



**Wonca Europe Secretariat**  
**Institute for development of Family Medicine**  
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**Wonca Europe Council Meeting Warsaw 2011**  
**Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Venue: Culture and Science Palace**

**Delegates:**

1. Ilse Hellemann - Austrian Society of General Practice/Family Medicine
2. Christel Foriers - Belgian Society of General Practitioners/Family Physicians
3. Danijel Atijas - Association of Family Medicine in Republic Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
4. Mario Malnar - Coordination of Croatian Family Doctors (KOHOM)
5. Bohumil Seifert - Czech Society of General Practice
6. Roar Maagaard - Danish College of General Practitioners
7. Ruth Kalda - Estonian Society of Family Doctors
8. Paula Vainiomäki - Finnish Association for General Practice
9. Jean-Pierre Jacquet - French National College (CNGE)
10. Bodossakis Prodromos Merkouris - Greek Association of General Practitioners (ELEGEIA)
11. Andree Rochfort - Irish College of General Practitioners
12. Ernesto Mola - ASSIMEFAC, Italy
13. Giorgio Visentin - CSERMEG, Italy
14. JC Leners - Luxemburgish Scientific Society for General Practice
15. Marit Hermansen - Norwegian College of General Practitioners
16. Adam Windak - The College of Family Physician in Poland
17. Joao Sequeira Carlos - Portugese Association of GP
18. Rodica Tanasescu - Romanian Society of Family Medicine
19. Elena Novichkova - All Russian Fund - Association of General Practitioners of Russian Federation
20. Mateja Bulc - Slovenian Family Medicine Society
21. Jose Miguel Bueno Ortiz - Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine
22. Lars Agreus - Swedish Association of General Practice, also European Society for Primary Care Gastroenterology
23. Heritier Francois - Swiss Society of General Medicine
24. Arno Timmermans - Dutch College of General Practitioners
25. Yesim Uncu - Turkish Association of Family Practitioners
26. Luisa Pettigrew - Royal College GP, UK
27. Grigory I. Lysenko - Ukrainian Association of Family Medicine

**Observers:**

1. Aliaksandr Maksimiuk - Belarusian Association of GPs
2. Tanja Pekez-Pavlisko - KOHOM (Coordination of Croatian Family Doctors)
3. Jaroslava Lankova - Czech Society of General Practice
4. Jelle Stoffers - Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of General Practice - EJGP
5. John Wynn Jones - European Rural and Isolated Practitioner Association (EURIPA)
6. Jose Lopez Abuin - European Rural and Isolated Practitioner Association (EURIPA)
7. Pekka Honkanen - The Finnish Association for General Practice
8. Pierre-Louis Druais - French College of Teachers in GP/France
9. Vincent Renard - French College of Teachers in GP/France
10. Michele Lieurade - French College of Teachers in GP/France
11. Antonis Batikas - Greek Association of General Practitioners
12. Kyriakos Maltezis - 1st Montegut Global Scholar from the Wonca Europe Region
13. Theo Verheij - General Practice Respiratory Infections Network (GRIN)
14. Romain Stein - Luxemburgish Scientific Society for General Practice
15. Gisle Roksund - Norwegian College of General Practitioners
16. Alexandre Gouveia - Portuguese Association of General Practitioners
17. Simona Schnelbach - Romanian National Society of Family Medicine
18. Jana Bendova - Slovak Society of General Practice of Slovak Medical Association
19. Rob Dijkstra - Dutch College of General Practitioners
20. Okay Basak - Turkish Association of Family Physicians
21. Josep M Vilaseca - Wonca Europe Finance Committee, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine
22. Jim Reid, International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG)
23. Svein Henrichsen, International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG)
24. Richard Roberts - Wonca President
25. Chris van Weel - Wonca Past President
26. Alfred Loh - Wonca CEO

**From the Wonca Europe Executive Board and Wonca Europe Office:**

Tony Mathie - President of Wonca Europe  
 Anna Stavdal - Vice President of Wonca Europe  
 Carl Steylaerts - Hon. Treasurer of Wonca Europe  
 Job F. M. Metsemakers - Hon. Secretary of Wonca Europe  
 Janko Kersnik - EURACT representative  
 Tina Eriksson - EQUIP representative  
 Mehmed Ungan - EGPRN representative  
 Barbara Toplek - Wonca Europe Secretariat

**Council Meeting - 1<sup>st</sup> part**

**Business Meeting (13.00 - 14.30)**

1. Welcome by the President  
 Tony Mathie welcomed the Council.

Richard Roberts, Wonca President and Tony Mathie introduced the Montegut Global Scholars programme and Dr. Maltezis Kyriakos from Greece as the first Montegut Global Scholar from the Wonca Europe region.

2. Approval of the Agenda  
Agenda was approved.
3. Determination of Quorum  
The quorum should be a simple majority of the Member Countries of Wonca Europe (including proxies) who have paid their dues. 27 of 45 member organizations were present, quorum was reached.
4. Approval of the Minutes, Malaga 2010  
Minutes were approved.
  - Matters arising from the Minutes  
No matters arose for discussion.
5. President's Report  
Written report was sent to the council and did not lead to further questions.  
Composition of the Executive Board in future: the president presented the history of the discussions on this topic. Based on that he formulated the current proposal from the Executive Board: VdGM representative to be invited to the Executive Board meetings as observer (without the voting right). The proposal was not accepted.  
Several council members gave their different opinions. The matter to be discussed in the working groups after the business meeting.  
Executive will prepare a firm proposal for Vienna 2012.
6. Honorary Treasurer's Report  
Written report was sent to the Council. The issue of unpaid dues was discussed (Cyprus, Kyrgyzstan, Israel and Lithuania).  
Wonca Europe will inform Wonca World that we consider Cyprus excluded.  
Kyrgyzstan: Wonca Europe will ask Wonca World to act as they wish on the membership issue.  
  
Wonca Coin Proposal  
Carl Steylaerts presented the proposal. Several questions were posed. The proposal will be spread around the colleges. Treasurers should contact Carl. A much more clarified proposal shall be ready for Vienna 2012.
7. Reports from the Networks/Collaborative Organisations:
  - EURIPA: John Wynn Jones reported.
  - EUROPREV. Mateja Bulc reported. Arno Timmermans raised the question whether Prevention should not be integrated in the activities of all other Networks
  - VdGM: Luisa Pettigrew reported.
  - EURACT: Janko Kersnik reported.
  - EGPRN: Mehmet Urgan reported.
  - EQUIP: Tina Eriksson reported.  
All reports were accepted.
8. Collaboration with WESIG's - Policy Document  
The council accepted the proposal to continue the collaboration with WESIG's for the next three years. Contracts will be renewed.

9. Collaboration with UEMO and EFPC  
Anna Stavdal reported. Meetings are being held on regular basis. It should be considered as work in progress in the early stage.
10. European Journal of General Practice  
Jelle Stoffers reported. The Executive Board congratulated him on his good work. It is very important that the EJGP will have an Impact factor. Wonca EB will work with the publisher on the future of the Journal.
11. Wonca Europe Website Plan  
After the Lisbon meeting, a small project team, consisting of 2 members from Vasco da Gama and Carl Steylaerts has been set up. The group will proceed with the presented plan. The results will be presented in Vienna 2012. Full functionality of the website should be reached by Lisbon 2014.
12. 5 Star Doctor Award  
Invitation and documentation will be sent out to colleges in time to present the award for Vienna 2012.
13. Anniversary Fund  
100.000 USD is foreseen to be available; invitation for bids will be sent out soon.
14. Bursary program for Wonca World Prague 2013  
30.000 USD will be available for 30 doctors.
15. Future Conferences:
  - WE 2012 Vienna, Austria (4 - 7 July): Janko Kersnik, Wonca Europe liaison and Manfred Maier reported:  
  
Scientific programme in Vienna: there will be two sets of key note speakers presenting scientific and art one. Key speaker on scientific themes will be identified by an open invitation to send a paper to BMJ special issue. HOC has arrangements with key note speaker from different art fields. Individuals and networks will be invited to send their presentations through the main computerised abstract system. International reviewers will be sought. Involvement of networks and special interest groups - both will be invited by a letter from the chair of the scientific committee.
  - WW 2013 Prague, Czech Republic (26 - 29 June)  
Bohumil Seifert presented his report.
  - WE 2014 Lisbon, Portugal (2 - 5 July)  
Joao Sequeira Carlos reported.
16. Bids for Wonca Europe Conference in 2015:  
Two bids were presented:
  - French National College of Teachers in General Practice (CNGE)
  - Turkish Association of Family Physicians (TAHUD)
 After the voting, Turkey was elected to organize the 2015 conference.
17. Wonca Europe Plan 2010-2013

- New Strategic Tasks for the next decade

The new set of Strategic tasks will be included with other issues in the Wonca Europe plan. Other issues have been discussed in the Lisbon meeting. The EB will work out a plan.

#### 18. Quo Vadis, Family Medicine? (from the Romanian National Society of Family Medicine)

The Council acknowledged the difficult position of the Romanian Family Physicians and supported the actions of the EB

#### 19. Any other Business

No additional items were discussed.

Announcement of the next Council Meeting: Vienna, Austria: 4 July 2012 (full day)

### **Council Meeting - 2<sup>nd</sup> part**

#### **Revision of the European Definition of General practice/Family Medicine:**

Further explanation and changes were presented by Ernesto Mola. The revised version was accepted by the council.

The secretariat will see that the revised version will become available at the Wonca Europe Website.

#### **Group Sessions (14.30 - 16.00)**

After short clarification, the council was divided into six groups. Three main topics were discussed:

- Composition of the Executive Board and the Council in future
- EB - Council Meeting Scheme
- How to support countries which need help

Short feedback from the groups: (16.00 - 16.30)

#### **Composition of the Executive Board and the Council in future**

- EB overrepresentation Networks; EB 5-8 persons; open elections
- Networks: only observer
- Nominating liaison person out of the Committee for all three networks
- EB composition = 4-7 members, not more!
  - o A elected EB + 1 member from Vasco da Gamma with or without voting rights.  
No network members with or without voting rights in EB/EC (observers only)
  - o B EB expanded with advisory board comprising of networks, associations and interest groups.
- Opinion raised about Vasco da Gamma having no special places - SAME RULES FOR EVERYONE
- EB 1x/year meets with advisory
- NO EB/EC positions for networks/groups
- Intermediate solution; bring in Wesig's; 3 positions with open elections

- Members elected by Council: 2 seats major networks; 2 Wesigs; 1 VdGM
- Add VdGM member and leave other 3 places as they are at present due to political controversy. However there was some unease regarding the role in democracy of having 3 'semi-elected' places and unfairness to the other networks. Perhaps if the network representatives are valuable enough they will be voted on anyway.

### **EB - Council Meeting Scheme**

- Council: Wonca world 3 day is too long; Wonca Europe on the basis of subjects every other year
- ½ day meeting (to lower cost)
- More efficiency: only discussion about problem areas: example 2 topics
- More in between: like more discussion on internet, phone meetings
- No sending reports only 1 week in advance
- Prepare more in advance
- Start communicating
- Only discuss on meetings the topics that were not accepted before on the meetings through internet
- 2 times a year only if needed
- EB/council meetings - once in 2 years.
- 2 day meeting - countries bidding for it (smaller first or problematic first)
- EB has to make a list of AIMS/GOALS for the next 10 year period + plans for yearly assesment
  - o goals for EU Wonca
  - o For GP/FD in Europe
  - o Financing of Wonca-improvement needed
- Wonca EU lobbying with national governments/ EU comission/EU parliament
- One day; maybe two day's in Prague
- Council every two years for small countries; at conference a one day council
- Considered proposal for council to meet all day and the executive meeting the previous day. And/or a separate time during the year (at least) every triennium, this would have the advantage of allowing smaller countries to host council meeting for Wonca
- Hosting an additional meeting is a good opportunity for countries unable to host a full conference who need to raise the profile of FM
- Important to meet in person however more modern mediums of communication to increase activity between meetings are urgently needed
- Agree in principle with holding an additional biennial meeting - however concerns regarding additional financial burden on individual colleges and this needs to be discussed by council members and their colleges. There is a risk of not meeting quorum if there is not full support

### **How to support countries which need help**

- The kind of problem determines the support; EB can set up a taskforce
- Make contact with colleges of countries who are not present
- Find out what their problems are, what they need, how to approach them
- Approach governments/ policy makers

- Organise meetings with local colleges or governments
- Share the resources (knowledge, money...)
- EMERGENCIES-types?
- Assesed by EB and applicant on a case by case basis
- EB flying intervention squad - countries applies with a problem and suggests solution-EB + experts in the field come and help out with solving it.
- Defining minimal (EU WONCA ENDORSED) standards for family medicine everyone should strive to (+governments).
- Tailor-made
- Twinning is a good approach; make a Wonca information kit
- There is value in supporting individual attendance at conferences e.g. Czech Republic - suggested having a fund for Eastern European countries to attend conference in 2013. EURACT, EGPRN and EQuIP are already organising courses in countries where FM is not so well developed, with reduced (or no) fees. However wider support is needed e.g. to develop curricula, influence policymakers. We need to be clear about what countries we are talking about, who is asking for help and what do they want?
  - o Holding council meetings in countries where FM is not as recognised may be beneficial
  - o WONCA helping set up national conferences within countries where FM is not as recognised may be beneficial
  - o Need to create an online resource e.g. 'How to convince policy makers about the value of primary care' (this can include easily comprehensible evidence and standard letter from WONCA +/- support from other international organisations such as the WHO)

All comments will be taken into account when describing policy proposals for these issues.