



Minutes Wonca Europe Council Meeting 2003

Venue	Cankarjev dom Congress and Cultural Centre, Presernova, 1000, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Date/time	Wednesday June 18, 2003 at 09:30 – 15:30
Chair	Dr. Philip R. Evans, Wonca Europe President
Minutes	Dr. Bjorn Gjelsvik, Wonca Europe Honorary Secretary Mrs. Helene Flottorp, Wonca Europe Secretariat
Delegates	Ilse Hellemann, Austrian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine Carl Steylaerts/Luc Lefebvre, Belgian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine Maja Racic, Association of Family Medicine Specialists and Residents of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Sprska Dragomir Petric, Croatian Association of Family Medicine Vaclav Benes, Czech Society of General Practice Soren Friberg, Danish College of General Practitioners Ted Van Essen, Dutch College of General Practitioners Elise Kosunen, Finnish Association of General Practice Bernard Gay, College National des Generalistes (France) Harald Abholz, German Society of General Practice/Family Medicine Bodossakis-Prodrornos Merkouris, Greek Association of General Practitioners Katrín Fjeldsted, Icelandic College of Family Physicians Richard Brennan, Irish College of General Practitioners Amdur Luba, Israel Association of Family Physicians Giorgio Visentin, Centro Studio e Ricerche in Medicina Generale (Italy) Guiseppe Maso, Italian Academy of Family Physicians Jean Karl Soler, Malta College of Family Doctors Per Stensland, Norwegian College of General Practitioners Adam Windak, College of Family Physicians in Poland Carlos Canhota, Portuguese Association of General Practitioners Tonka Poplas Susic, Slovenian Family Medicine Society/Slovenian Medical Ass. Juan M. Mendive, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine Meta Wiborgh, Swedish Association of General Practice Bruno Kissling, Swiss Society of General Medicine Erdem Birgul, Turkish Association of Family Physicians Anthony G. Mathie, Royal College of General Practitioners
Observers	Erwin Rebhandl, Austrian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine

Zaim Jatic, Association of Family Medicine Specialists and Residents of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Sprska
Poul Brix Jensen, Danish College of General Practitioners
Arno Timmermanns, Dutch College of General Practitioners
Marianne Samuelson, College National des Generalistes (France)
Guido Danti, Centro Studie e Ricerche in Medicina Generale (Italy)
Eva Jaktlund, Swedish Association of General Practice
Nezih Dadeviren, Turkish Association of Family Physicians
Chris van Weel, Past President Wonca Europe
Michael Boland, President Wonca World
Alfred Loh, Chief Executive Officer Wonca World
Jan-Joost Rethans, European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN)
Justin Allen, European Academy of Teachers in General Practice (EURACT)
Luis Pisco, European Association for Quality in General Practice (EQUIP)
Mateja Bulc, European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO)
Elisabeth Swensen, Wonca Rural Working Group (EURIPA)
Mateja Bulc, European Review Group on Health Promotion (EUROPREV)

Igor Svab, Wonca Europe Vice-President
Christos Lionis, EGPRN representative in Executive Committee

Agenda

- 1. Welcome by the President**
President Philip Evans opened the meeting. As all but four of the colleges represented at the meeting had paid the membership fee for 2003, the council formed a quorum.
- 2. Approval of the agenda**
The Agenda was approved.
- 3. Approval of minutes of last meeting held on June 9th 2002 in London**
The Spanish Delegate J. Mendive made a correction on the list of participation. The Minutes were then approved.
- 4. Matters arising from the minutes**
No item was raised.
- 5. President's Report**
The President gave a written report.
The Council commented on the substantial loss of the London Conference, and had a debate on conferences to be arranged. Delegates from some countries were worried about the rise in fee and costs for delegates to the congresses, and asked for measures to cut the costs and lower the fees. In the debate, questions regarding sponsorship, fees, total costs, scholarships, and the content of conferences was raised. It was also raised that Wonca Europe should avoid arranging Regional Conferences in the World Wonca Conference years. The discussion showed that there were different views within the organisation.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee should discuss future conferences in greater detail and then produce a report to send to the National Colleges. The report to be considered at the next Council Meeting.

6. **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

The value of having received the accounts with the papers for the meeting was expressed by the national colleges.

Honorary Treasurer Vaclav Benes presented results for 2002.

- a) The problems regarding slow payment of dues from Member Organisations was raised. It was pointed out that the membership fees should be paid as soon as possible on the receipt of the invoice from Singapore.
A proposal that slow payers should be asked to pay interest was not approved by the Council.
- b) The financial deficit in 2002 was discussed. The main reason for the deficit, which is due to a reduced levy from the Conference in 2002 and the currency fluctuations between NOK, and USD was accepted, and the proposal to meet the deficit by transfer of money from the Reserve Fund was approved. The Result for budgets for 2002 was then accepted.
- c) Budget for 2003 and 2004. The President put forward proposals for a new budget for these two years, because of expected increased costs in running the secretariat. The necessity of having a well-functioning Secretariat to take care of Wonca Europe's day-to-day business was pointed out. Representatives from the networks and others pointed out the importance of Wonca Europe having enough resources to support the Networks and Special Projects Fund. The aim that the secretariat expenses should normally not exceed 1/3 of the total expenditure was discussed and approved for 2004 and beyond.
The Wonca Europe Budget Revision 2003 -2004 was approved. This provided for \$50,000 USD to be available for the secretariat if needed during 2003 and for \$40,000 USD for the secretariat during 2004.
It was agreed that the executive committee would determine savings under other budget headings to provide these funds.

7. **Reports from the Network Organisations**

- European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN)
- European Association for quality in general practice (EQUIP)
- European Academy of Teachers in General Practice (EURACT)

Jan Joost Rethans, EGPRN, pointed out that a new report had been distributed to Council Members by e-mail prior to the meeting. He also advised the change of name of the Research Network. President Justin Allen, EURACT, reported that the relations to the national member organisations had improved as a result of the work of the Constitutional Working Party. Luis Pisco spoke on behalf of EQUIP. The reports were then accepted.

8. **Report from Wonca Europe Constitutional Working Party 2002**

The Delegate from the Danish Society delivered a commentary on the Report to the Council, which is enclosed to the minutes.

Some points for clarification were discussed. Under item H4, the line should read: "The term of office, of any individual and in any capacity, on the WONCA Europe Executive Committee to be limited to two periods of three years." This does not apply to an individual elected to the post of President who could serve for one or two terms if elected, to a maximum of nine years on the executive.

In the debate, the report was approved, and the work of the Working Party was acknowledged as an important contribution to the understanding of the work and constitution of Wonca Region Europe.

The members of the Wonca Europe Constitutional Working Party 2002 were thanked for their good work.

All the Recommendations (Littera H) in the Report were then approved by the Council.

- 9. Reports from EURIPA and EUROPREV**
The reports were tabled and accepted.
- 10. The European Definition of General Practice/Family Medicine**
The Honorary Secretary delivered a written report based on reports from Member Organisations. It was noteworthy that the definition had been translated into over ten languages.
The report was supplemented by some delegates and the networks.
The importance of collaboration with UEMO to promote European General Practice in the EU system, was pointed out. The Definition should be used in a working group. It was pointed out that the member organisations now should further implement the Definition on various fields on the national level.
The Executive was asked to further develop the implementation of the New Definition in collaboration with the Member Organisations, and report back to Council in 2004.
- 11. European Journal of General Practice**
The President gave a verbal report. Medisearch the publisher is losing money on the journal and there are problems with difficulty obtaining suitable sponsors. Wonca Europe has advised that multiple sponsorship was an important criteria. There is however a continuing interest academically, and numerous articles are received for publication. There is an optimism concerning the possibility of indexation this year.
The President will continue the negotiations with the journal.
- 12. Sponsorship Guidelines**
The Proposal from the Executive Board was presented by Justin Allen. In the discussion, some points for clarification were made.
It was pointed out that a declaration of interest and sponsorship should be applied to presentations at European Conferences
The Guidelines were approved.
- 13. Wonca Research Meeting, Kingston, Canada**
Prof. Chris van Weel gave a report from the meeting. The final report will be published in the near future.

The EGPRN and the Executive Committee to look at the final report together. The National Colleges should then be involved in a discussion on its use in Europe during the next Council meeting.
- 14. Member organisation business**
a) The President reported and welcomed new national members:
- Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians
 - Association of Family Group Practices Kyrgyzstan
- These countries will belong to the European Region until a new Central Asian Region is established.
- Turkish Association of Family Physicians
 - Association of Family Medicine Specialists and Residents of Federation

b) There was a request from the national colleges that one should only use the term Wonca Europe and stop using ESGP/FM as the latter is confusing to new members. This was approved by the Council.

15. Proposal from the Belgian Society of General Practitioners/Family Physicians re Wonca Europe's website.

Carl Steylaert presented the proposal.

There were various views on the proposal among the delegates at the Council.

The Executive Committee was asked to consider the proposal, given the budget limitations currently under consideration.

16. New target strategy for ESGFM - Draft paper

Justin Allen presented the draft paper.

Further discussion should take place at the open WONCA Europe meeting during the conference with consideration being given to co-operation with UEMO.

17. Wonca Award

Nominations call on 30th June 2003.

18. Future conferences

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 1st – 4th 2004

A verbal report was given by Arno Timmermans, leader of the Host Organising Committee. He asked the national colleges and the Executive of help to promote the conference – on the website, journals etc. The conference web site is opened at: woncaeurope2004.nl.

There was a discussion about the conference fee of 695 euro. Scholarships: 30 trainees.

Orlando, Florida, USA, 17th WONCA World Conference, Oct. 14th – 17th 2004

Philip Evans advised on the time schedule sent out with the papers.

Athens, Greece, Sept 3rd – 7th 2005

Chair of the Host Organising Committee Bodossakis Prodromos Merkouris gave a verbal report. The theme of the conference is: "From Hippocrates to the Human Genome: The past, present and future of General Practice/Family Medicine". The intention is to have the fee under 600 euros.

Florence, Italy, Aug 27th – 31st, 2006

A brief report was given by Georgio Visentin, Chair of the Host Organising Committee. Bjorn Gjelsvik is liaison person from Wonca Europe. The dates are chosen due to out of season prices at the hotels in the end of August.

Singapore, 18th WONCA World Conference, July 24th – 28th 2007

The Executive Committee had asked the organisers in Singapore to change their dates. This had not been possible.

European Conference 2007

Bid from CNGE France had been received and was presented for the Council by Marianne Samuelson.

The Council discussed the question of postponing the conference in 2007 due to the WONCA World Conference in Singapore.

In the voting, there was 17 votes for having a Conference in 2007, 2 against, and 2 abstained.

CNGE, France then received 20 votes, and 1 abstained for them to organise the European Conference in Paris, March 2007. CNGE was strongly recommended to consider altering the date to October 2007 to avoid being too close to the conferences Italy 2006 and Singapore 2007.

The Executive Committee was asked to report to Council meeting in June 2004 with details re. venue, costs and sponsorship.

19. European Exchange Program for GP's

A brief presentation was given by Reinhild Höfer from ÖGAM about the International Visiting Program for Family Doctors/GP's.

More information to be found at www.oegam.at

20. Collaborative relations

Reports had been received from

- European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO).

- Wonca Rural Working Group (EURIPA).

- European Review Group on Health Promotion and Prevention in Family Medicine and General Practice (EUROPREV)

- European Primary Care Diabetes Group (EUPCDG)

- European Society for Primary Care Gastroenterology (ESPCG) Brief verbal information was given by Christos Lionis at the meeting.

21. Next Meeting Council meeting will be held in Amsterdam in June 2004.

Another Council meeting will be held in Orlando in October 2004, where the triennial elections to the Executive Committee will be held.

The President advised that he would not seek re-election in 2004.

22. Any Other Business

a) Proposal from Dutch College: Arno Timmerman presented a proposal on plans to collaborate more closely with the European Union. The increasing importance of common health policies inside the EU makes it important for Wonca Europe to act in collaboration with other groups. "Health" will be a new entity in the new European treaty.

The Executive Committee was asked to follow up the intentions in the proposal. The proposal was generally approved by the Council. The Executive Committee will take this forward.

b) The 6th Wonca Rural Health Conference, Sept 24-27 2003 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain was promoted.