Honorary Treasurers Report

The report was tabled and accepted.

The treasurer noted that several organisations are late in payment of dues. The membership dues are to be paid by 31st January. Non-paying members have no voting rights at the Council meetings. There was a discussion on the item. Many organisations do not get their own membership dues before March-April. It was pointed out that the membership dues are based on the number of members the year before the last Wonca World Council meeting, and it should therefore be possible to plan in advance.

The Dutch delegation requested that the Treasurer's report should be sent with the agenda prior to the meeting to give ample time for its consideration. This was agreed.

7. Reports from the Network Organisations

- European General Practice Research Workshop (EGPRW)
- European Working Party on Quality in Family Practice (EQUIP)
- European Academy of Teachers in General Practice (EURACT)

The reports from the networks were tabled.

8. New Definition/Core Competencies

President Philip Evans gave a brief report.

The Documents are printed in a booklet, which will be sent to the Member Organisations and Networks in appropriate numbers. Further copies can be ordered free from the Wonca Europe Secretariat.

One sheet with proposals for implementation will be presented. It is now up to the national member organisations and the networks to make use of it.

The Danish representative complimented the authors on the final document.

The Greek delegate pointed out that the term "personal doctor" is not appropriate in Greece.

It was underlined that the documents should be applied within the context of each country.

Wonca World President Michael Boland complimented Wonca Europe on the achievement of the document.

It was agreed that the Next Council Meeting should receive an advance short written report from each country and Network Organisations on how the new definition document had been used and implemented.

9. European Journal of General Practice

A report was tabled following discussions with Mediselect at meeting on 29 April 2002. President Philip Evans gave a brief report about the negotiations with the publisher.

10. Nordic College's discussion paper on relationship between National Organisation and National Network Organisation members

The Delegate from the Danish College presented the proposals, and pointed out that their main objective was to start a process of discussion within

WONCA Europe regarding the representation of National Member Organisations and the Networks in the Executive.

The President of EURACT Dr Justin Allen advised that EURACT did not feel the proposal was appropriate. It had always been the policy of EURACT to have good relationships within each country between the EURACT representative and the National Organisation.

The President of EGPRW, Dr Jan-Joost Rethans advised that it would have been appropriate for the proposals to be sent direct to the Network itself so that they could be fully involved in the discussions.

The representative of EQuIP Dr Luis Pisco advised that EQuIP was not a Member Organisation as were the other two main Network Organisations but consisted of members which had been appointed by the National Organisations. It was confirmed that there should be good relations between the National Organisations and the National Representatives on each of the three Network Organisations.

ACTION: It was agreed that the Executive Committee would initiate a process of discussion regarding the relationship between National Member Organisations and the National Representatives to the Networks. This would be linked to the consideration of bylaw changes for the Executive Committee membership.

11. Proposal Bylaw changes from the Nordic colleges

The Delegate from the Finnish Association put forward their reasons for the proposal. It was suggested that a solution could be to make the Executive larger in order to make it more representative of the National Organisation. The Dutch College supported the proposal, and wanted the Executive to work on the question.

President, Dr Philip Evans proposed that the Executive Committee should set up a Working Party to consider the representation on the Executive Committee and report back to the next Council meeting in 2003. To accomplish this it would be necessary to define the terms of reference and appoint the working group with representatives from the National Organisations, the Network Organisations and the Executive Committee. *This proposal was accepted by the Council.*

12. European Commission proposals on directive

The President gave a verbal report. The question should be handled in collaboration with UEMO.

13. Future conferences

Brief verbal reports on the following events were given:

2003	Ljubljana, Slovenia	June 18th – 21st
2003	Santiago de Compostella, Spain: Rural Health Conference.	
2004	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	June 1st – 4th
2004	Orlando, Florida, USA.	
	17th WONCA World Conference	October 14th – 17th
2005	Athens, Greece	September 17th – 22nd
2006	Florence, Italy	August 27th – 31st
2007	Singapore	
	18th WONCA World Conference	July 24th – 28th
2007	European Conference	

Bids from France and Norway were presented.

In the discussion it was pointed out that there was a need to discuss the registration fees for the conference. Neither bid contained information on this aspect. In view of this it was agreed that both France and Norway would be asked to submit further details in relation to their bids. It was agreed that a final decision regarding the host of the 2007 conference will be made at the next Council meeting in June 2003. It was noted that the World conference in Singapore was due to take place in September 2003 and the European conference would be held within three months of those dates. It was agreed that the WONCA Europe Secretariat would approach the CEO of World WONCA to see if it was possible for the dates of the Singapore conference to be changed. The French and Norwegian colleges would be informed of whether this was possible within the next two months.

14. Council meetings in 2004

The Executive Committee's proposal to hold two Wonca Europe Council meetings in 2004 was agreed. The first meeting would be held prior to the conference in Amsterdam in June and the triennial meeting with the normal elections, the new Executive and Committees would take place prior to the World meeting in Orlando in October.

15. Collaborative relations

- A. European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO)
- B. Wonca Rural Working Group (EURIPA)
- C. European Review Group on Health Promotion and Prevention in Family Medicine and General Practice (EUOPREV)
- D. European Society for Primary Care Gastroenterology (ESPCG)
- E. European Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Network (EUCDPN)
- F. European Primary Care Diabetes Group (EUPCDG)
- G. EU Forum on men's health
- H. WHO Regional Office for Europe

Brief verbal reports were received from organisations A, B, C, and G.

16. Wonca Europe awards

The President advised that it had been decided that it was no longer possible to make the Hippokrates awards because of the lack of appropriate sponsorship from the Hippokrates Verlag. The Executive Committee and the Dutch College were considering the development of a new award, full details of which would be sent to the National Organisations later this year.

17. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held prior to the European conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia in June 2003.

The Executive Committee was asked to consider whether a full day meeting was now necessary because of the volume of business.

18. Any Other Business

1. The Wonca Guide project was presented. This is a collaborative project between the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The project has resulted in a new

guidebook: "Improving health systems: the contribution of family medicine", which is available at the Wonca World Secretariat at US\$ 10 for Wonca-members and US\$ 15 for non-members.

2. The Spanish Representative gave an orientation of the present situation for the speciality in Spain. The speciality has existed since 1978, but there is no University Department for General Practice. He asked for support to their work to establish such departments in Spain.

3. The Manifesto from the Rural Health Conference in Melbourne was presented. It will be circulated to National Member Organisations.

Bjørn Gjelsvik
Honorary Secretary Wonca Europe
June 2002