

Council Minutes

Minutes of the EPA/UNEPSA Council Meeting, November 29th, 2007,

Athens, Greece

Participants: Prof. Andreas Konstantopoulos
Prof. David Branski
Prof. Alexander Baranov
Prof. Josip Grguric
Prof. Laslo Szabò
Prof. Mehmet Vural
Prof. Gerhard Gaedicke
Prof. Leyla Namazova

Andreas Konstantopoulos greeted the participants and outlined the agenda.

In the first part of the meeting we dealt with the Logo of EPA, the Europediatrics 2008 and 2009, and the different working groups.

On the second part we laid down the future of EPA.

He spoke about his earlier work in different international societies, 6 years in IPA, 11 years in CESP, 7 years in Mediterranean Society. So he has a very good experience. He now wishes to devote himself to EPA.

The International Pediatric Congress that he organized in August was very successful. He would like to hand over his experience and connections to EPA.

He thought there are many different pediatric societies in Europe, but all of them should be under the umbrella of only one European Society, the EPA/UNEPSA.

About the LOGO

Andreas sent the logo to the members of Executive Committee earlier by e-mail. Everybody could use it for official correspondence.

Gerhard will send the official translation of the minutes of General Assembly via the lawyer Kieslich, Berlin to the Court in Munich after having received all documents necessary to induce the change of the constitution. The procedure will take about 3 months.

Leyla – She noted that there is not any explanation of the abbreviation of UNEPSA in the logo. In several years' time, nobody will know what does it mean.

Andreas – This is not a problem. For example the CESP constantly use EAP. In the future we will use only EPA.

Gerhard – The Court until now has not decided on the name of EPA.

David – Of course we shall accept it if the Court accepts.

No further comments or questions on this issue.

The EC accepted the logo.

Europediatrics2008. Mehmet's presentation took place.

He introduced the program, the invited speakers, symposia, workshops, lectures. There will be 3 courses, 13 symposia, 10 workshops, all together 108 speakers.

There will be a parallel congress of the Turkish Pediatric Association.
This is good for collecting sponsors too.
Mehmet introduced the sponsors and reported difficulties in obtaining sponsors to the board.
The abstracts will be published in the Acta Paediatrica as a CD form.
There will be two awards. Reward best oral presentation and best research award.
The European Community accepted and registered Europediatrics2008 as a Trade Mark.
Mehmet spoke about Europediatrics in Barcelona, but David suggested not to use the term Europediatrics because it will be associated with Barcelona (CESP).

Gerhard – The first Europediatrics was in Berlin, and the second in Rome in 2000.
Andreas – We have not used the Europediatrics in Berlin, so the first Europediatrics was in Rome, the second in Prague. The 3rd Europediatrics will be in Istanbul.
Gerhard – It would be necessary to update the national websites.

Mehmet showed the number of visitors who visited the website of Europediatrics2008 on his computer. Show the number of different nationalities who visited the website.

David suggested to approach again Nestle and Mead Johnson as sponsors they are huge producers of infant formulae.

Mehmet – Nestle will not come. They are going to Nice.

Armido promised to write a letter to Nestle. Glaxo also goes to Nice. They claimed that 2 European congresses are too much.

Gerhard – There are some special orphan diseases, which need special formula, for example PKU.

David – Unfortunately the producers, SHS belongs to Nestle too.

Mehmet – We have not finished the discussions with Genzyme yet.

David – This is the very last update.

Josip – It would be necessary to establish contact with UNICEF because of their interest in nutritional topics.

Andreas – Money is the biggest problem. It would be necessary to organize a satellite symposium about nutrition.

We told the companies, that they should avoid offering give-aways to the doctors at the stand. Only printed material.

Andreas will speak with GSK about sponsorship.

David will call them as well.

Andreas – Will the invited speakers have 1 or 2 presentations?

Mehmet – 2 presentations.

The platinum sponsorship fee will be 75 000 Euro.

Leila – General sponsorship would be better instead of Platinum.

Europediatrics2009

Alexander handed out a folder about the congress.

They informed the new Health Minister about the congress.

They established the local organizing committee. Several ministries accepted the invitation for supporting Europediatrics2009.

They spoke with the Mayor of Moscow. The congress will be organized at the Palace of Music Hall. There 4 big halls, 1700, 750, 750, and 300 capacity. There are several hotels around.

There is a possibility to organize smaller symposia in other hotels too. The Palace of Music building situates not far from the Kremlin.

The Palace is in the historical area. The hotel prices are high in Moscow. The cultural program will be supported by the city.

The congress will be on 25-30 of June. This is the nicest season in Moscow. They show some nice pictures about Moscow.

Andreas – You should finalize the specific dates.

Andreas went to the AAP meeting in October. There is a new president of AAP. He is a strong man. They are changing the presidency yearly. He would cooperate kindly with us. It would be an advantage if we invite some American pediatricians into the scientific committee of Europediatrics. The new president will gladly offer names.

Jochan Ehrich works very well in the scientific committee as a chairman. We can have 2-3 persons from the AAP and the rest prominent scientists from different countries, preferably with a specialty like endocrinology, infectious disease, etc.

Mehmet – The members of Executive Committee of EPA are also members of the Scientific Committee of Europediatrics2008. Harmonization is important in the scientific program between European Countries.

David – The next topic is the Treasurer report.

Gerhard showed the paying and non-paying members of EPA/UNEPSA. For example the German Pediatric Society does not want to pay membership fee for two European Pediatric Societies.

The income of EPA came from Europediatrics: 58 500 Euro.

He will prepare the tax return in January 2008.

David – It is important to state that the EPA is a non-profit association.

The income from the congresses is very important for our budget.

Josip – He received a letter from CESP with the name of individual paying membership.

David – Individual membership of EPA is also possible.

Gerhard – What do we offer for individual members? Reduced registration fees for congresses?

European Hematological Association is very well organized. It has a similar practice.

David – Individual membership is not the big money, it is mostly prestige.

Gerhard showed the different membership fees of different countries, 1040, 650, 390 and 130 Euros. This depends on the countries economic status.

Leyla – It is necessary to send a request for payment in each December.

Laszlo – Did not know about liability to pay, but was responsible for different payment of Hungarian Pediatric Association.

Gerhard – We do not know the responsible person in each Society, but all Presidents of the different National Societies received demand for payment. The Hungarian President also received it.

Andreas – We put pressure on payment in IPA with voting possibility of those who have paid. CESP also applied this system. The congress in Barcelona gave a big income. If we would like to earn more money it is profitable to organize more local meetings. Good working groups – good congresses.

It is difficult to collect individual membership fees.

Symposium about new vaccinations would be very interesting and the companies would give more sponsorship.

Working Groups.

Nutrition – 6-7 members would be enough for these working groups. Working Groups will give a summary about their work.

Mehmet – A newsletter about Europediatrics2008 will become available next week.

Gerhard – Vaccination in Germany. The vaccination rate is 95% in Germany. Mothers know what is dangerous for their children. Mothers speak about side effects of vaccination. The question is how we could improve our vaccination program. There are many cases of Measles in Germany.

Andreas – It is similar in Greece.

He received letters about vaccination from German colleagues. He would present it in Moscow.

Leyla – Ten thousand children died in consequence of diphtheria in Russia. There are lots of children without vaccination not only in the periphery, but also in the center of Russia.

After the break Andreas spoke about the past and the present of EPA. We have received his presentation.

UNEPSA was founded in 1978. 170 000 pediatricians work in Europe in 41 countries.

The main objective of EPA is to encourage cooperation between National Paediatric Societies/Associations in Europe and European paediatricians working in primary, secondary and tertiary paediatric care, in order to promote child health and comprehensive paediatric care. On his presentation we could find the other objectives.

They participated at the meeting of AAP. The hosts were very friendly. At the AAP meeting they were interested in the CESP/UNEPSA relationship. There is something similar in S. America there is ALAPE and Brazil is not a member of ALAPE.

When Robert Hole was the president of CESP, he told the IPA and the AAP, that the only European Pediatric Society was CESP.

Now they know what UNEPSA is the only European Pediatric Society.

Now there are two representatives of UNEPSA in the standing committee of IPA.

He speaks about the duplication in the Middle East Mediterranean Society.

Future objectives:

Suggested course of action

- Create a reliable database with frequent updating.
- Develop and administrate memberships and new registrations.
- Publish quarterly scientific reviews, which will be distributed to all EPA members.
- Introduce processes which encourage scientific research, such as paper submissions.
- Upgrade the European congresses.
- Organize new meetings.
- Develop a dynamic and active website.
- More efficient use of internet.
- Publish an E-news letters.
- Create a Professional Manual Guidelines etc.
- Develop blog, access only by EPA members.

David – It is very important that the message will be clear. The future is important. We talked about the continuing medical education in Debrecen. Summer Schools are important, and companies should sponsor these activities.

Mehmet – He agreed with the others on PCO importance. It is also important to invite the IPA for the Europediatrics.

Turkish novelist who gets the Nobel prize will give the opening speech at the Europediatrics 2008.

Josip discussed the construction of Syllabi of European Pediatrics and GPs programs. The duration of education for pediatricians is 5 years, compared with GPs, who only have 3-6 months pediatric courses. How is it connected with Children Rights? We should find ways for greater cooperation with the GPs.

Gerhard agreed with Josip. The number of pediatricians continuously decreases in Germany. Most of them are close to the age of retirement. The English system will be the future. Pediatricians are working only the secondary and tertiary care.

Laszlo – We have heard a presentation about the reality of the English system from Patricia Hamilton, at the ESAP (European Society of Ambulatory Pediatrics) meeting in Budapest in last October. Most of the parents go directly to the pediatrician at secondary care, neglect the primary physicians, the GPs. Patricia acknowledged that the English system is not good for the children.

Leyla – The primary care pediatricians need guidelines also. They are welcome to use guidelines on our website (David, but we have to add the input into the website). It would be necessary to organize special courses for them. Regional schools are also important.

Andreas summarized the remarks and comments. Professional management of EPA is necessary. We will have to try it. Publications are the second most important thing.

David – Publications are very important, but to own a journal is too expensive, and too much work. Organizing a congress is the job of a professional company, but collecting money is our responsibility.

David – Collect names of international companies who could manage, administer the EPA.

Andreas – IPA has not gotten good database.

Gerhardt – Local companies are more sympathetic.

Website is better and quicker in communications and exchanging information.

Andreas – A Professional organizing company (PCO) can provide good information as European specialists, with good connection to pharmaceutical companies. They could give better suggestions.

Mehmet – There are 2 Turkish Societies.

Josip – About the professional company, The Financial results would be our objective.

Andreas – He participated at a congress in Beijing. The company organized everything for him, because he was the president the Greek Pediatric Society and he was the president the next IPA congress in Athens.

David – The profit of Europediatics2003 was divided between UNEPSA and Kenes.

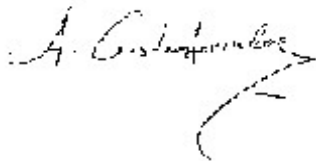
Andreas – Requested to collect names of international companies who can provide services of organizing congresses and Managing an Association within the month of December 2007. A 3-member committee, was appointed, Andreas, Mehmet (president of Europediatics 2008) and Alexander (president of Europediatics 2009) authorized to choose the PCO which will be responsible for the management of EPA, to organize the Europediatics congresses and other events, all communications, etc. The decision must be made by January 15th, 2008 with the most attractive financial proposal and Andreas will sign a long term contract with the PCO. We don't have more time, because the congress of 2009 is very close. Please send me names of PCO as soon as possible.

Mehmet – What will be the prize for best oral, poster etc presenters in Istanbul?

Andreas – It would be free registration and free accommodation for Europediatics 2009 in Moscow.

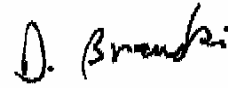
The EC accepted Andreas suggestion.

Prof. Andreas Konstantopoulos



President of the Advisory Board

Prof. David Branski



Secretary General of the Advisory Board