

Dear Colleagues

Based on decisions by the WE Council and the WE Executive the Bylaws committee had three tasks:

- 1) **look at the HER statement and see if we have to amend our Bylaws for that purpose**
- 2) **look at the election issue and come up with a change in these regulations**
- 3) **look if the bylaws are in line with current practice**

- 1) **look at the HER statement and see if we have to amend our Bylaws for that purpose**

A study of our bylaws did not identify any article to be reworded on the basis of the HER statement

To incorporate the essence of the HER statement in the Wonca Europe bylaws we propose to add the following statement to the Aims of the Organization (art 2.2):

2.2.4 Promulgating the pivotal role of gender as a determination of health, promoting the equitable inclusion and advancement of women general practitioners/family physicians in Wonca, and implementing gender equity in all activities in Wonca, in particular the scientific programs of its meetings

- 2) **look at the election issue and come up with a change in these regulations**

This issue arose from a different interpretation of the current bylaws (art 11). According to that article The president and vice president “shall be eligible to stand for two terms of office.” And other officers and members at large “shall be eligible for re-election for one further term of office.”

The interpretation by some was that it meant that after two terms as member at large it would be possible to become vice-president for two terms also. And later maybe president for two terms as well. Others meant that two terms in the Executive would be the maximum period whatsoever.

Continuity is an important factor for organizations but fresh blood is needed also. So in choosing a maximum period for membership of the Executive one has to balance these two. A period of 6 years is short, 9 years might be a good period but 12 years seems a reasonable maximum.

The proposal is to add to art 11:

Executive board membership in any capacity will be for a maximum of twelve years.

And add to each officer the same: *“shall be eligible to stand for two terms of this specific office”*

- 3) **look if the bylaws are in line with current practice**

There are may odd articles which seem not relevant to the current situation, but are also not in conflict with our current practice, They do not cause a problem and have not been dealt with.

There are 2 issues which need attention

- **The term EU**

The abbreviation EU is used in relation to EU Council and EU executive. To avoid any misunderstanding with the Council of the European Community we propose to change:

EU in WE (Wonca Europe) as is the normal way of referring to our Council

- **Yearly meeting**

Our current bylaws have the following articles:

ARTICLE 6: EUROPEAN MEETINGS

6.1 Regular European Meetings

6.1.1 There shall be Regular European Meetings of the Organization held in every **third calendar year**. This meeting shall be designated as a WONCA Regional Conference after receiving approval as prescribed in the WONCA Bylaws.

6.1.2 Such Regular European Meetings shall include a meeting of the EU-Executive, a meeting of EU-Council, a Scientific and/or Educational Conference and such other working party or committee meetings as shall be determined from time to time by EU- Executive or EU-Council.

6.1.3 At each Regular European Meeting, EU-Council shall designate the time and place for the next two succeeding Regular European Meetings.

ARTICLE 7: EUROPEAN COUNCIL

7.1 General Powers

The control and administration of the Organization shall be vested in the European Council (EU-Council) provided that the overall control and responsibility rests with World Council.

7.5.1 EU-Council shall meet yearly.

ARTICLE 11: OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

11.3.1.1 EU-Council at each of its Regular European Meetings shall elect a President, a Vice President, a Honorary Secretary and a Honorary Treasurer of the EU-Executive.

These articles are no longer in line with the current practice of

- having a European Conference every year,
- having a Council meeting during the conference,
- having elections every three years

We propose the following to adapt the bylaws accordingly including also that 6.1.3 will indicate that in a given year we will decide on the conference of that year + 4 (in 2008 we decide on $2008 + 4 = 2012$).

Furthermore we will include that our elections will be in a Council meeting directly preceding the Wonca World meeting in which elections will be held.

Procedure:

According to article 19 of our Bylaws proposed amendments of the Bylaws should be presented to Council members at least three (3) months before the meeting at which such amendments are to be acted upon.

We will therefore be able to discuss the proposals. If there is agreement they will be worded in the bylaws. They will be sent around at least three month's before the next Council meeting (Basel) where the voting will take place.

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