

General Assembly Minutes

Minutes of the EPA/UNEPSA General Assembly, 4 July 2009, Moscow, Russia

Present:

1	Albania	Georgina Kuli Lito	President
2	Austria	Wilhem Kaufersch	Vice President
3	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Zeljiko Roncevic	President
4	Bulgaria	Evgheniy Ghenev	President
5	Croatia	Julije Mestrovic	President
6	Czech Republic	Jan Janda	President
7	Georgia	Nino Kandelaki	Secretary General
8	Germany	Manfred Gahr	Member of the Board
9	Greece	Andreas Konstantopoulos	President
10	Hungary	Laszlo Szabo	President
11	Israel	Zachi Grossman	Secretary General
12	Italy	Carla Navone	Member of the Board
13	Latvia	Ingrida Rumba-Rozenfelde	Member of the Board
14	Lithuania	Arunas Valiulis	President
15	Macedonia	Ljupco Nikolovski	President
16	Russia	Alexander Baranov	President
17	Serbia & Montenegro	Milosh Banicevic	President
18	Slovakia	Laszlo Kovacs	Member of the Board
19	Slovenia	Margareta Seher Zupancic	Member of the Board
20	Spain	Manuel Moya	Representative
21	Sweden	Tommy Linne	Representative
22	Turkey	Haluk Cokugras	President

Also present:

1	Armenia	Sergey Sargsyan	Observer
2	Macedonia	Aleksandar Saokovski	Observer
3	Hungary	Eva Olah	Observer
4	Slovenia	Lejla Hercegovac	Observer
5	Moldova	I. Youeleo	Observer
6	Moldova	L. Bologa	Observer
7		Armido Rubino	Past President of EPA/UNEPSA
8		David Branski	Secretary General of EPA/UNEPSA
9		Gerhard Gaedicke	Treasurer of EPA/UNEPSA
10		Fugen Cullu	Member of the Council of EPA/UNEPSA
11		Manuel Katz	CIP representative
12		Christina Lassos	C&C London representative

A. Konstantopoulos opens the General Assembly.

1. Call to order

D. Branski declares that there is a quorum with 22 voting members

2. Approval of Agenda

The GA unanimously approves the Agenda.

3. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly meeting in Istanbul, 15 June 2008

The GA unanimously approves the minutes.

4. Registration procedure of the amended Constitution – Presentation of final text approved by the Court of Registry and vote on the adoption of the amended Constitution

G. Gaedicke: I was late for the Council Meeting. But there is nothing to prevent accepting the new version of constitution. 2 weeks or 6 weeks before the GA, is not so important. Fundamentally it is not necessary to change the Constitution.

A. Konstantopoulos: I agree with you, but I have some changes that are necessary. They were discussed during the Council meeting and we all agreed to them.

Article 1: Change of name of the Association and seat

We repeat twice European Paediatric Association on the first page second line. It is not necessary. We have to delete „European Paediatric Association (EPA) followed by the addition of UNEPSA” i.e.

Article 2, Paragraph 2

Delete the words „in particular”

Article 5, Paragraph 4

An addition should be made that in case of individual members all membership benefits become inactive at the end of the membership period for which a membership fee has been paid and they are re-enacted after the membership is renewed.

Article 8, Paragraph 1, Item (a)

The word „EPA” must be deleted and it should state „The President”.

Article 8, Paragraph 4

A. Konstantopoulos: We need to change the representation; instead of 2 council members we appoint the Secretary General and the Treasurer.

G. Gaedicke: 2 council members for the law, or a third person in Germany.

A. Konstantopoulos: The President, Secretary General and the Treasurer.

G. Gaedicke: I do not know if it is a major point or not for the GA's decision. We have a running order. This is obligatory for GA.

A. Konstantopoulos: So it should be clarified that in relation to the joint representation authority the Treasurer and the Secretary General shall have joint power of

representation, instead of „two council members“ as provided for in originally presented text. Therefore it should be written that „The President has the sole power of representation of EPA/UNEPSA and in addition the Secretary General and the Treasurer may jointly represent EPA/UNEPSA.“

Article 8, Paragraph 7

The last sentence should be eliminated since the rules of internal procedures are valid for every new member of the Council.

Article 8, Paragraph 10

The financial affairs of EPA/UNEPSA are the responsibility of the Treasurer and not the Secretary General.

Article 9, Paragraph 3.

Item (b)

The words „EPA/UNEPSA“ must be deleted. It should be written „To elect the President“

Item (h)

According to Article 4 Paragraph 3, the Council shall decide upon the admission of new members; hence the first part of the Article 9, Paragraph 3, Item (h) is deleted and the GA retains the function to decide upon the exclusion of existing members.

A. Rubino: I think that all the proposed changes are reasonable and I would agree on them if I were a voting member. Therefore I am sure that if approved these changes will be taken by Gerhard Gaedicke very seriously in his actions for their recognition by the Court Registration. However I think that at this point after such a long-lasting and painful history of the registration procedure, the priority in this matter is to have a Constitution registered by the Court in Germany within the next few weeks/months. Indeed should we approach the next General Assembly in Florence again without a registration approved thus making impossible the elections on the basis of a well recognized Constitution, this would be such a disaster that the continuing life of EPA/UNEPSA could be put in danger! Such a risk must be avoided anyway. Therefore I propose that the changes are approved by the voting members as recommendations to Gerhard Gaedicke in his action toward the Court in Germany, thus allowing him to promote the registration even in case one or more changes approved today should be not accepted by the Court

D. Branski: We could vote about this proposal that the changes are recommendations to Gerhard Gaedicke in his action toward the Court in Germany and he should proceed with registration even in case one of more changes approved today are not accepted by the Court.

Voting members are requested to vote: 22 vote for the proposal.

5. Update on ongoing and future key activities

Christina Lassos, Managing Director of C&C London – the Association Management Company of EPA/UNEPSA - summarizes their activity since the last GA in Istanbul:

Journal, website, newsletter, Europaediatrics 2009. membership

Journal

There are 2 representatives of EPA/UNEPSA in the editorial board - A. Konstantopoulos and D Branski. The journal will be offered as a standard membership benefit for individual subscription. There is a complementary trial period until the end of 2009. Additionally, an annual scientific meeting will be co-organised with the Cochrane Collaboration in an area of interest for our members. Currently approximately 1000 members have registered on the site to gain access. The Cochrane Collaboration organises three workshops during Europaediatrics.

Website

3.123 visitors, 17,329 page views.

Europaediatrics 2009

They handled the communication campaign to European paediatricians. A comprehensive and effective effort was made including advertisements, a dynamic website, e-mail campaigns and reaching out to societies.

Newsletter

It is available on line. Three issues have been published. Manuel Moya is the editor. All member societies receive it.

Membership

Strong membership is the power of every association. There is communication but a lot of work needs to be done.

Priorities 2009-12

- Turn website to an active tool. We need informations from everybody. Create a link on National Societies website.
- Build individual database. That is still missing. A campaign for canvassing of new individual members will be launched at the end of 2009. Official Journal depends on the individual membership for 2010.
- For a good Newsletter, information is needed from everyone.
- It is necessary to increase the Scientific activities.
EBM and Child Nutrition – 3th of December, Florence. On line registration is available. But is this enough? No. We can organise: Summer camp, workshops and seminars, reserach oportunities, issue guidelines.

She asks support for these activities.

D. Branski: Thank you for the activities of C&C.

6. Treasurer report

G. Gaedicke presents the data on the screen (not very legible).

There was 75.000 Euros income from the Istanbul Europaediatrics conference. Now the balance of EPA/UNEPSA is 14 000 Euros.

D. Branski: Are there any questions?

A. Rubino: How many countries have paid?

G. Gaedicke: Half of the countries, but the number of them is increasing year by year.

A. Rubino: The countries who do not pay should be excluded according to the Constitution. We offer many things: Journal, newsletter, website etc. It is a bad message.

A. Konstantopoulos: We have to wait.

M. Moya: It is necessary to send a letter to the Presidents of National Societies.

A. Konstantopoulos: We have it in mind.

J. Janda: Gives a preliminary program. What is the connection with CESP? There are numerous specialist associations. Individual membership will solve the problem. Abstracts of this meeting could be on our website.

A. Baranov suggests accepting the report of the treasurer. C&C has registered 770 European delegates, we have registered the remaining and Russian participants. We have collected enough money for providing 100% of expenses for the Congress organization. For this reason we suggest to transfer money from the sum which has been collected by C&C to the EPA account

A. Konstantopoulos: We could see the real balance of Europaediatrics 2009 over the next 6 months. We will take a report of all incomes from Baranov and C&C.

A. Valiulis: Would it be possible to see separately the result of two organizing companies?

A. Konstantopoulos: We have to know the income of both companies because according to the Constitution 10% of the income goes to EPA/UNEPSA.

7. Update on relations with other societies/organisations

A. Rubino: Eva Olah and I represent EPA/UNEPSA at the IPA Standing Committee. Eva was more active than me. We have a good relation. CESP also want to send representative to IPA. Cooperation is necessary, not duplication, and not rivalisation. We accepted this in Athens. The leaders of the two associations meet twice a year. Permanent coordination is necessary. But this did not work. We decided to permanently invite the others for the meetings. Our representatives always are present, but their representatives always are absent. We needed representatives in Working groups too. That is zero. What have we done? But we do not have cooperation, coordination and working group. They changed their officials. We need concrete things, but that is absent.

D. Branski: New initiatives are necessary.

G. Gaedicke: How will we do it?

D. Branski: We send message to their council.

G. Gaedicke: The personal contact would be better. Letter gets for the fire.

D. Branski: We have personal contact.

G. Gaedicke: Two concurrent activities are impossible.

A. Rubino: We invite them to Florence. They want to cooperate.

M. Seher-Zupancic: Brussels' meeting will be on the same week organized by CESP.

M. Banicevic: For what reason we want them?

Next Manuel Katz, President of CIP is invited to present CIP

M. Katz: There was a brainstorming a month ago in Vienna. EPA, AAP, Australian, Asian representatives established a new society. He was elected as a president of this new society. They will organize a Global academy – CIP 2011 in February in Vienna. Consensus in Child Health and Pediatrics. He presents the members of the Council.

8. Reports from the working groups

This topic is postponed to be discussed in the next GA.

9. Europaediatrics 2011 – Selection of the host city

A. Konstantopoulos: Untill last week no one had sent an application, so I thought Athens would be the next place, but 5 candidates - Vienna, Budapest, Valencia-Alicante, Vilnius, Lyon - announced their propositions to bid last week, so I withdrew the candidacy of Athens. No city has sent detailed information. I propose we lock the candidates' list now and announce that there is no more application possibility. I am going to send a request for a written application with detailed data - conference halls, hotel accommodations, social programmes, travel information, confirmation letter from the President of the National Society and from the Mayor of the city, collaboration with PCO. All 5 countries will be invited to make a 5 minute presentation at the next GA in Florence.

D. Branski: We could vote about the proposal.

Voting members are requested to vote: 21 vote for the proposal.

10. Extension of term of office of current Council until the next General Assembly, Florence, 2 December 2009

D. Branski: We need to vote about the proposal, which means that the current members of the Council remain active until the 2nd of December 2009.

Voting members are requested to vote: 22 vote for the proposal.

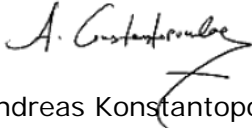
11. Any other business

A. Baranov: I would like to introduce the Moldavian Paediatric Association that is requesting to become a new member of EPA/UNEPSA.

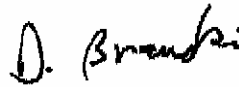
The GA acknowledges the request and the President informs them that he will communicate with them for the next steps.

A. Konstantopoulos adjourns the GA.

(Summarized by L. SZABO)



Andreas Konstantopoulos
President



David Branski
Secretary General