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July 21st, 2015

To: WONCA Europe Member Organisations

Subject: Proposals to change some articles in WONCA Europe Bylaws

In accordance with our Bylaws we inform you about the proposals to change some articles in our Bylaws. This will be an item at the Agenda of our Istanbul Council Meeting of October 22nd, 2015.

We present three packages of changes. Each of them is a separate entity which will be voted on separately. These are the packages:

Package 1: changes to correct articles which are incorrect

Package 2: the president, president elect and immediate past president

Package 3: the VdGM as Network

We have to make clear that this means that acceptance of Package 1 only, will lead to small changes. Package 2 is described on its own also, but the combination of package 1 and 2 will have different effects which have not been worked out in detail, as we do not know if both packages will be accepted.

I will try to make this clear with an example:

In Package 1 we change the length of a term of an officer “will be 3 years” in “will last around 3 years until the conclusion of the next Regular European Meeting in which voting has occurred”.

In Package 2 we introduce a President-elect. In line with the original wordings of the length of term, the proposed article reads: “The term of office of the President-elect shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs and will be 3 years.”

If Package 1 has also been approved, the article will read: “The term of office of the President-elect shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs and will last around 3 years until the conclusion of the next Regular European Meeting in which voting has occurred”.

We hope that we can concentrate in the discussion and voting on the core element of the proposed change and its consequences for the relevant articles. We hope you will trust that the fine tuning will take place afterwards.

The goals of each change will be described, and the current and new articles will be presented.

During our Council meeting you will have the opportunity to ask questions. We would however be very grateful if you would send your questions to our secretariat ahead of the Council Meeting so we can prepare answers and clarifications. This will ensure a smooth discussion and voting.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metsemakers". The signature is stylized, with a large vertical stroke and horizontal strokes at the top and bottom.

Prof Job FM Metsemakers
President WONCA Europe

Package 1: Changes to correct articles which are incorrect

The current WE bylaws say in 11.2.1.3: "The term of office of the President shall begin at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which the installation as President occurs, and will be 3 years".

According to this "will be 3 years" my term will be officially over in July 2016, as I was chosen in Prague in July 2013. Elections for the Executive will be later in October 2016 in Rio. I know that nobody finds this a problem in Europe but it is incorrect.

As we cannot set our elections at a specified month we will have to rely on a description such as: "The term of office of the President shall begin at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which the installation as President occurs, and will last around 3 years until the conclusion of the next Regular European Meeting in which voting has occurred".

Current

11.2.1.3. The term of office of the President shall begin at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which the installation as President occurs, and will be 3 years.

New

11.2.1.3. The term of office of the President shall begin at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which the installation as President occurs, and will last around 3 years until the conclusion of the next Regular European Meeting in which voting has occurred

Current

11.2.2.2 The term of office of the Vice President shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs and will be 3 years.

New

11.2.2.2 The term of office of the Vice President shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs, and will last around 3 years until the conclusion of the next Regular European Meeting in which voting has occurred

Current

11.2.3.2. The term of office of the Honorary Secretary shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs, and will be 3 years.

New

11.2.3.2. The term of office of the Honorary Secretary shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs, and will last around 3 years until the conclusion of the next Regular European Meeting in which voting has occurred.

Current

11.2.4.2. The term of office of the Honorary Treasurer shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs and will be 3 years.

New

11.2.4.2. The term of office of the Honorary Treasurer shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs, and will last around 3 years until the conclusion of the next Regular European Meeting in which voting has occurred.

Current

11.2.5.4. Their term of office shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which they are elected and will be 3 years.

New

11.2.5.4. Their term of office shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which they are elected and will last around 3 years until the conclusion of the next Regular European Meeting in which voting has occurred.

Current

7.4.1 Official Observers

Wonca Europe -Council shall admit as observers to its meetings:

7.4.1.1 Regional Vice Presidents of WONCA

New

7.4.1 Official Observers

Wonca Europe -Council shall admit as observers to its meetings:

7.4.1.1 Regional Presidents of WONCA

Package 2: the president, president elect, and immediate past president

There are several reasons to change the current President – Vice President structure. In the current situation it is possible that the president and vice president will change every 3 years. In addition there is no task description for the Vice President.

To strengthen the continuity of governance we propose to follow the system of WONCA World: a president elect for one term, a president for one term, and an immediate past president for one year. In this way there will be more continuity while at the same time length of stay in the Executive is not prolonged. The president elect can already focus on some topics to be dealt with during the presidency, and the immediate past president can wrap up topics properly.

Consequences are that the number of persons in the Executive will be changed, the new positions President elect and Immediate past president have to be included. Furthermore the President elect and the President can only have one term of office.

Current

ARTICLE 8: EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8.1 Composition

There shall be an European Executive (Wonca Europe -Executive) Committee composed of the President of the Organization, who shall be Chairperson, the Vice President, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer and three Members at Large. Not more than two members of the Wonca Europe - Executive shall be from the one country. Both sexes shall normally be represented in the Wonca Europe - Executive Committee

New

There shall be an European Executive (Wonca Europe – Executive) Committee composed of the President of the Organization, who shall be Chairperson, the President Elect, the Immediate Past President, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer and three Members at Large. Not more than two members of the Wonca Europe - Executive shall be from the same country. Both sexes shall normally be represented in the Wonca Europe - Executive Committee

Current

9.1.2.1 The European Nominating Committee shall consist of the Vice President, who shall be Chairperson, and two other members, who shall be Members of Wonca Europe - Council.

New

9.1.2.1. The European Nominating Committee shall consist of the President Elect, who shall be Chairperson, and two other members, who shall be Members of Wonca Europe – Council.

Current

ARTICLE 11: OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

11.1 Composition

The Officers of the Organization shall be:

11.1.1 The President

11.1.2 The Vice President

11.1.3 The Honorary Secretary

11.1.4 The Honorary Treasurer
11.1.5 Three Members at Large

New

11.1.1 The President

11.1.2 The President-elect

11.1.3 The Immediate Past President

11.1.4 The Honorary Secretary

11.1.5 The Honorary Treasurer

11.1.6 Three Members at Large

Current

11.2.0 Terms of Office

Executive board membership in any capacity will be for a maximum of nine years, except for the president who could serve a second term as president and stay in the executive Board for twelve years.

New

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

Current

11.2.1.4 The President shall be eligible to stand for two terms of this specific office.

New

11.2.1.4 The President will become Immediate Past President automatically after the term as President

Current

11.2.1.5 In the event of the death or resignation of the President during the President's term of office or if the President shall for any reason be unable or unqualified to serve, the Vice President shall succeed to the office of President for the unexpired portion of the President's term.

New

11.2.1.5 In the event of the death or resignation of the President during the President's term of office or if the President shall for any reason be unable or unqualified to serve, the President elect shall succeed to the office of President for the unexpired portion of the President's term

Current

11.2.2 The Vice President

11.2.2.1 The Vice President shall be a member of the Wonca Europe -Executive and of the Wonca Europe -Coun cil.

11.2.2.2 The term of office of the Vice President shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs and will be 3 years.

11.2.2.3 The Vice President shall be eligible to stand for two terms of this specific office.

11.2.2.4 If the Vice President succeeds the President in accordance with Section 2.1.5 of this Article he/she shall be eligible for one further term of office.

11.2.2.5 The Vice President shall serve as Chairperson of the European Nominating Committee

New

11.2.2 The President-elect

11.2.2.1 The President-elect shall be a member of the Wonca Europe -Executive and of the Wonca Europe -Council.

11.2.2.2 The term of office of the President-elect shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs and will be 3 years.

11.2.2.3 The President-elect shall be eligible to stand for one term of this specific office.

11.2.2.4 The President-elect will become President automatically after the term as President-elect

11.2.2.5 If the President-elect succeeds the President in accordance with Section 2.1.5 of this Article he/she shall still become President in the next term.

11.2.2.6 The President-elect shall serve as Chairperson of the European Nominating Committee

New

11.2.3 The Immediate Past President

11.2.3.1 The Immediate Past President shall be a member of the Wonca Europe - Executive and of the Wonca Europe -Council.

11.2.3.2 The term of office of the Immediate Past President shall commence at the conclusion of the Regular European Meeting at which election occurs and will be 1 year.

11.2.3.3 The Immediate Past President will have no voting rights

Current

11.3 Elections and Appointments

11.3.1 President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Wonca Europe - Executive

11.3.1.1 Wonca Europe -Council at a Council meeting, directly preceding the Wonca World meeting in which elections are held,,shall elect a President, a Vice President, a Honorary Secretary and a Honorary Treasurer, of the Wonca Europe -Executive.

New

11.3 Elections and Appointments

11.3.1 President-elect, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Wonca Europe - Executive

11.3.1.1 Wonca Europe -Council at a Council meeting, directly preceding the Wonca World meeting in which elections are held, shall elect a President-elect, a Honorary Secretary and a Honorary Treasurer of the Wonca Europe -Executive.

Current

11.3.2 Voting

11.3.2.1 The election of the President, the Vice President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer of Wonca Europe -Executive shall be by ballot.

New

11.3.2.1 The election of the President-elect, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer of Wonca Europe -Executive shall be by ballot.

Current

11.3.3 Death, resignation or incapacity

11.3.3.1 In the event of the death, resignation or incapacity of the President, or if the President should become ineligible for the office, the Vice President shall assume the office of President. In the event of the death, resignation, or incapacity of the Vice President, or if the Vice President should become President during the term of office as Vice President, then Wonca Europe -Council shall elect another Vice President for the unexpired portion of the appropriate term or terms, in such a manner as here outlined.

11.3.3.1.1 The Honorary Secretary shall call for nominations from Member Organizations for the position of Vice President and at the same time inform members of Wonca Europe - Council that there will be an election by Postal Vote by members of Wonca Europe -Council to be held 56 days following the time notified for the closing of nominations.

New

11.3.3 Death, resignation or incapacity

11.3.3.1 In the event of the death, resignation or incapacity of the President, or if the President should become ineligible for the office, the President-elect shall assume the office of President. In the event of the death, resignation, or incapacity of the President-elect, then Wonca Europe -Council shall elect another President-elect, in such a manner as here outlined.

11.3.3.1.1 The Honorary Secretary shall call for nominations from Member Organizations for the position of President-elect and at the same time inform members of Wonca Europe - Council that there will be an election by Postal Vote by members of Wonca Europe -Council to be held 56 days following the time notified for the closing of nominations.

Package 3: the VdGM as Network

In 2014 we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Vasco da Gama Movement (VdGM) during our WONCA Europe Lisbon conference. The first activities were undertaken during the 2004 WONCA Europe meeting in Amsterdam. The group of young doctors organised themselves into the Vasco da Gama Movement in Portugal in 2005. Since then the VdGM has become larger and more professionally organised with its own constitution, executive, council, and working parties.

At the 2012 Vienna Council Meeting we discussed to have a member of VdGM at the WONCA Europe Executive Board. WONCA Europe Council agreed with a pilot for 3 years, without a change of the Bylaws.

Now in 2015 WONCA Europe Executive Board looks back at a very successful pilot. Harris Lygidakis, the chair of VdGM has participated in the WONCA Europe Executive Board. He has actively been involved in all aspects of our activities.

In line with the discussion and decision in Vienna the WONCA Europe Executive Board proposes to make the current situation an official one, with a change in the Bylaws.

In Vienna we also discussed the position of Euripa and Europrev in the WONCA Europe Executive Board. This is a still ongoing discussion. Therefore there is no proposal at this moment on Euripa and Europrev, nor a complete other composition of the WONCA Europe Executive Board.

Current

3.1.1.2 The European Academy of Teachers in General Practice /Family Medicine (Acronym: EURACT), the European General Practice Research Network (Acronym: EGPRN) and the WONCA European Working Party on Quality Assurance in Family Practice (Acronym: EQuIP) in accordance with Section 2.5 of Article 11 of these Bylaws.

New

3.1.1.2 The European Academy of Teachers in General Practice /Family Medicine (Acronym: EURACT), the European General Practice Research Network (Acronym: EGPRN) and the WONCA European Working Party on Quality Assurance in Family Practice (Acronym: EQuIP), the Vasco da Gama Movement (Acronym: VdGM) in accordance with Section 2.5 of Article 11 of these Bylaws.

Current

ARTICLE 8: EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8.1 Composition

There shall be an European Executive (Wonca Europe -Executive) Committee composed of the President of the Organization, who shall be Chairperson, the Vice President, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer and three Members at Large. Not more than two members of the Wonca Europe - Executive shall be from the one country. Both sexes shall normally be represented in the Wonca Europe - Executive Committee.

New

8.1 Composition

There shall be an European Executive (Wonca Europe -Executive) Committee composed of the President of the Organization, who shall be Chairperson, the Vice President, the

Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer and four Members at Large. Not more than two members of the Wonca Europe - Executive shall be from the one country. Both sexes shall normally be represented in the Wonca Europe - Executive Committee.

Current

ARTICLE 11: OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

11.1 Composition

The Officers of the Organization shall be:

11.1.1 The President

11.1.2 The Vice President

11.1.3 The Honorary Secretary

11.1.4 The Honorary Treasurer

11.1.5 Three Members at Large

New

11.1 Composition

The Officers of the Organization shall be:

11.1.1 The President

11.1.2 The Vice President

11.1.3 The Honorary Secretary

11.1.4 The Honorary Treasurer

11.1.5 Four Members at Large

Current

11.2.5 The Members at Large of the Wonca Europe -Executive

11.2.5.1 There shall be three Members at Large of the Wonca Europe -Executive.

11.2.5.2 They shall be appointed by the EURACT, EGPRN and EQuIP, one member each.

New

11.2.5 The Members at Large of the Wonca Europe -Executive

11.2.5.1 There shall be four Members at Large of the Wonca Europe -Executive.

11.2.5.2 They shall be appointed by the EURACT, EGPRN, EQuIP and VdGM, one member each.

Current

18.2 Distribution of Assets

18.2.4 EURACT, EGPRN, EQuIP and Direct Members shall not be entitled to rank for any return of surplus assets.

New

18.2.4 EURACT, EGPRN, EQuIP, VdGM and Direct Members shall not be entitled to rank for any return of surplus assets.