



**Minutes from Wonca Europe Council Meeting
Florence, 27 August 2006**

Venue: Fortezza da Basso, Cimabue room, Florence, Italy
Date/time: Sunday, August 27, 2006/13:00 – 17:00
Chair: Igor Švab, Wonca Europe President
Minutes: Maarten Klomp, Wonca Europe Honorary Secretary
Barbara Toplek, Wonca Europe Secretariat

Delegates

Ilse Hellemann, Austrian Society General Practice/Family Medicine
Carl Steylaerts, Belgian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine
Samira Herenda, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Roar Maagaard, Danish College of General Practitioners, DSAM
Madis Tiik, Estonian Society of Family Doctors
Simo Kokko, Finnish Association for General Practice
Bernard Gay, College National des Generalistes
Harald Abholz, German Association of GP/FM, DEGAM
Bodossakis Merkouris, Greek Association of General Practitioners, ELEGEIA
Katrín Fjeldsted, Iceland
Eamonn Shanahan, Irish College of General Practitioners
Visentin Giorgio, Centro Studio e Ricerche in Medicina Generale
Ernesto Mola, Italian Scientific Association, ASSIMEFAC
Jean Karl Soler, Malta College of Family Doctors
Arno E. Timmermans, Dutch College of General Practitioners
Janecke Thesen, Norwegian College of General Practitioners
Adam Windak, College of Family Physicians in Poland
Eduardo Mendes, Portuguese Association of General Practitioners
George Haber, Romanian National Society of Gen. Practice/Family Medicine
Tonka Poplas Susič, Slovenian Family Medicine Society/Slovenian Medical Association
Toni Dedeu, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine
Bruno Kissling, Swiss Society of General Medicine
Erdem Birgul, Turkish Association of Family Physicians
Tony Mathie, Royal College of General Practitioners

Observers

Manfred Maier, Austrian Society General Practice/Family Medicine
Luc Lefebvre, Belgian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine
Vanden Bursele Peet, Belgian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine
Draško Kuprešak, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Peter Torsten Soerensen, Danish College of General Practitioners, DSAM
Pierre-Louis Druais, College National des Generalistes
Michele Lieurade, College National des Generalistes
Vasiliki Gkarmiri, Greek Association of General Practitioners, ELEGEIA
Vittorio Caimi, Centro Studio e Ricerche in Medicina Generale, CSERMEG

Gianfranco Mancini, Italian Scientific Association, ASSIMEFAC
Giacomo Tritto, Italian Scientific Association, ASSIMEFAC
Gisle Roksund, Norwegian College of General Practitioners
Carlos Canhota, Portuguese Association of General Practitioners
Nezih Dagdeviren, Turkish Association of Family Physicians
Paul Van Royen, European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN)
Egle Žebiene, European Academy of Teachers in General Practice (EURACT)
Luis Pisco, European Association for Quality in General Practice (EQUIP)
Colin Bradley, European Journal of General Practice, EJGP
Frede Olesen, Wonca Europe Past President, Denmark
Bruce Sparks, Wonca President, South Africa
Chris van Weel, Wonca President Elect, The Netherlands
Alfred Loh, Wonca Secretariat, CEO, Singapore
Michael Kidd, Wonca Executive Member at Large, Australia
John Winn – Jones, Wonca Rural Working Group (EURIPA)
Carlos Brotons, (EUROPREV)
Birgit Morre Pedersen, Vasco da Gama Movement
Eugene Hughes, Primary Care Diabetes Europe
Juan Mendive, European Society for Primary Care Gastroenterology (ESPCG)
Bjorn Gjelsvik, Wonca Europe Vice-President
Christos Lionis, EGPRN representative in Executive Committee
Maarten Klomp, Wonca Europe Hon. Secretary
Barbara Toplek, Wonca Europe Secretariat

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the president

President Igor Švab opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates and the observers. Giorgio Visentin from the Florence HOC welcomed the council. All attendants introduced themselves shortly.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of minutes of the last meeting held in Kos, September 2005

- Matters arising from the minutes

The minutes were accepted. All matters are in the minutes

4. President's Report

Igor Švab gave some verbal clarification on his report that was sent out with the agenda papers. The report was approved by the council.

Arno Timmermans asked the president about the EB elections in 2007. Igor Švab explained that Christos Lionis, Luis Pisco and Bjorn Gjelsvik are in their second and last term. They can either run for the presidency or withdraw. EB will inform the council before the end of the year about which EB members want to be re-elected.

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Tony Mathie gave a short presentation of his report. He informed the council that some of the colleges have not paid their dues for 2006 before the meeting and are not allowed to any voting in this meeting. The report and the recommendations to continue with the work on EJGP were approved.

6. Reports from the Network Organizations

- European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN)

- European Academy of Teachers in General Practice (EURACT)
- European Association for Quality in General Practice (EQUIP)

All reports were sent out with the agenda papers. They were approved by the council.

7. European Journal of General Practice

Maarten Klomp gave a report on the actions taken by the Executive in the past year to save the journal. Two editions have been edited and sent under the management of Wonca. Taylor and Francis has been chosen as the new publisher. The Dutch College signed the contracts on behalf of Wonca Europe since Wonca Europe does not have the status of a legal body. Taylor and Francis will develop a new marketing policy in order to raise the number of subscriptions in the near future. The member organizations are asked to support this marketing strategy in their home countries. Colin Bradley informed the council that two EJGP issues (Number 3 and 4) will be out soon. The electronic submissions will be available in the near future after some technical matters will be resolved in the journals website. The Council approved the actions taken by the Executive Board.

8. Registration of Wonca Europe as a legal body

Maarten Klomp presented his report. The Executive Board suggests that Wonca Europe follows the lawyer's advice to create a foundation in the Netherlands - the reasons for that are explained in the appendix.

Alfred Loh presented his view on this matter. Wonca is no longer an association. It has reformed into a trust. Wonca World suggests that Wonca Europe becomes a trust too. The subject was fully discussed.

After this broad discussion and the voting, Council unanimously accepted the proposal of the Executive Board to create a foundation which makes it possible to own the EJGP and register the brand.

9. Wonca Europe website

Barbara Toplek gave a short report. A joint meeting with the Euract and Equip webmasters was held. The council stipulated that it is important to integrate the websites of network organizations and also Vasco da Gama, Europrev en Euripa within the WONCA Europe website. A draft paper with the instructions how to put the websites under the similar design will be prepared for the networks.

Alfred Loh invited colleges to connect to the Website of WW.

Alfred Loh raised the issue of the Singapore and Paris conferences next year. He gave a short report on the Singapore conference.

Bernard Gay gave a short report on Paris 2007. It was agreed to respect the rules of 4 months interval between Wonca World and Wonca Europe conferences.

10. Wonca Europe rules on giving name and logo to the conferences and events

The draft document prepared by Tony Mathie and Egle Žebiene was tabled to the council. The subject was fully discussed. It was agreed to develop a more detailed strategy for the next meeting.

11. Strategy for the European Conferences

Maarten Klomp gave some verbal clarification on the documents. The Wonca Strategy is updated with the remarks of the 2005 Council in Kos. Some other documents are prepared which are related to this Conference strategy (the update of the contract, the bidding procedure, the protocol for the liaison person, the list of important persons and organizations). The subject was fully discussed. A suggestion to include another point to the protocol was given: "Pharmaceutical companies or other sponsors have no access to the reception".

It was decided to continue this discussion during the sponsorship item.

To the bidding procedure should be added: The information about the early bird fee should be included in the bids for the future conferences.

The strategy on Wonca Europe Conference, together with the new documents was accepted by the council.

12. Special Project Funding

The short report was given with the honorary treasurer report.

13. The new Wonca Europe targets

Christos Lionis presented his report. It was decided to send the paper to colleges and networks for their comments.

14. Sponsorship policy

Bjorn Gjelsvik presented the document. The subject will be also discussed during the Wonca Europe open meeting. The Executive Board suggests to accept this policy as Wonca Europe policy and to implement it in the future. Alfred Loh suggested to present the document in Singapore to be accepted by WW as a recommendation on how to deal with sponsorship by pharmaceutical companies. Katrin Fjelsted reminded the council of a prevailing agreement on sponsorship for all physicians within Europe. The Wonca policy should be adjusted to these rules.

After the voting, the majority of the Council supported the proposal to accept the document as a recommendation, discuss it further within the separate member organizations and report on this in the next Council in Singapore.

The proposal from the Swedish, Norwegian and Danish colleges to add one sentence to the protocol, "Pharmaceutical companies or other sponsors have no access to the reception," was not accepted.

15. CVD prevention in General Practice in Europe/4th Joint Task Force on the Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases

Bjorn Gjelsvik gave a short report and presented the workshop which will be held in this Conference. Wonca Europe didn't support the recommendations of the 3rd Task Force in 2003. The EB proposes to enter the 4th Joint Task Force again. After discussion it was suggested that WE will take part, under the condition that it will have more representatives in the Committee to make sure that the recommendations will be applicable in general practice, and in line with the views and priorities of Wonca. An expert group needs to be established to support the delegates in the committee, and to advise the Council about the results in a ratification procedure next year. This proposal was accepted with one vote against.

The EB will also work on a proposal on future involvement of Wonca in multidisciplinary guidelines in Europe.

16. "Integrating patient empowerment as an essential characteristic of the discipline of general practice/family medicine" - proposal from Italian Associations ASSIMEFAC and CSERMEG

Ernesto Mola had a presentation. The delegates were invited to join his workshop during the conference. It was concluded there is no need to change the definition at this moment. The issue will be discussed within the next review procedure.

17. "Union makes force: the version of the Flemish subunit of the BSGP/FP" – letter from Carl Steylaerts, presented by Piet Vandenbusshe

Piet Vandenbusshe gave a presentation. The council took the report for the information.

18. Collaborative organizations

- Vasco da Gama Movement – the report was accepted

- European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO) – the report was accepted; Jean Karl Soler gave a comment on Uemo report about CPD in Europe. Wonca Europe is working with UEMO to find a solution.
- European Rural and Isolated Practitioners Association (EURIPA) – the report was accepted
- European Network for Prevention and Health Promotion in Family Medicine and General Practice (EUOPREV) – the report was accepted

Tony Mathie presented the proposal of financing VdGM, Euripa and Europrev. The EB proposes that some financing of these organizations by Wonca Europe is acceptable, but will depend on the Wonca Europe budget and on a clear business case. Therefore these organizations should provide their 3 years business plans with the budget in the coming year. With these proposals the Executive Board will prepare the new three year budget cycle to be discussed in Singapore next year. The similar strategy should be used for the networks in future. Vasco da Gama will be financially supported for next year. Furthermore support for VdG is included in the contract with future conference organizers. These proposals were accepted by the council.

19. Special interest groups

Wonca Europe strives towards more formal relationship with the special interest groups and their contribution to Wonca Europe in general, their guidelines and their conferences.

20. Wonca Europe Working Parties

Ise Helleman tabled the report of Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine (WWPWFM). The council took the report for information.

21. Future Conferences

- 2007 Singapore – Wonca World Conference, 24 – 27 July
Alfred Loh gave a verbal report.
- 2007 Paris, France, 17 – 20 October
Bernard Gay gave a verbal report.
- 2008 Istanbul, Turkey, September
Erdem Birgul gave a verbal report.
- 2009 Basel, Switzerland
Bruno Kissling gave a verbal report.
- 2010 Conference - Greece and Spain made a bid.

After their presentations and the voting, Spain was elected to organize the 2010 conference.

22. Next Meeting

The next council meeting will be in July 2007 in Singapore.

After the meeting:

Bruno Kissling tabled his proposal on the sponsorship policy: "Wonca Europe wants its members to implement a sponsorship policy which guarantees the independency and credibility of the family doctors and implements clear and transparent rules between the industry and the doctors." (This allows that each country can adopt the rules following its special feeling for sponsorship matters).

This proposal was presented by Igor Švab at the Wonca Europe open meeting in Florence.

September 2006
Maarten Klomp
Honorary Secretary Wonca Europe