

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Since the last meeting of the Wonca Europe executive, I have been very busy, mostly attending meetings, responding to various requests and e-mails from different sources. The secretariat was very busy, especially with us getting involved in research projects, which is a new initiative, which will probably help us in earning more money, but which requires additional work from Barbara and her staff.

I will not report on a day to day activities, which usually involve answering e-mail requests and providing information (most of which is done by Barbara), and I will mostly concentrate on Wonca world and the travels I have done on behalf of the organisation.

WORLD WONCA

There was a meeting of Wonca world Executive in Dubai just after our last EB meeting in Istanbul. The meeting was organised in order to promote the family medicine development in this part of the world. As you may recall, a new Wonca region has been established (WONCA EMRO), and this was an inaugural meeting.

During the sessions, I presented our decisions regarding issues we have discussed in Istanbul and they have been accepted.

One of the big problems Wonca world is still money needed to finance an ambitious plan of family medicine development throughout the world, set out by Chris van Weel. The last financial report was negative also because the money from the levy of Paris was not included in the budget.

I was asked to attend the meeting of WHO Europe in Tallinn in June. Since I can not attend, Egle has taken over to represent Wonca world.

I have also proposed that the Leonardo course developed in Europe would be offered to the regions of Wonca world as a resource for teaching. Michael Kidd has accepted the initiative, but we must still find a source of funding of this activity.

TRAVEL

After the meeting in Istanbul, I have travelled to the following meetings:

The conference of ESR in Vienna (7.-8.3.)

I have attended the meeting of the European society of radiology. They hold their meetings annually in Vienna and the conferences attract about 25 000 participants. This year they have added a session: ESR meets other disciplines and family medicine was targeted as the first one. Christos Lionis, Manfred Maier and myself have represented us in a session where the same problems were commented by radiologists and us. The atmosphere was very friendly and there was a genuine feeling that this was a fruitful session and that we can and should learn from each other.

European forum for Primary care meeting in Ljubljana (28. – 29. 3.)

The meeting of the European forum for primary care was organised in Ljubljana in March. I was asked to give a keynote about the perspective of primary health centres in Eastern Europe. The meeting was organised by our National health insurance and was also well attended by policymakers and colleagues, a lot of them from Eastern Europe.

Meeting of heads of colleges in Lisbon (4.-6. 4.)

This event was organised by the Portuguese college on our behalf. It was a very impressive and important meeting of 23 head executives of European colleges. The aim of the meeting was to exchange opinions about the future and the exiting functioning of member colleges. An important issue that was discussed during the conference was the relationship of Wonca and UEMO and the potential of Wonca to get involved in policy discussions. There was a general dissatisfaction as to how UEMO is representing family medicine at the European level. I have explained the history of the relationship. I am hopeful that the situation will improve, but would also like to have ypour suggestions as to how this should be improved.

We probably should also discuss the possibiliites of this event becoming a regular one, since it has obviously proven to be successful. We have discussed a lot of things we have no time for during our regular council meetings.

Meeting wit teachers of general practice in Dublin (8.-10.4.)

I was invited by the organisers of training schemes in Ireland to give a presentation about a potential use of teaching agenda. After the presentation, I ran a series of three workshops on family medicine teaching and the use of teaching agenda in one-to-one teaching.

Portuguese college meeting in Porto (18.-20.4.)

I was invited by the organisers to have a presentation on the use of educational agenda in construction of the curricula and other uses in general practice. The meeting was attended by heads of teaching institutions of general practice from Portugal and some high policy officials (deans etc.). It was sponsored by a pharmaceutical industry which seems very keen in supporting primary care and family medicine without direct marketing for drugs.

A conference on e-health in Slovenia (6.5.)

The Slovenian government has organised a conference on e-health without frontiers in Portorož, Slovenia. I was invited to attend as a keynote at the opening of the conference, together with the Swedish minister of health, a representative of software producers and a representative of consumers. My role was to represent the medical profession

Other trips

I am still involved in family medicine retraining programme in Montenegro, which is doing well. I have made two trips there, doing teaching.

I am also leaving to an EURACT course in Iceland, which I will run together with Egle and other friends.

CONCLUSION

It was a rether hectic time with a lot of requests, some of which I could not fulfill. I have received at least two invitations to attend a meeting in Brussels on a short notice, which I could not accomodate. My timetable for the rest of the year is already very full and we should discuss how to continue functioning as a group. I feel we still have not started working together the way we should and that the functioning of the EB should be improved in the future if we want to develop the organisation in the future.