



## Wonca Europe Council Meeting Paris 2007

Venue: Palais des Congrès, room 251  
Date: **Wednesday, 17 October 2007**  
Time: 10.00 – 12.00 Council Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> part  
12.00 – 13.30 Joint Lunch  
13.30 – 16.00 Council Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> part

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  
Dragomir Petric, Croatian Society of general Practice/Family Medicine  
Bohumil Seifert, Czech Society of General Practice/Family Medicine  
Peter Torsten Soerensen, Danish College of General Practitioners, DSAM  
Paula Vainiomaki, Finnish Association for General Practice  
Bernard Gay, College National des Generalistes Enseignants, CNGE  
Michael M. Kochen, German Association of GP/FM, DEGAM  
Bodossakis Merkouris, Greek Association of General Practitioners, ELEGEIA  
Elinborg Bardardottir, Icelandic College of Family Physicians  
Eamonn Shanahan, Irish College of General Practitioners  
Guido Danti, Centro Studio e Ricerche in Medicina Generale  
Visentin Giorgio, Centro Studio e Ricerche in Medicina Generale  
Ernesto Mola, Italian Scientific Association, ASSIMEFAC  
Giacomo Salvatore Tritto, Academy Italian Family Physician, AIMEF  
Jean Karl Soler, Malta College of Family Doctors  
Arno E. Timmermans, Dutch College of General Practitioners  
Gisle Roksund, Norwegian College of General Practitioners  
Adam Windak, College of Family Physicians in Poland  
Carlos Canhota, Portuguese Association of General Practitioners  
George Haber, Romanian National Society of Gen. Practice/Family Medicine  
Zlatka Markov, Serbian Medical Association/Section of General Practice  
Peter Liptak, Slovak Society of General Practice of the Slovak Medical Association  
Janko Kersnik, Slovenian Family Medicine Society/Slovenian Medical Association  
Jose Miguel Bueno, 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  
Grygoryi Lysenko, Ukrainian Association of Family Medicine  
Tony Mathie, Royal College of General Practitioners

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## Observers

Vaclav Benes, Czech Society of General Practice/Family Medicine  
Pierre-Louis Druais, College National des Generalistes  
Vasiliki Gkarmiri, Greek Association of General Practitioners, ELEGEIA  
Mark Walsh, Irish College of General Practitioners  
Janecke Thesen, Norwegian College of General Practitioners  
Mirjana Mojovic, Serbian Medical Association/Section of General Practice  
Iveta Vaverkova, Slovak Society of General Practice of the Slovak Medical Association  
Martin Korman, Slovak Society of General Practice of the Slovak Medical Association  
Josep Basora, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine  
Peter Tschudi, Swiss Society of General Medicine  
Nezih Dagdeviren, Turkish Association of Family Physicians  
Chris van Weel, Wonca President, The Netherlands  
Alfred Loh, Wonca CEO, Singapore  
Michael Kidd, Wonca Treasurer, Member at Large, WHO Liaison Person  
Henk Parmentier, Wonca Working Party on Mental Health  
Gabriel Ivbijaro, Wonca Working Party on Mental Health  
John Winn – Jones, Wonca Rural Working Group (EURIPA)  
Colin Bradley, European Journal of General Practice, EJGP  
Igor Švab, Wonca Europe President  
Bjørn Gjelsvik, Wonca Europe Vice President  
Maarten Klomp, Job Metsemakers, Wonca Europe Honorary Secretary  
Egle Žebiene, Representative EURACT  
Christos Lionis, Representative EGPRN  
Luis Pisco, Marianne Samuelson, Representative EQUiP  
Barbara Toplek, Wonca Europe Secretariat

## AGENDA

### Council Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> part

#### 1. Welcome by the President

Igor Svab welcomed the council and gave a special welcome to Alfred Loh and Chris van Weel. The agenda and the afternoon sessions were presented.

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

Agenda was approved.

#### 3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held in Singapore, 2007

Minutes were approved.

- Matters arising from the minutes
  - Issue of future conferences was discussed. Arno Timmermans prepared a discussion paper. **A working group for future conferences was appointed: Ernesto Mola, Manfred Maier, Arno Timmermans, Job Metsemakers, Igor Svab, Carl Steylaerts, Ilse Hellman, Jose Miguel Bueno.** A proposal to be ready by the end of this year. It will be discussed in January at the next Wonca Europe Executive meeting and in February at Wonca World Executive. If the proposal includes bylaws changes we must approve them in Cancun (changes to be circulated 18 months before the 2010 conference).
  - Relationship with SIG: First meeting was held in Singapore. Maarten Klomp prepared a discussion paper "Wonca Europe and its Special Interest Groups". Gisle Roksund raised the issue of relationship with pharmaceutical industry. SIG

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should work in line with our adopted sponsorship guidelines. Negotiations will continue and comments should be given to Maarten Klomp. We will come with the final proposal in Istanbul.

#### 4. Business meeting/ President's Report on the Wonca Europe Executive Board Meeting

- Igor Svab gave a short report on relationship with Wonca World: We are looking for a relationship that will be suitable for both sides.
- Tony Mathie gave a short treasurer's report. Council approved to renew the secretariat and website contracts for the next three years.
- Wonca Europe Guidelines on External Sponsorship – a proposal to the European Council. The document was sent around for adoption. It will be presented during the open meeting. Council accepted it by acclamation.
- List of actions to be enclosed with the minutes of the council meeting.

#### 5. Future Conferences

Wonca Europe Paris Conference: we have 4300 participants registered. Congratulations were given to the organizers.

- **4 - 6 April, 2008 – Lisbon, Portugal “The invitational conference for college leaders”**: Luis Pisco gave a short presentation. Colleges will be asked to send two participants involved in college management on daily basis. Accommodation will be covered by the Portuguese organizers. The official invitations will be sent to colleges after the conference.
- **Wonca Europe Conference 2008 Istanbul, Turkey (4 – 7 September)**: Erdem Birgul gave a short report. Website and online registrations have started. Main concerns are with the scientific content of the conference. We need to involve networks and SIG to participate in the content, contacts to be made with them during this conference. The dates for VdGM conference should be set. Alfred Loh proposed to launch WHO booklet on mental disorders in Istanbul.
- **Wonca Europe Conference 2009 Basel, Switzerland (16 – 19 September)**: Bruno Kissling gave his report.
- **2010 Malaga, Spain**: Jose Miguel Bueno gave a short report.
- **Decision for 2011 Conference**: One bid was received (Poland – Krakow). Adam Windak gave a presentation. The proposed dates are 29 June – 2 July 2011.

The following questions to be clarified:

- venue for 2000 people (if more, the conference can be moved to Warszawa)
- different venues – walking distance (only 5 min)
- VDGM facilitators to be covered by the organizers (to be included in the contract)

There will be another conference during this period (Nordic conference). It would be a good idea to move it to September. The Polish College should take into consideration the above remarks.

Council supports the idea of having the 2011 conference in Poland. Wonca Europe Executive Board needs to negotiate with the Polish College about the venue (Krakow, Warszawa) and the dates (June or September).

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## 6. Next Wonca Europe Council Meeting

Istanbul, 4 September 2008 (13.00 – 17.00)

Igor Svab thanked to people leaving the EB.

### Council Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> part

#### **Group work – The future of Wonca Europe (brainstorming session in 3 groups)**

- a) How to increase the role of Wonca Europe as an international organization?
- b) How to improve cooperation with colleges?
- c) The vision of future meetings
- d) Ideas for new initiatives

#### **Reports:**

#### **How to improve cooperation with colleges (Summary by Job Metsemakers):**

What can Wonca Europe do for the colleges?  
and

What can the colleges do for Wonca Europe?

- Wonca Europe to organize:
  - an inventory of members
  - structured data base
  - web based
  - administrative data such as president, mail address
  - products
  - policy documents
  - challenges

in this way other colleges can easily find out who is working on the same topic, or which college already has a certain policy.
- Wonca Europe to organize
  - introductory session/information set for new member states

Wonca Europe has many policy documents – get a good start in the council
- Could Wonca Europe serve as legal body for products of networks as long as they are not legal entities?
- The three networks are closely linked to Wonca Europe, but their relation to the national colleges is not the same in all countries.  
Stimulate a good relation of networks with Wonca Europe but also with the national colleges.
- Wonca Europe to come out with a set of minimal standards of care (immunization level) which could help colleges in certain member states in their discussion with the government.
- Could Wonca Europe help with research proposals for the EU in supporting colleges when they apply?
- Can Wonca Europe support the colleges in providing the policy documents or other available documents?
- Wonca Europe to address the ordinary GP at national level.
- Wonca Europe to be present at national conferences.
- Wonca Europe website to have clear links to the Colleges websites and vice-versa.

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- Wonca Europe to stimulate the Colleges that they are present/participate in the networks.
- Could Wonca Europe accredit certain educational activities?

### **Future WONCA Europe conferences** (Report by Egle Zebiene)

The group decided to have a discussion about the possibilities to improve the quality of future WONCA Europe annual conferences. Following suggestions have been made concerning the general strategy of the conferences:

- The time for the conferences should be defined well in advance, to avoid overlapping with other international events as thematic conferences, conferences organised by other specialties. Some international database including all the international conferences of all specialties would be beneficial for that.
- WONCA Europe Council and EB should play more active role in defining the themes for the conferences, which are of major importance at certain period. This would allow focusing on issues that are important internationally, and stimulate development of GP/FM on European level.
- Measures should be taken to make these conferences approved as licensing credit hours in all countries.
- Membership fees are too high, which makes it difficult for physicians to attend the conference. Conference organisers should consider balancing fees according to increasing number of participants. (Also suggestion has been made to make a questionnaire for participants to find out their financial possibilities to attend the conferences, are they sponsored or pay themselves, to find out whether conference prices are really the obstacle to attend it).

Some specific measures were suggested to make conferences more relevant to everyday practice and practicing GPs.

All the groups of general practitioners and other health care professionals attending WONCA Europe Conferences have their own interests which should be addressed.

Those groups were defined as:

- GPs with special interests in research, education, quality assurance etc.
- Participants who bring their research findings to present at the conference.
- Practicing GPs with no special interests except the General Practice care.
- Local GPs.

It has been agreed that while first two groups get their needs addressed by the Networks and HOC, last two groups do not have that much benefits and special sessions organised for their needs therefore that affects interest of physicians and their decision to take part in the conferences. It has been agreed during the discussion in the group that this is important responsibility of Networks to develop the activities for practicing GPs, which they could bring back and implement in their everyday practice. Collaboration between networks and Special Interest groups may be the right way to improve the situation and also ensure high standards of those activities. At the same time Networks would establish contacts with wider audience of European GPs/Fps. Suggestion has been made to present more "state of art" sessions that would summarise latest scientific achievements and suggest ways of their application, interactive workshops on practical issues, practical skills training, etc. This idea should be discussed explicitly within the networks, and ideas brought back to the next discussion on this issue during the Council meeting.

Special attention should be given to the quality of research presentations. Setting higher standards for research materials would attract more participants from the other fields to present at our conferences. This approach requires special focused attempts, so EGPRN could contribute to the development of the strategy. Another option would be to

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invite prominent researchers from other disciplines to present their research in our conferences to demonstrate the high standard projects.

During last few years Conferences have been seen as a significant event that gives the strong impulse to development GP/FM within the organising country, therefore some activities should be organised to have political and practical influence to the discipline within the country, as well as develop further collaboration on international level.

Due to the increasing number of research studies, which are not possible, follow during the conference, it is important that data presented is not left only within conference materials. Suggestion has been made to create an electronic WONCA Europe database of the abstracts of the conferences, which would be freely available through the WONCA Europe website. That would allow much more GPs all around the world access the materials of conference presentations, workshops, abstracts in their everyday practice or for research purposes as well as increase interest of physicians to attend the conferences.

Special attention was paid to the continuity of the conferences in regard to topics, quality requirements, organisational decisions. The current document on Strategy of WONCA Europe Conferences has contributed significantly to setting the quality standards and helping the conference organisers in their preparatory activities. This document has got a high attention outside the WONCA Europe (WE) region. Liaison persons with Wonca Europe have their responsibilities in helping the HOC as well as monitoring the preparation process according to the standard templates. However, the further step might be establishing the WE core group of experts that would be able to provide more help for the Scientific Committee in regard to the content of the conference.

Extensive discussion was held around the increasing numbers of conference participants. One of the suggestions was to arrange smaller regional conferences that would be able to address local needs, as it is in case of EURIPA conferences. However, majority of the group strongly agreed that our primary focus should be quality of the conference, and increasing number of professionals attending the events will be the result of that, as well as indicator that we better address needs of GPs/FPs in Europe. In spite of higher burden to HOC to organise the event for 4000 or more participants, it is undisputable benefit to get health care professionals together and give them opportunity to share their experiences, achievements, learn from each other and establish personal contacts.

Finally, the group agreed that it is crucial to continue this discussion during the next WONCA Europe Council meetings.

**Measures against the language barrier** (*Proposed by Josep Basora and José Miguel Bueno Ortiz, semFYC*):

1. Plenary session:
  - a. its content should be subtitled in the slides
  - b. presenters should talk slowly
  - c. its abstract/contents should be translated into the main European languages and at the disposal of the attendees before it starts
2. Workshop:
  - a. there should be a few workshops presented in easy English
  - b. its content should be subtitled in the slides
  - c. its abstract/contents should be translated into the main European languages and at the disposal of the attendees before it starts
  - d. its chairman should prevent speakers from speaking too fast
  - e. its chairman should produce summaries after each intervention

3. Oral paper:
  - a. its chairman should contact with the presenters beforehand to introduce himself, to know their level of English and to suggest them a few questions about their presentation for them to prepare the answers
  - b. its chairman should prevent speakers from speaking too fast
  - c. its chairman should produce summaries after each intervention
4. Poster:
  - a. its chairman should contact with the presenters beforehand to introduce himself, to know their level of English and to suggest them a few questions about their presentation for them to prepare the answers.
  - b. every poster should be presented
  - c. its chairman should prevent speakers from speaking too fast
  - d. its chairman should produce summaries after each intervention

**New ideas** (Summary by Igor Svab)

- Clearinghouse for collaborative research in family medicine. The idea is not to contribute to the study design, but we need a body for dissemination of results.
- Coordinating academic institutions of family medicine.
- European masters on primary care.
- Work better with UEMO.
- Provide the communication platform for various communities. We have a lot of expertise, but we don't share it.
- Regular update on situation in country. Electronically (web). To do that, we need indicators and measurable targets. Targets should be accepted at college levels.
- Finding evidence for success of primary care.
- Patient organisations and promotion of horizontal approach.