



Wonca Europe Council Meeting Singapore 2007

Venue: Marina Mandarin, Leo room, Singapore
Date/time: Friday, July 20, 2007/13:00 – 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
Bohumil Seifert, Czech Society of General Practice/Family Medicine
Peter Torsten Soerensen, Danish College of General Practitioners, DSAM
Bernard Gay, College National des Generalistes Enseignants, CNGE
Peter Engeser, German Association of GP/FM, DEGAM
Christos Lionis, Greek Association of General Practitioners, ELEGIA
Mark Walsh, Irish College of General Practitioners
Visentin Giorgio, Centro Studio e Ricerche in Medicina Generale
Ernesto Mola, Italian Scientific Association, ASSIMEFAC
Arno E. Timmermans, Dutch College of General Practitioners
Gisle Roksund, Norwegian College of General Practitioners
Adam Windak, College of Family Physicians in Poland
Luis Pisco, Portuguese Association of General Practitioners
Tonka Poplas Susič, Slovenian Family Medicine Society/Slovenian Medical Association
Dolores Fores, 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
Tony Mathie, Royal College of General Practitioners

Observers

Pierre-Louis Druais, College National des Generalistes Enseignants, CNGE
Jose Miguel Bueno, Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine
Job Metsemakers, Dutch College of General Practitioners
Nezih Dagdeviren, Turkish Association of Family Physicians

Bruce Sparks, Wonca President, South Africa
Chris van Weel, Wonca President Elect, The Netherlands
Alfred Loh, Wonca Secretariat, CEO, Singapore
Christos Lionis, Wonca Rural Working Group (EURIPA)
Bohumil Seifert, European Society for Primary Care Gastroenterology (ESPCG)

**Minutes of the Wonca Europe Council Meeting
Singapore, 20 July 2007**

Gabriel Ivbijaro, Wonca Working Party on mental Health
Cheril Levitt, Wonca Working Party on Women in Family Medicine
Bjorn Gjelsvik, Wonca Europe Vice-President
Maarten Klomp, Wonca Europe Hon. Secretary
Tony Mathie, Wonca Europe Hon. Treasurer
Christos Lionis, 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)
Barbara Toplek, Wonca Europe Secretariat

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President

President Igor Švab opened the meeting. The attendants introduced themselves. As all but two of the colleges represented at the meeting had paid the membership fee for 2007, the council formed a quorum.

The president informed the council that any additional nominations for elections must be handed out to Bjorn Gjelsvik by 16.00.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved. The matter of Wonca – ICOH collaboration is on the agenda under item 13.

3. Approval of minutes of the last meeting held in Florence, August 2006

a. Matters arising from the minutes

The minutes were approved with the following comments:

Item 4 – information about the Executive Board election was not correct. Christos Lionis can run again for a next post. To avoid the misunderstanding in the future the Wonca Europe Bylaws have to be revisited. The bylaws committee will have to look into it. This task to be taken by the new Executive Board.

4. President's Report

The president gave a written report. He reported on items from the Wonca World Executive Meeting held a few days before. Wonca has increased its membership with 3 new members from Europe (Serbia, Russia and Armenia). So far Wonca Europe embraces 42 countries.

Relations to Wonca World:

- The issue of the subtrust will be put on the agenda for the next meeting in Paris. We will ask Alfred Loh to prepare a proposal and we will reserve time for his presentation.
- The issue of Wonca World/Wonca Europe conferences. The Austrian College put the matter on the agenda of the European council and the Italian College on the World Council Agenda.
- The information about the Wonca World elections of new officers: 3 candidates for president, more for members at large.
- Wonca World conference in 2013: we have 5 candidates (Barcelona, Italy, Greece, Vienna and Prague).
- Wonca designated conferences: Wonca World proposed to raise its share to 50% from every conference (from Paris conference on). The subject was fully discussed. A fee for

Wonca World based upon mean conference benefits or even a fixed amount of money seems reasonable. Wonca Europe suggestion was 20%.

Decision: levies will be discussed further in Paris between the Executive board of Wonca Europe and the CEO.

- Satellite Symposia: Wonca Europe still hasn't received money from the satellite symposia. The Honorary Treasurer will take this matter up.

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Report was given by Tony Mathie. So far no fees have been received from Wonca World from either Membership Organizations or from individual members.

Due to the significant expenses of coming to Singapore the Executive Budget for 2007 has already been exceeded. The total after Paris is likely to be around \$30,000 against a budget of \$25,000.

We are subsidizing 3 more organizations (EURIPA, EUROPREV and Vasco da Gama). These organizations, together with EURACT, EGPRN and EQUIP, will each receive \$8,000 in 2007, \$9,000 in 2008 and \$10,000 in 2009 (a total of \$162,000 over the three years). In 2007 the balances due will be paid after the Membership Organization Fees have been received from Wonca World.

Hon. Treasurer confirmed that the subsidizing of the network and collaborating organizations depends on an approved programme and budget proposal.

Support at this level does depend on the continuing success of the Wonca Europe Conferences and on holding them at least every year that there is not a Wonca World Conference in Europe.

A simplified financial reporting mechanism for these organizations is being prepared.

The idea of a Wonca Europe scholarship for Cancun was raised. To be discussed in the future.

The president's and Honorary Treasurer's reports 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.

The president thanked Christos Lionis and Luis Pisco for their contribution to the work of Wonca Europe.

Arno Timmermans suggested having network's council meetings during the Wonca Europe Conferences as much as possible.

7. European Journal of General Practice

The report from Taylor & Francis was sent out with the agenda papers. Their proposal to increase the number of pages was accepted. How to increase the number of subscribers in separate countries was discussed. Some suggestions were made: Member organizations might be interested to have an electronic version within their membership fees when the price is low. (for instance 1€ per GP). Maybe this is possible in combination with large numbers of submissions)

Decision: All suggestions to be sent to Wonca Europe. The EB will present the proposals to Taylor & Francis.

8. Wonca Europe Foundation

The report was given by Maarten Klomp. It was decided in Florence that Wonca Europe should create her own legal entity and formally take over the ownership of the European Journal of General Practice as soon as possible. After Florence the Executive Board of Wonca Europe took the necessary steps to incorporate a foundation in the Netherlands. The Stichting Wonca Europe (Wonca Europe Foundation) was officially incorporated at the office of a civil law notary in the Netherlands on 06.03.2007.

After the foundation was incorporated Wonca Europe formally took over the ownership from the Dutch College, and officially registered the brand according to the Dutch brand legislation. As final step a new contract was signed between Wonca Europe and the publisher, Taylor & Francis, replacing the contract between T&F and the Dutch College.

As a result of this Wonca Europe now finally is the official owner of the title and the copyright of the European Journal of General Practice.

Maarten Klomp and the Dutch College were thanked for their excellent work and contribution.

9. Wonca Europe website

The website report was tabled. According to the Paris decision the Wonca Europe head banner should be added to the websites of the three networks.

Some suggestions were made: To create a Wonca Europe newsletter for member organizations. EJGP has a News section – to connect it with the Wonca Europe website.

10. Sponsorship policy

- a. Counterproposal to the proposal of the executive board of Wonca Europe to the Wonca Europe Guidelines on External Sponsorship - SSMG/SGAM Switzerland and ÖGAM Austria.

Bjorn Gjelsvik reported and Bruno Kissling commented the counterproposal. After discussion it turned out this is not a counterproposal at all: the underlined bits in the second paragraph should be added; points 7 and 8 from the box and last two paragraphs should be deleted. Decision: There are still some formulations that need to be changed. Bjorn Gjelsvik, Gisle Roksund, Meta Wiborgh, Bruno Kissling and Ilse Hellemann will prepare a final version. Amendments will be brought to Paris where the final version will be adopted.

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

Bjorn Gjelsvik gave his presentation. The work of the 4th Joint Task Force is nearly finished. The document has now undergone a new, second peer review. Arno Hoes and Bjorn Gjelsvik as members of the Task Force and Edmond Walma as a contributing expert are working on this project on behalf of Wonca Europe. The 2007 Guidelines are much more in line with GP thinking and priorities than the earlier versions. The full text is very large - more than 300 pages with tables and references. A Pocket Guideline will also be published, together with a flowchart and electronic versions. The ESC Guidelines committee will coordinate the publishing process. The full text will be published in the European Journal of CV Prevention and Rehabilitation (an ESC Journal) in its August issue, and there will be Co-publishing of the Executive Summary in several European Specialty Journals.

The final document will probably not be very different from the draft document (dated 22-06-07) which was sent out with the agenda papers.

The Wonca expert group has a session during the Singapore conference to present the Guidelines.

Decision: The proposal presented by Bjorn Gjelsvik was accepted. Bjorn Gjelsvik is going to write an article for EJGP. The working group on this matter could also collaborate in the future. There will be an evaluation of the process as well. As a result of this evaluation the conditions for Wonca Europe's future collaboration in multidisciplinary guidelines must be defined.

Igor Švab congratulated Bjorn Gjelsvik on his excellent work. This is one of the major achievements of Wonca Europe.

12. Collaborative organizations

- Vasco da Gama Movement - the report has been sent and accepted.
- European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO) - no report
- European Rural and Isolated Practitioners Association (EURIPA) – the report was accepted
- European Network for Prevention and Health Promotion in Family Medicine and General Practice (EUROPREV)
 - Financing of network organizations by Wonca Europe (EUROPREV, EURIPA, VdGM - Carlos Brotons- EUROPREV network

The report was accepted. Their proposal has been dealt with in the treasurer's report.

13. Special interest Groups/SIG

- a. Wonca-ICOH collaboration: ICOH was accepted as a new Wonca Europe Special interest group. Wonca Europe has no budget for their request to fund them with 10.000 USD.
- b. Wonca Europe - SIG meeting will be held on July 25th. We are proposing a discussion how to incorporate them within Wonca Europe.

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

The paper, revised by Egle Žebiene and commented by Tony Mathie was tabled to the council and accepted.

15. The new Wonca Europe targets.

Christos Lionis gave a short report. Wonca needs to consider new strategic goals for the future. There will be breakout sessions at the Wonca World Council Meeting. We can do the same for Wonca Europe in Paris.

Decision: Christos Lionis will prepare a group work during our meeting in Paris. Some of the papers Wonca Europe and its networks prepared in recent years will be used. We will reserve one hour.

16. Best oral presentation by a young researcher.

Egle Žebiene contacted Vasco da Gama. It turned out to be a private initiative and not an initiative that came from Vasco da Gama. The idea about a special award is good and could be developed further. A proposal to be prepared for Paris.

17. The HER Statement - Wonca's 10 Steps to Gender Equity in Health" - The Norwegian College of General Practice

Wonca Europe supports the statement and will recommend its member organizations to do the same.

The bylaws committee will be asked to make a proposal to review the bylaws in case gender equity is not properly addressed.

18. Dues - Carl Steylaerts, BSGP/FP

The figures of the membership that are declared for the dues are not always accurate for a number of countries/colleges. Carl Steylaerts proposed to the Executive Board to investigate this and report back within a year. His proposal has been discussed at Wonca World Executive Board meeting as well. It is decided to ask the finance subcommittee to deal with this.

19. Proposed Symposium on the Tobacco Pandemic

There is going to be a symposium on the Tobacco Pandemic during the conference in Paris. Also the group might join Wonca Europe as a special interest group on tobacco. Rick Botelho is invited to the SIG Meeting.

20. WONCA Europe Conference 2012

An innovative idea of future virtual conference was proposed by Carl Steylaerts. This idea could be interesting for future conferences after Malaga 2010. Belgium itself considers a nomination.

21. Future Conferences

Information about the Singapore conference:

- ASSIMEFAC Initiative – the proposal for unifying world and regional conferences will be withdraw. It will be dealt by a Wonca Europe working committee.
- There will be breakout sessions
- The 1st meeting of Wonca working party on education will take place.

Information about other conferences:

- 19 - 21 June, 2008 - Granada, Spain (Depression in Primary Care; more information about the conference on Wonca Europe website)
- 4 - 6 April, 2008 – Lisbon, Portugal (The invitational conference for college leaders) Luis Pisco presented the conference. Two persons from every European college will be invited. The organizers will cover the accommodation but no travel expenses. Invitations will be sent in September through Wonca Europe secretariat.
- EURIPA - Wonca rural conference in Crete 2009 (June).

Reports from future Wonca conferences:

- 2007 Paris, France 17 – 20 October

Preparations are going well. 2400 delegates already registered. The conference is going to be followed by scientific congresses in France. 1393 abstracts (122 French abstracts) and 80 workshops have been submitted.

- 2008 Istanbul, Turkey 4 – 7 September

Erdem Birgul gave a short report, a detailed presentation to be held in Paris. The organizers are facing problems with the scientific committee and are a bit behind schedule. The EB and also some council members strongly advised that experienced representatives of Wonca and the Networks join the scientific committee. Paris has very good experience with that. It is decided that the liaison person from the EB (Maarten Klomp) will have a close look into the developments, in an extra meeting in Singapore and another one in Paris. We should think about a revision of the guidelines regarding the composition of the scientific committee.

- 2009 Basel, Switzerland

Bruno Kissling gave a presentation, Egle Žebiene is liaison person from Wonca Europe. There was a levy discussion during their meeting in Magglingen, which has been resolved.

- 2010 Malaga, Spain October

Toni Dedeu is absent; a brief report was given by Jose Miguel Bueno. Tony Mathie is liaison person from Wonca Europe. The contract needs to be signed.

- 2011 Conference

The decision will be made on bids received in Paris.

22. Elections

Wonca Europe Executive Committee for the period 2008-2010 was elected:

- President : Igor Švab, Slovenia, elected by acclamation
- Vice President: Meta Wiborgh, Sweden
- Honorary Secretary: Job Metsemakers, The Netherlands
- Honorary treasurer: Tony Mathie, The United Kingdom

Representatives from Network Organizations in Wonca Europe Executive Committee:

- Eva Hummers Pradier for EGPRN
- Egle Žebiene for EURACT
- Marianne Samuelsson for EQUIP

New members of the Standing Committees are:

- Finance committee: Tony Mathie, Carl Steylaerts, Luis Pisco + one member of the executive
- Nomination committee: Meta Wiborgh, Giorgio Visentin, Arno Timmermans
- Bylaws committee: Job Metsemakers, Gisle Roksund, Erdem Birgul
- Membership committee: Dolores Fores, Bohumil Seifert + one member of the executive

23. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Paris, October 17, 10.00 – 16.00.

The old and new Executive Board will meet on October 16th, at 17.00.

24. Any other business

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