

## General Assembly Minutes

### Minutes of the UNEPSA General Assembly Meeting, September 28th, 2006,

#### Rome, Italy

The UNEPSA General Assembly was convened by the President Armido Rubino, and starts at 2.00 pm on September 28th in Rome, "Grand Hotel Ritz", Cevenini Hall.

A quorum is declared with the following 24 voting National Presidents or Delegates present: Georgina Lito-Kuli for Albania, Evgheniy Ghenev for Bulgaria, Josip Grguric for Croatia, Jan Janda for Czech Republic, Klaus Børch for Denmark, Anne Ormisson for Estonia, Nino Kandelaki for Georgia, Hansjosef Boehles for Germany, Andreas Constantopoulos for Greece, Laszlo Szabo for Hungary, Simon Barak for Israel, Giuseppe Saggese for Italy, Enok Bikis for Latvia, Odilija Rudzeviciene for Lithuania, Camille Conter for Luxembourg, Alexander Sajkovski for Macedonia, S.P. Verloove-Vanhorick for the Netherlands, Gonçalo Cordeiro Ferreira for Portugal, Olga Komarova for Russia, Milos Banicevic for Serbia and Montenegro, Peter Banovcin for Slovakia, Margareta Zupancic Seher for Slovenia, Nil Arisoy for Turkey, Iulia Davydova for Ukraine.

The following Executive Committee officers attend the Assembly without voting: David Branski (Secretary General), Gerhard Gaedicke (Treasurer), Eva Olàh and Mehmet Vural (Vice-Presidents).

The representative of UNEPSA in the Standing Committee of IPA (Manuel Katz) and the UNEPSA webmaster (Jan Vejvalka) were invited by the President and they attend the Assembly meeting without voting.

The Assembly is chaired by the President Armido Rubino.

- 1. Approval of the Agenda.** The Agenda, which was sent to the Presidents of the National Societies as required by art. 4 of the Constitution and is attached as integral part of these minutes, is unanimously approved (appendix 1B).
- 2. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting.** The minutes of the General Assembly meeting held in Istanbul on November 20th, 2004, are unanimously approved. The minutes are integral part of the present document.
- 3. Present status of UNEPSA – President, Secretary General, and Treasurer to report.** The President A. Rubino, in citing the article by K. Betke et al. entitled "30 years of UNEPSA", in press in the *European Journal Paediatrics*, which is distributed to the participants, draws attention to the paragraph "UNEPSA's current initiatives and possible future". He mentions several ongoing activities that are further discussed in detail under points 6 ("ongoing activities"), 7 ("website"), 8 ("25th International Congress of Paediatrics, Athens 2007"), and 9 ("Europaediatrics 2008").

The President continues: "*Clearly we are not inactive. However I think we all feel that UNEPSA is not doing enough in relation to the ambitious objectives of its Constitution.*"

*Our Constitution was written thirty years ago and during these thirty years the scenario has changed very much and very rapidly. Let me just list a number of the factors that affect us particularly:*

- *Changes in illness pattern;*
- *The rapid development of biomedical technology and communication sciences;*
- *Increased demands and expectations from the public;*
- *New rights for children;*
- *Reorientation of healthcare systems in view of cost-containing policies;*
- *Demands for a better quality of services;*
- *The focus on primary care;*
- *The continuous and comprehensive care replacing episodic care;*
- *The shift from an individualistic approach toward well coordinated teams;*
- *The reduction of birth rates and the ageing of the population;*
- *The need to integrate different cultures and ethnic backgrounds;*
- *Globalisation and communication technologies, which have produced enormous changes in lifestyles of children and adolescents, (the effects of these factors on growth and development of infants, children and adolescents are largely unknown and unpredictable);*
- *The difficulties of educational systems in adapting to such rapidly changing social and health needs;*
- *The widening gap between education/training and practice;*
- *The need to train specialists able to adapt to changes during their professional life.*

*Therefore the task of the paediatric community is formidable. The National Societies and we all as UNEPSA are called to:*

- *Promote research, education and healthcare;*
- *Produce indications and guidelines to develop educational programmes for paediatricians and other health professionals involved in the healthcare of infants, children and adolescents;*
- *Write and publish commentaries of clinical and scientific relevance;*
- *Provide advice to other Societies, regulatory bodies, non-governmental organizations, industry and other interested parties;*
- *Contribute to the exchange of scientific information.*

*These actions should be carried out with a view to national/local sensitivities, while at the same time looking for what is common in Europe and, most important, what European children have in common regarding their needs.*

*Obviously, the European paediatric community has many prestigious scientific societies, most of which are devoted to subspecialties. Furthermore we respect and appreciate the CESP/EAP and believe we are complementary and not in competition or overlapping. However, we are conscious of our role of linking European National Paediatric Societies and of our mission to safeguard the physical, social and psychological health of children and adolescents throughout the entire European continent from the Atlantic to the Urals and from the North Sea to the Mediterranean. Therefore we are asking ourselves: "are we doing all we can for children and adolescents in Europe?". One of the problems and limiting factors for UNEPSA (and indeed, not only for UNEPSA) has always been and still is visibility*

*and real connections with such a wide community of paediatricians throughout the whole European Region.*

*I think we all feel that we should try to develop: better connections with individual paediatricians in full respect of their national paediatric affiliation; greater effectiveness of our cultural actions as a team work; a more efficacious dialogue and better interaction with political and administrative international bodies and with the public. These aims share a common prerequisite, namely, we must improve our possibilities to communicate within the paediatric community. This is why UNEPSA is considering changing its Constitution, and a proposal is being submitted to this General Assembly today. And this is why the proposed amended Constitution includes individual membership as well as Society/Association membership.*

*We are aware that paediatric subspecialists have their own European Societies and Associations and they probably don't need any other society to support their research and training. During recent years, CESP has moved toward growing integration with tertiary care and subspecialty groups. On the other hand, the millions of children and adolescents throughout Europe also need general paediatricians who are well trained and soundly equipped to educate themselves continuously in order to provide primary and secondary care. Despite the large number of scientific societies and associations, general paediatricians involved in primary and secondary care are still largely not reached by these societies. It appears that here is an important space for an effective and coherent initiative by UNEPSA. This is why we propose that one other National Society can be admitted to UNEPSA for each country, provided that it is mainly aimed at promoting the quality of paediatric primary and secondary care and provided that the first society member of UNEPSA is in favour of the new admission from the same country.*

*The new communication technologies offer extraordinary opportunities, unimaginable until recently, for dialogue within the paediatric community, provided that sound decisions and actions are taken by scientific associations. This is why a specific point is devoted to communication technology and the website in the proposed amended Constitution, thereby indicating the willingness to invest in this area to optimize dialogue and effective team work."*

*The Secretary General D. Branski reports: "UNEPSA encompasses the National Paediatric Societies and Associations of **all** European countries. UNEPSA is the umbrella organization of **all** European Paediatricians especially representing primary care paediatricians and also secondary care Paediatricians. It is among our responsibilities to demand the best medical care for all our paediatric and adolescent populations meaning that paediatricians and not general practitioners should have the responsibility for the health of our children and adolescents patients."*

*The Treasurer G. Gaedicke illustrates the balance, which stands at Euro 45,554. The account details are reported as appendix 3A. UNEPSA is not liable for taxes.*

- 4. Admission of new Members.** No new applications for Membership reached the Secretary General after the last General Assembly in Istanbul. However, the President reports that the Paediatric Societies of Cyprus and Romania have expressed interest in applying for Membership. Because these two Paediatric Societies have not submitted official applications, the President draws attention to art. 4 of the Constitution letter H, whereby the General Assembly can "delegate to

the Executive Committee the authority to deal with any matter to be handled between the meetings of the General Assembly". M. Banicevic, President of the Paediatric Association of Serbia and Montenegro, announces that, due to the recently acquired political independence of Montenegro, the Paediatric Association of Montenegro will soon apply for separate Membership.

The Assembly unanimously delegates to the Executive Committee the authority to deal with the examination and possible admission of the Paediatric Societies of Cyprus, Romania and Montenegro if the regular applications reach the Secretary General before the next General Assembly.

#### **5. Amended Constitution. Proposals to be discussed.**

The President notes that, in accordance with ideas under discussion since 1998 within the UNEPSA Bodies, the text of the amended Constitution was agreed on at the Executive Committee Meeting which was held on April 21st, 2006 and it was proposed to the Secretary General by the Presidents of the Paediatric Societies of Greece, Israel, Italy, Turkey, Hungary. This text was transmitted to the Presidents of the Society Members on last June 29th.

Prof. A. Constantopoulos also proposed some changes as given under the attached appendix 5A.

Prof. J. Grguric commented on the definition of paediatrics: (see appendix 5B).

The Treasurer G. Gaedicke has taken legal advice, in view of the fact that UNEPSA is registered with the Court in Munich and the amended Constitution will have to be accepted by the Court. Several measures will facilitate acceptance of the amended Constitution by the Court. Therefore, G. Gaedicke suggested the text be divided into two documents, one being the Constitution, the other containing points that not necessarily must be written in the Constitution but are related to the regulations governing the application of the Constitution. As a result of the aforesaid work, the following proposals, are submitted to the General Assembly:

- amended Constitution: the attached doc. 5C which is an integral part of the present minutes,
- regulations governing the application of the Constitution: attached doc. 5D, which is an integral part of the present minutes.

For comparison, the text of the present Constitution was distributed to participants and is now attached as doc. 5E.

G. Gaedicke comments: *"There are different cultures in different countries about how they are acting with associations. In Germany, the constitution should be short and simple. The rest of the matters should be written on another document. Since UNEPSA is registered in Germany we should act this way."*

M. Katz invites the membership to avoid duplication with CESP particularly regarding the subspecialties domain.

A. Rubino agrees and stresses that this is one of the reasons for emphasizing the central position of general paediatrics in the amended Constitution.

K. Børch: *"Concerning the membership of the additional National Society, will this one have a right to vote?"*

A. Rubino: *"According to the proposal, yes."*

A. Constantopoulos refers that, according to the IPA Constitution, all the National Societies active in a single country may apply for membership.

A. Rubino draws attention to the fact that the amended Constitution is clear on this point: each country may be represented by two National Societies provided that the second one is particularly aimed at promoting the quality of primary and secondary care. The agreement of the first National Society will be a prerequisite for membership application of the second society.

E. Ghenev wonders what is the aim of the individual membership.

A. Rubino stresses the importance of increasing the visibility of UNEPSA among individual European paediatricians and of stimulating more participation by them in UNEPSA activities as well as better contacts with them and between them. The General Assembly will have to establish which additional benefits will be received by individual members (access to member-reserved sections of the website?, reduced inscription fees for congresses?, etc.). In order to avoid confusion, the individual membership will pass through the National Society.

S. Barak: *"Fighting with CESP or other Associations should be avoided."*

A. Rubino fully agrees: *"The time we live is for multiplicity and not exclusivity. But multiplicity does not mean fighting; it must mean collaboration, coordination and positive interaction. There is so much to do in the paediatric field in Europe! The real challenge will be to promote initiatives and to coordinate them, not to limit them."*

The Assembly is now assisted by the Notary Domenico Sciumbata, Via Giandomenico Romagnosi, 3, Rome and by Mrs. Michela Sorgoni who is translator English-Italian-English.

The President calls for voting the doc. 5C "Amended Constitution" (final proposal). All the participants with voting right vote in favour of the amended Constitution. There are no votes against and no abstentions. Therefore the doc. 5C ("Amended Constitution") is approved unanimously.

The President calls for voting the doc. 5D "Regulations governing the application of the Constitution". All the participants with voting right vote in favour of this document 5D; there are no votes against and no abstentions. Therefore the doc. 5D is approved unanimously.

The proposal by J. Grguric regarding the definition of paediatrics (see the attached doc. 5B) is further discussed. J. Grguric further illustrates the proposal; he suggests forming a working group to discuss the definition of paediatrics and to report afterwards to the Council and the General Assembly. There are comments by:

S. Barak: "I think the remark on foetology is very interesting and wise. There are some aspects of Paediatrics which go beyond the borders of age limits.";

M. Katz: "Paediatrics should pay attention to be involved in perinatology.";

E. Olàh: "In the UNEPSA neonatal care study the perinatology aspects are considered: the questionnaire includes questions on both prenatal and postnatal period.";

E. Ghenev: "Perinatology requires an interaction between obstetricians, paediatricians and medical genetic specialists.";

G. Gaedicke: "Obstetricians should be included in the working group.";

S. Barak: "I do not agree. When we discuss cystic fibrosis, should we ask pneumologists for their opinion?";

J. Janda: "We should include a psychologist in the working group.";

J. Grguric: "Prenatal care is a multi-disciplinary domain. This is a very complex matter: in the future we should have a symposium on it.";

E. Olàh: "I am very happy to deal with this Committee. I propose that Prof. Ghenev is included in the Committee.";

G. Saggese: "The discussion about the age limits of paediatrics involves very much adolescents and young adults, especially in relation to chronic diseases. The working group should discuss about the age limits for paediatrics on both the extremes of the competence for age.";

A. Rubino proposes that the matter of the chronological limits of the paediatric competence is extended to include the other extreme of the age competence and the relation with other medical specialties as far as the adolescent is concerned. He proposes that the working group is formed by S. Barak, E. Ghenev, J. Grguric, E. Olàh, G. Saggese, chaired by Eva Olàh. Furthermore he proposes that the working group will be free to invite other persons to join the group even from outside the UNEPSA Membership and including a representative of obstetrics expert in perinatology. The group will have to report to the Council first and then to the General Assembly on its work and the conclusions regarding the definition of paediatrics.

The President's proposal is approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

- 6. Ongoing activities.** M. Vural presents preliminary results of the European Adolescent Health Study. Twenty-four countries (covering 85% of the European population between the ages of 10-19 yrs) participated in this project.

E. Olàh reports on the Neonatal care study. She was given the task in April 2005 at the Council Meeting in Debrecen. The questionnaire was discussed by the Council Members in Naples. After making the necessary corrections, the questionnaires were sent to the Presidents of the National Paediatric Societies at the beginning of last August. Five questionnaires were re-sent. The names and addresses have to be completed and the questionnaires will be sent again. The plan is to collect the data

at the beginning of 2007 and perhaps to present the results at the IPA meeting in 2007, in Athens.

G. Gaedicke reports on a Hemato-Oncology project.

D. Branski reports on Summer courses: *"The approximate cost of a summer school is €30,000. Pharmaceutical companies are reluctant to support this project and therefore the delegates of the National Paediatric Societies are requested to help in obtaining funds for this important project. These Summer Schools are addressed to the more vulnerable populations"*.

J. Janda wonders why the dental project was not mentioned. He remembers that the Council received an excellent presentation on this issue at the meeting in Debrecen. The President shares the Janda's opinion that the dental project should be put forward and he proposes that J. Janda coordinates the project and reports on it at the next Council and GA Meetings.

The President reports that he received an invitation from the WHO Regional Office for Europe to send an observer to the Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity that will be held in Istanbul next 15-17 November. The letter and the programme of the meeting were distributed to the participants of the General Assembly. M. Vural will represent UNEPSA at the Ministerial Conference and he will report to the Council and to the General Assembly.

The President states that the "European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products" (EMA) has asked UNEPSA to assist in the work of the Paediatric Working Party (PEG) in identifying unmet therapeutic needs in paediatric care. At present, EMA requests UNEPSA to contribute to three PEG documents, regarding migraine, diabetes and oncology, respectively. They ask for UNEPSA contributions by December 31st 2006 for these documents, but they require an even more general collaboration. The President emphasizes the importance of relations with EMA and he proposes compiling a list of reference persons expert in child therapeutic needs (one indicated by each National Paediatric Society) to whom EMA's requests can be submitted for a contribution to be given on behalf of UNEPSA.

The General Assembly approves unanimously the proposal by the President and gives to him the mandate to write to the Presidents of the UNEPSA Membership to initiate collaborative work with EMA as soon as the group reaches at least three persons.

The President informs the GA that the Task-force in Europe for Drug Development for the Young (TEDDY) has asked for collaboration of UNEPSA. TEDDY is specifically interested in developing a joint initiative with UNEPSA and the different associated National and European Paediatric Societies with the aim of defining therapeutic needs in children. In this phase of the project they are trying to identify the main therapeutic needs in different therapeutic areas. UNEPSA and the interested National and European Paediatric Societies are strongly encouraged to join them in this effort. The documents sent by TEDDY were distributed to participants during the meeting.

The Assembly invites the President to submit the TEDDY proposal to the group that will be constituted to interact with EMA.

- 7. Website.** J. Vejvarka, who is responsible for the UNEPSA website, reports on the state of the website. He underlines that there is public access without any fee for the following materials: documents and information regarding National Societies; health indicators and paediatric healthcare systems; current events (not necessarily organized by UNEPSA); offers to present slides/abstracts/full texts. It appears that remodelling of the scientific publication process to reflect new ways of information sharing would be useful.

He mentions the following points for future development of the website:

- links to Societies, institutes;
- health promotion materials;
- legal/political documents;
- links to documents;
- basic information about countries' demography of paediatric care.

The following actions appear appropriate: new graphic design of the site; further possible tasks for information/communication technologies; larger opportunity offered to organizers of UNEPSA events to present abstracts and/or full texts.

- 8. 25th International Congress of Paediatrics, Athens 2007 – UNEPSA participation.** The President of the Congress, A. Constantopoulos reports on his preparation and project for the IPA Congress in Athens (August 25-27th, 2007; [www.icp2007.gr](http://www.icp2007.gr)). The Scientific Committee consists of 20 Members from various countries. There will be 6 main topics plus topics sponsored by Companies and a satellite Symposium. 200 speakers are expected. The fee of the Congress venue will be 800 Euros. The WHO, European Societies, UNEPSA and CESP will be represented at the opening ceremony. The Scientific programme will include plenary sessions, symposia and meet-the-expert sessions. The Health Ministers of 15 countries will be invited.

The President reports on the UNEPSA participation. He thanks Prof. Constantopoulos for the possibility of organizing this participation on 25th August i.e. the day of the opening ceremony. Two Round Tables (not exceeding 1.5 hrs with 3 to 4 speakers) have been proposed and accepted as a UNEPSA pre-Congress meeting on August 25th:

- *Demographic changes and paediatrics in Europe.*
- *Educational needs for paediatricians in the changing Society of Europe.*

The President informs the General Assembly that Prof. M. Banicevic has agreed to speak during the Round Table on demographic changes. He invites all participants to propose other topics and speakers for these Round Tables. He must send the final proposals to Prof. Constantopoulos within one month from the present date.

- 9. Europaediatrics 2008.** The President invites participants to stand for 60 seconds in remembrance of Prof. Johannes Brodehl who passed away three weeks earlier. He was a prestigious figure of German paediatrics, a great friend of UNEPSA and it was him who coined the name "Europaediatrics" which was used for the Congress organized by UNEPSA in collaboration with CESP in 2000 in Rome.

M. Vural, the President of the Congress, reports on preparations for "Europaediatrics" which will take place in Istanbul on June 14-17th 2008 ([www.europaediatrics2008.org](http://www.europaediatrics2008.org)).

The Secretary General D. Branski reports on the meeting with the Secretary General of CESP Jose Ramet regarding potential cooperation between the two organizations. It was suggested that from the year 2010 the two organizations collaborate on a parithetic basis, but no agreement was reached for "Europaediatrics 2008". Secretary General D. Branski emphasized that UNEPSA will proceed with the preparations for "Europaediatrics 2008" as decided by the Council and approved by the General Assembly in Istanbul, 2004.

- 10. Annual Membership fees.** The President reports on the annual Society/Membership fees as listed in the attached document as appendix 10A, which is an integral part of these minutes. On behalf of the Executive Committee, he illustrates the reasons for proposing an increase in the annual membership fees and he proposes that for each group listed in appendix 10A the fees be increased by 200 Euros and that the membership fee for individual members be 10 Euros. Upon S. Barak's request, J. Janda illustrates the criteria on which the amounts given in appendix 10A were established in the past. A. Constantopoulos proposes that the percentage increase be the same for each group. The President shares this view and he proposes a 30% increase for each group.

The Assembly approves unanimously an increase of 30% of the fee paid by each Society Member and a fee of 10 Euros for individual members.

**11. Relations with other Associations: CESP and IPA.**

M. Katz reports on relations with the International Paediatric Association (IPA). He mentions that there has been, and possibly there will be, some discussion about what Association represents Europe in IPA.

The President A. Rubino declares his respect, appreciation and willingness for collaboration as regards CESP, and he is sure that UNEPSA members would be happy to know that CESP will be represented in IPA. On the other hand, he does not see how CESP could replace UNEPSA after more than 30 years of UNEPSA representing Europe, indeed since the founding of UNEPSA and IPA. It should be remembered that the UNEPSA membership does not include only EU countries but the whole of Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals (including countries that are not EU members, for a total of more than 300 million people). On the other hand, the autonomy of CESP according to its Constitution is to some degree limited by the fact that CESP is a Section of the Union of the European Medical Specialists (UEMS). In addition, the CESP bodies are expressed by National Paediatric Societies partly, the other part being expressed by the professional paediatric associations. Obviously, UNEPSA is fully ready to cooperate openly with CESP/EAP and to coordinate actions with it. In the newly approved amended Constitution, under art. 2, letter H, it is established that "EPA-UNEPSA shall represent European paediatricians in relation to the International Paediatric Association (IPA), in continuity with the representative role of UNEPSA.", but immediately after (art. 2, letter I) it is established that "EPA-UNEPSA may be affiliated to other related European Societies/Associations provided that its independence is assured."

**Points 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. Election of the President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary General, Treasurer, two Members of the Executive Committee, two auditors.**

It should be noted that according to the Constitution one auditor and one controller should be elected instead of two auditors. The President reports as follows:

- Due to the changes in the IPA Constitution and the consequent changes in the UNEPSA Constitution, which have been approved, the Council shall elect two EPA-UNEPSA candidates for the Standing Committee of the International Paediatric Association and the Executive Committee of IPA will nominate one of the two candidates.
- According to the Constitution (both the present one and the amended one as approved), all Members of the Executive Committee (or the Council) will serve for two years. However, according to the "regulations governing the application of the Constitution" approved by the GA, the term of office of one or more Members of the Executive Committee can be extended for one year as Members of the Council.
- The members of the present Committee (A. Rubino, D. Branski, G. Gaedicke, J. Janda) declared the intention to nominate Eva Oláh (at present, Vice-President) and Leila Namazova (at present, Councillor) as candidates for the Standing Committee of IPA. Both accepted. Therefore it is to be expected that one of these two candidates will become UNEPSA representative in the IPA Standing Committee in August 2007.
- Mehmet Vural will remain in the Council for the next two years as President of "Europaediatrics 2008".
- The Council of the Croatian Paediatric Society has proposed Prof. Josip Grguric as a Member of the Council.

A. Rubino, given the work to be done in the next two years to apply the new Constitution and at the same time to ensure coherent continuity with the present Constitution, proposes that David Branski and Gerhard Gaedicke be re-elected for two years as Secretary General and Treasurer, respectively.

Anne Ormisson and Klaus Børch have accepted the proposal by A. Rubino, D. Branski and G. Gaedicke to serve for two years as Controller and Auditor, respectively.

The actual President A. Rubino has been in office since March 2007. Consequently, his mandate will end in February 2007. The Secretary General D. Branski proposes that A. Rubino be re-elected for a two further years. A. Rubino thanks D. Branski for the proposal but he declares that he is not prepared to accept another two-year mandate. He is only prepared to accept a prolongation from March until August 2007 on the basis of art. 5 of the "Regulations governing the application of the Constitution".

Based on the aforementioned facts and proposals, the following officers are proposed for a two-year term:

Secretary General: David Branski  
Vice-President: Danièle Sommelet

Treasurer: Gerhard Gaedicke  
Councillor: Josip Gguric  
Controller: Anne Ormisson  
Auditor: Klaus Børch

The following officers are proposed to serve until the next General Assembly in August 2007 (according to art. 5 of the "Regulations governing the application of the Constitution"):

President: Armido Rubino  
Vice-President: Eva Oláh  
Member: Leila Namazova.

The proposals are voted by secret ballot by 24 participants as Presidents or Delegates in the General Assembly. The results are as follows:

President: Armido Rubino - 23 votes, 1 abstention  
Vice-Presidents: Eva Oláh - 23 votes, 1 abstention  
Danièle Sommelet - 23 votes, 1 abstention  
Secretary General: David Branski - 22 votes, 1 abstention, 1 vote for Mehmet Vural  
Treasurer: Gerhard Gaedicke - 23 votes, 1 abstention  
Members: Leila Namazova - 23 votes  
Josip Grguric - 22 votes  
Giuseppe Saggese - 1 vote  
1 abstention  
Controller: Anne Ormisson - 23 votes, 1 abstention  
Auditor: Klaus Børch - 23 votes, 1 abstention.

Consequently the composition of the new Council is the following:

<u>President: Armido Rubino</u>	until September 2007
<u>Vice-Presidents: Eva Oláh</u>	until September 2007
<u>Danièle Sommelet</u>	until September 2008
<u>Secretary General: David Branski</u>	until September 2008
<u>Treasurer: Gerhard Gaedicke</u>	until September 2008
<u>Members: Josip Grguric</u>	until September 2008
<u>Leila Namazova</u>	until September 2007
<u>Mehmet Vural "ex officio"</u>	until June 2008
<u>Past-President: Jan Janda</u>	until September 2007
<u>Controller: Anne Ormisson</u>	until September 2008
<u>Auditor: Klaus Børch</u>	until September 2008

**18. Date and place of next General Assembly Meeting.** The next General Assembly Meeting will be held in Athens on August 25th 2007 at the venue of the 25th International Congress of Paediatrics

**19. Any other business.** It is restated that the Council in office from November 20th 2004 until September 28th 2006 consisted of Armido Rubino as President (since

---

March 2005), Eva Oláh and Mehmet Vural as Vice-Presidents, David Branski as Secretary General, Gerhard Gaedicke as Treasurer, Leila Namazova and Danièle Sommelet as Councillors.

The General Assembly expresses its gratitude to Prof. Rubino and the Italian Paediatric Society for the excellent organization of the meeting and for the warm hospitality.

The Assembly is closed at 6.30 pm

Prof. E. Oláh and Prof. M. Vural have assisted in preparing the minutes.

Prof. A. Rubino  
President

Prof. D. Branski  
Secretary General

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1B**

**General Assembly, Rome, September 28th 2006  
hrs 2.00 – 6.00pm**

#### **Agenda\***

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting
3. Present status of UNEPSA - President, Secretary General and Treasurer to report
4. Admission of new Members
5. Amended Constitution. Proposals to be discussed
6. Ongoing activities
7. Web site. Vejvarka to report
8. 25th International Congress of Paediatrics, Athens 2007 - UNEPSA participation
9. Europaediatrics 2008
10. Annual Membership fees
11. Relations with other Associations: CESP, IPA
12. Election of the President
13. Election of two Vice-Presidents
14. Election of the Secretary General
15. Election of the Treasurer
16. Election of two Members of the Executive Committee
17. Election of two auditors
18. Date and place of next General Assembly Meeting
19. Any other business

#### **\*Notes to the Agenda**

##### **Point 1. Approval of the Agenda**

##### **Point 2. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting**

The minutes of the General Assembly which was held in Istanbul, November 2004 are given as doc. 2A.

##### **Point 3. Present status of UNEPSA**

President, Secretary General and Treasurer to report.

The attention is called to the Section "UNEPSA's current initiatives and possible future" (pages 8-10) in the paper "30 years of the Union of National European Paediatric Societies and Associations (UNEPSA)" by K. Betke, J.H.H. Ehrich, J. Janda, M. Katz, A. Rubino, in press in Europ. J. Paediatrics (doc. 3A).

##### **Point. 4. Admission of new members**

No applications for new admissions have been sent to the Secretary General.

##### **Point 5. Amended Constitution. Proposal to be discussed**

In accordance with ideas developed and discussed since 1998 in the UNEPSA Bodies, the text of the amended Constitution was agreed on at the Executive Committee Meeting which was held on April 21st, 2006 and it was proposed to the Secretary General by the

Presidents of the Paediatric Societies of Greece, Israel, Italy, Turkey, Hungary. This text was transmitted to the Presidents of the Society Members on last June 29th.

Prof. A. Constantopoulos also proposed some changes as given under doc. point 5A. Prof. J. Grguric made a comment about the definition of paediatrics (doc. point 5B).

The Treasurer Prof. G. Gaedicke discussed the matter with a lawyer by interacting with the Court in Munich where UNEPSA is registered. Several points were considered important to favour the acceptance of the amended Constitution by the Court. It was suggested to avoid any sentence that could be interpreted as meaning that a new Society is founded. Secondly it was suggested to divide the text in two documents, one being the Constitution, the other containing the points not essential to be written in the Constitution but related to the regulations governing the application of the Constitution. As a result of the aforesaid work the following final proposals, are now submitted to the GA:

- amended Constitution (doc. 5C)
- regulations governing the application of the Constitution (doc. 5D).
- 

For comparison the text of the present Constitution is given (doc. 5E).

Furthermore it is proposed to the GA to constitute a working group to discuss on the definition of paediatrics as proposed by Prof. Grguric.

#### **Point 6. Ongoing activities**

- Mehmet Vural will report on the Adolescent health study.
- Eva Oláh will report on the neonatal care study (doc.6A).
- Gerhard Gaedicke will report on a Hemato-Oncology project.
- Summer courses - David Branski to report.
- Armido Rubino will report on the relation with:
  - WHO Regional Office for Europe (doc. 6B);
  - European Agency for the evolution of Medicinal Products (EMEA) (doc. 6C and 6D);
  - Task Force in Europe for Drug Development for the Young (TEDDY) (doc. 6E).

#### **Point 7. Website**

Jan Vejvalka to report.

#### **Point 8. 25th International Congress of Paediatrics, Athens 2007**

Armido Rubino will report on the UNEPSA participation.

Two Round Tables (not exceeding 1.5 hrs with 3 to 4 speakers) have been proposed and accepted as a UNEPSA pre-Congress meeting to be held on August 25th:

- Demographic changes and paediatrics in Europe.
- Educational needs for paediatricians in the changing Society of Europe.

#### **Point 9. Europaediatrics 2008**

Mehmet Vural (President of the Congress), Jochen Ehrich (Chairman of the Scientific Committee) and David Branski will report.

#### **Point 10. Annual Membership fees**

The present amount of Membership fees annually due are reported in the doc. 10A.

**Point 11. Relations with other Associations**

CESP: the President and the Secretary General will report.

IPA: the UNEPSA representative in the Standing Committee of IPA Manuel Katz will report.

**Points 12.13.14.15.16.17. Election of President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary General, Treasurer, two Members of the Council, two auditors**

According to the Constitution (both the present one and the amended one if approved), all members of the Executive Committee (or Council) will serve for two years.

The following members were elected by the General Assembly, November 2004, Istanbul:

President: Armido Rubino (Italy) (serving from March, 2005);

Secretary General: David Branski (Israel);

Vice-Presidents: Mehmet Vural (Turkey), Eva Oláh (Hungary);

Treasurer: Gerhard Gaedicke (Germany);

Members: Danièle Sommelet (France), Leila Namazova (Russia);

Jan Janda (Czech Republic) is in the Council as Past President.

The President and the Secretary General will report.

Prof. Josip Grguric, President of the Croatian Paediatric Society, has been proposed as a Member by the Council of the Croatian Paediatric Society.

**Point 18. Date and place of next General Assembly Meeting**

Athens, August 25, 2007

**Point 19. Any other business**

## Appendix 3A

### UNEPSA e.V.

2006

Monat	Einnahmen	von	Ausgaben	für	Kontostand
Januar					+56.919,14 €
Februar			5,55 €	Kontoführung	+56.913,59 €
März			5,55 €	Kontoführung	+56.908,04 €
April			5,55 €	Kontoführung	+56.902,49 €
April			26,00 €	Justizkasse Bamberg	+56.876,49 €
April			348,46 €	Steuerberater	+56.528,03 €
Mai			8,10 €	Kontoführung	+56.519,93 €
Juni			5,55 €	Kontoführung	+56.514,38 €
Juni			332,50 €	Übersetzung UNEPSA Meeting	+56.181,88 €
Juli			7,10 €	Kontoführung	+56.174,78 €
August			5,55 €	Kontoführung	+56.169,23 €
August			1858,57 €	WIPO UNEPSA	+54.310,66 €
August			2017,29 €	WIPO Europaediatrics	+52.293,37 €
August			2017,29 €	WIPO Europediatrics	+50.276,08 €
August			4711,84 €	Marmara Patent Office Trademark	+45.564,24 €
September			10,10 €	Kontoführung	+45.554,14 €
Oktober					
November					
Dezember					

## Appendix 5A

### **AMENDED CONSTITUTION (Changes proposed by Prof. A. Constantopoulos)**

#### **Article 2. E.**

To co-operate with paediatric associations worldwide, with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UNICEF, the World Bank and with other national and international organisations and foundations operating in the field of child health.

#### **Article 4.b**

One or two additional representative(s) nominated by each National Paediatric Society/Association if the number of the individual members of the European Paediatric Association who are also members of that National Society/Association is higher than 15% and 30% respectively of the total number of the members of that National Society/Association. The aforesaid percentages shall be calculated based on the total number of members of that National Society/Association when its last annual meeting ended.

#### **Article 5. Second last paragraph**

All Members of the Council will serve a term of two years and will be eligible for re-election to the same post for two further periods of two years.

#### **Article 6 (this is an additional article. If approved, the articles 6, 7 and 8 will become respectively 7, 8 and 9)**

The venue and the President of the forthcoming Congress are decided by the General Assembly by secret vote, at least two years before the date of the Congress. The other decisions related to the Congress are handled by the Council and by the President of the Congress, including those regarding possible affiliations by other Societies/Associations in the organization. The President of the Congress will have the responsibility for the Congress and he will transfer to the European Paediatric Association/UNEPSA at least 10% of the total income (sponsorships and registration fees). This article does not apply to the first Congress coming after its approval by the General Assembly.

## Appendix 5B

### PROPOSALS TO THE UNEPSA COMMITTEE FOR «PAEDIATRICS» DEFINITION

Rome, September 27<sup>th</sup> 2006

**Prof. Josip Grgurić, M.D., Ph.D.**  
**President of the Croatian Paediatric Society**

Key words: «paediatrics» definition, fetology

Paediatricians have been defining «*paediatrics*» for over 200 years, beginning from: "*the branch of medicine dealing with treatment of children's diseases*" to the contemporary UNEPSA's concept "*the branch of medicine that cares for and promotes children's growth and development*".

Several Declarations of the Rights of the Child have been adopted, and in 1989 the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It defines a «*child*» as a human being from its birth until 18 years of age. It is important to emphasize that, according to the Convention, child is a subject not an object of care.

Giving the Convention on the Rights of the Child settings, a new definition of *paediatrics* is proposed for the today meeting.

Article 2 of the «Proposed Amended Constitution of UNEPSA» says: «*Paediatric care is defined as the medical care of human beings during and up to the completion of growth and development, from their birth up to 18 years of age.*»

First definition part responds to nowadays attitude that *paediatrics* cares about children's and adolescent growth and development while the second definition part does not include prenatal period.

It is true that second definition part is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, we must be aware of the fact that by adoption of the Convention many compromises have been made due to varied legal systems and cultural traditions among the UN country members.

If we accept mentioned definition of *paediatrics*, we will slow or even stop paediatric care for unborn child. It is known that some paediatric subspecialties have already "stepped" in the prenatal period (fetal cardiology for example).

Fetology is developing and multidisciplinary approach is needed. Role of paediatrics in the future will have important role in the care for fetus.

#### **Paediatric aspect on fetology (proposals for discussion)**

Fetology shouldn't be considered as a new subspecialty. It only proposes orientation of paediatrics in two directions: to adequate fetus care in one direction and to proper adolescent care in the second one.

Fetal care should be a team work that directs paediatrician, especially neonatologist, to fetus growth and development.

Problems of early child development forcibly determine later growth and development and it is known that many of them originate from the intrauterine period.

Prematurity, small-for-date, various impairments connected to antenatal factors will hardly be solved without wide health care (primary, secondary, tertiary) and cooperation of complementary specialities.

#### Tasks of a Paediatrician in Fetology Primary Prevention:

- Modern paediatrician working in the primary health care (outpatient or ambulatory) increasingly gets attributes of a family paediatrician or a paediatrician in community.  
In that sense, family and community health data and social conditions serve as basic presumptions for the possible interventions in the antenatal care.
- Prepares future parents for responsible parenthood.
- Participates in preconception period, especially in genetic-counselling.
- In cooperation with family-doctor (general practitioner) and gynecologist participates in intrauterine growth/nutrition monitoring, infection prevention, etc.
- Involvement in surveillance of fetus coming from the family with hereditary and chronic diseases.
- Monitors fetus growth and development coming from multiple pregnancy and socially deprived family.
- Prepares becoming mothers for breastfeeding (breastfeeding decision is adopting in pregnancy).

#### Tasks of a Paediatrician in Fetology Secondary Prevention:

- On the level of maternity hospitals/wards, participation in permanent neonatology service that monitors fetus in danger and prepares its delivery.
- Involvement in endangered pregnancy monitoring in team work with gynecologist/obstetrician.
- Participation in treatment of pathological conditions occurring in fetal period.

#### Tasks of a Paediatrician in Fetology Tertiary Prevention:

- On medical centers level, establishment of special teams consisting of gynecologist/obstetrician, neonatologist and experts with ability of intrauterine intervention on fetus.
- Participation in expert groups for ethical questions on fetology.

### **PROPOSAL TO THE UNEPSA COMMITTEE**

I suggest formation of a working group that will elaborate and suggest tasks for a paediatrician in the prenatal health care.

## Appendix 5C

### AMENDED CONSTITUTION Final proposal

#### **Article 1:** Name

The name of the association shall be the “European Paediatric Association” (EPA) followed by “UNEPSA”, i.e. “European Paediatric Association – UNEPSA” (henceforth “EPA-UNEPSA”).

EPA-UNEPSA is in continuity with the Union of National European Paediatric Societies and Associations (UNEPSA) for all its activities, and maintains the logo, rights and duties assumed by UNEPSA.

The association is registered with the Court of Registry for Associations, Societies and Clubs (*Registergericht*) in Munich, Germany.

The EPA-UNEPSA's office shall be located at the place of work of the President.

#### **Article 2:** Objectives

- A. To encourage co-operation between National Paediatric Societies/Associations in Europe and between European paediatricians working in primary, secondary and tertiary paediatric care in Europe, in order to promote child health and comprehensive paediatric care. Paediatric care is defined as the medical care of human beings during and up to the completion of growth and development, from birth up to 18 years of age.
- B. To stimulate collaborative research in paediatrics in Europe.
- C. To improve the quality of paediatric patient care in all European countries including both members and non-members states of the European Union.
- D. To promote the exchange of national experiences in the various fields of patient care and make national practices known to others. To obtain information about paediatrics from national societies and associations, and to make it available to EPA-UNEPSA members. To this purpose, EPA-UNEPSA owns a website and promotes the use of updated communication technology.
- E. To co-operate with paediatric associations worldwide, the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, the World Bank, and any other national or international organisations or foundations operating in the field of child health.
- F. To organize congresses for its members, and meetings of Presidents of European National Paediatric Societies/Associations.
- G. To implement any policy that promotes paediatrics that may be laid down by the General Assembly, such as forming *ad hoc* expert committees to study and make recommendations on important issues of paediatric interest in Europe.
- H. EPA-UNEPSA shall represent European paediatricians in relation to the International Paediatric Association (IPA), in continuity with the representative role of UNEPSA.
- I. EPA-UNEPSA may be affiliated to other related European Societies/Associations provided that its independence is assured.

#### **Article 3:** Membership

There shall be two categories of membership:

Society/Association Membership. Any European Paediatric Society/Association that represents a whole nation shall be eligible to become a Member Society of EPA-UNEPSA.

One additional Society/Association for each European nation may become a member of EPA-UNEPSA if, according to its constitution and its membership, its main aims are

promoting research, education and health care in the field of primary and/or secondary paediatric care.

Individual Membership. Certified paediatricians in Europe who are members of a Paediatric Society/Association Member of EPA-UNEPSA are eligible for Individual Membership.

**Article 4:** General Assembly

The General Assembly is constituted by:

- a) the President or Vice-President or General Secretary of each National Paediatric Society/Association member;
- b) one or two additional representative(s) nominated by a National Paediatric Society/Association if more than 15% and 30% respectively of its members are also individual members of EPA-UNEPSA. The aforesaid percentages shall be calculated based on the number of members of the National Society/Association upon closure of its last annual meeting.

Each participant in the General Assembly shall have one vote.

The General Assembly is convened by the President. It shall take place annually. It will be convened in writing not less than six weeks before the date of the General Assembly, calculated from the day the Agenda is dispatched.

The functions of the General Assembly are:

- A) To lay down EPA-UNEPSA policies in accordance with Article 2 of this Constitution.
- B) To elect the EPA-UNEPSA President.
- C) To elect two Vice-Presidents.
- D) To elect the Secretary General.
- E) To elect the Treasurer.
- F) To elect two more Councillors.
- G) To elect one Auditor and one Controller.
- H) To decide on the admission of new members.
- I) To decide the venue and the President of the forthcoming European Congress.
- J) To decide the annual membership fees of EPA-UNEPSA.
- K) To delegate any matter to be handled between General Assembly meetings to the Council.

Candidates for each position in the Council may be proposed by any Society/Association Member. Voting shall be by secret ballot at the General Assembly.

One Vice-President shall be the President of a National Paediatric Society/Association. The other Vice-President shall be elected from among the components of the General Assembly. Any paediatrician who belongs to a Society/Association Member can be proposed as candidate for the other Council positions and for the Presidency. The quorum for voting in the General Assembly shall be constituted by one-third of its members. A simple majority of the votes cast shall be decisive in the General Assembly. In the event of a tied vote, the President of the General Assembly will have the casting vote.

**Article 5:** Council

The Council shall consist of seven elected members, who reflect the various regions of Europe. It consists of:

- The EPA President
- Two Vice-Presidents
- The Secretary General

The Treasurer  
Two Councillors  
The Past President  
The President of the forthcoming Congress shall be an *ex officio* member of the Council.

The Council shall promote the policy laid down by the General Assembly.

The Council shall elect two EPA-UNEPSA candidates for the Standing Committee of the International Paediatric Association.

All Members of the Council will serve a term of two years. They will be eligible for re-election to the same post for two further periods of two years.

The quorum for voting in the Council shall be two-thirds of Council members. A simple majority of the votes cast shall be decisive in the Council. In the event of a tied vote, the President will have the casting vote.

The President shall carry out the policies that are laid down by the General Assembly and by the Council. He/She chairs the General Assembly of EPA-UNEPSA. In case of his/her absence, the President appoints one of the Vice-Presidents to serve as Acting President.

The Secretary General shall be responsible for the administrative affairs and the Treasurer for the financial affairs of EPA-UNEPSA. They will carry out such functions that may be delegated to them by the Council or the President.

The President may, for specific purposes, delegate matters to members of the Council.

The President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer represent officially the EPA/UNEPSA. The President may delegate other Members of the Board to represent officially the EPA/UNEPSA for specific matters.

**Article 6:** Amendment of the constitution

Proposals to change the constitution, signed by representatives of at least three Member Societies/Associations, shall be notified to the Secretary General at least three months before the next ordinary General Assembly meeting EPA-UNEPSA.

Amendments to the constitution are voted upon at the General Assembly, and in the event of an amendment to the constitution, the quorum shall be half the total number of members enrolled in EPA-UNEPSA. A two-third majority vote is required to amend the constitution.

**Article 7:** Non-profit organization (*Eintragung als gemeinnütziger Verein*)

A. EPA-UNEPSA will be registered at the Court of Registry for Associations, Societies, and Clubs (*Registergericht*) in Munich, Germany, as a "Non-Profit Organisation".

The Secretary-General will represent EPA-UNEPSA at the Court of Registry for Associations, Societies, and Clubs (*Registergericht*), and exercise "judicial power of attorney" (*Vertretungsrecht*).

The Secretary General shall inform the Court of Registry for Associations, Societies, and Clubs (*Registergericht*) annually about the General Assembly by providing the following information in German:

1. The Agenda (*Tagesordnung*),

2. The name of the person who writes the minutes (generally the Secretary-General) (*Protokollführer*),
3. The existence of a quorum (*Beschlulsfähigkeit*),
4. Approval of the Agenda (*Annahme der Tagesordnung*),
5. Amendments of the Constitution,
6. The elections of the Council (*Vorstand*) (including the numeric results of the elections).

The report written by the Secretary General must be certified by a German Notary Public.

The translation of this report into German must be done by a certified sworn-in translator.

Every three years, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer will write the Financial report for the tax office for non-profit organisations in Germany (*Finanzbericht für das Finanzamt für Körperschaften*).

- B. EPA-UNEPSA exclusively and directly pursues non-profit objectives in accordance with the paragraph "*Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke*" of the tax regulations of the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as to corresponding decrees of other European countries.
- C. EPA-UNEPSA shall not pursue self-serving interests or personal objectives.
- D. The finances of EPA-UNEPSA shall be used only for objectives that are in accordance with the EPA-UNEPSA constitution. The EPA-UNEPSA members shall not receive allowances from EPA-UNEPSA funds. In the event of their withdrawal, or upon dissolution or suspension of EPA-UNEPSA, members shall not receive a refund of the dues paid by them, nor shall they make any claim against EPA-UNEPSA. No person shall claim expenses not related to the objectives of EPA-UNEPSA, nor disproportionately high reimbursement.
- E. EPA-UNEPSA officers are unpaid.
- F. In the event of dissolution or of suspension of EPA-UNEPSA, or in case of cessation of its objectives, EPA-UNEPSA finances shall be devolved to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) represented by the Deutsches Komitee für UNICEF, 50670 Köln, Steinfelder-Gasse 9, for the direct and exclusive use in non-profit objectives.

## Appendix 5D

### REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

**Re. art. 3.** *Applications for Society/Association Membership must be sent to the Secretary General of the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA and will be voted on at the subsequent General Assembly. In case a second Society/Association of a nation applies for membership, the consensus of the President of the first Paediatric Society/Association of that nation is a prerequisite for submission of the application to the General Assembly.*

*For individual Membership, the paediatrician shall apply through the National Paediatric Society/Association to which he/she is a Member.*

*Society/Association Members and individual Members shall pay fees, the amount of which will be established by the General Assembly.*

*All members of National Paediatric Societies/Associations shall be entitled:*

- a) to attend scientific meetings organized by the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA;*
- b) to receive or purchase the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA publications at a reduced price;*
- c) to avail themselves of such professional, technical or advisory services as the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA may provide;*
- d) to have access to the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA website;*
- e) to be eligible to serve as members of specialized working committees established by the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA.*

*Individual Members of the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA shall be entitled to the same aforesaid rights and to additional benefits including reduced registration fees for the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA meetings, access to the "members only" section of the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA website, and other benefits related to European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA services as established by the General Assembly.*

*Membership can be terminated by sending a written declaration to the Secretary General.*

**Re. art. 4.** *The Secretary General is responsible for drawing up minutes of the proceedings of the General Assembly. The minutes must be signed by the Secretary General and the President.*

*The President is allowed to invite other persons to take part in the General Assembly Meeting without voting rights. Nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Treasurer and other Councillors shall be sent in writing to the Secretary General at least 24 hours before the scheduled date of the General Assembly Meeting.*

**Re. art. 5.** *The President is allowed to invite the person responsible for the European Paediatric Association-UNEPSA website and other persons to attend the Council Meetings without voting rights.*

*To facilitate continuity according to the amended Constitution, the term of office of one or more Members of the Executive Committee can be extended for one year as Members of the Council.*

---

*The venue and the President of the forthcoming Congress are decided by secret vote at least two years before the date of the Congress. The other decisions related to the Congress are handled by the Council and by the President of the Congress, including decisions regarding the possible involvement of other Societies/Associations in the Congress organization. The President of the Congress is responsible for the Congress and he/she will transfer to the European Paediatric Association/UNEPSA at least 10% of the total income (sponsorships and registration fees). This rule is not applicable to the Congress established before the date of approval of this document.*

## Appendix 5E



# UNEPSA

UNION OF NATIONAL EUROPEAN PAEDIATRIC  
SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

## CONSTITUTION OF UNEPSA

### Article 1: Name

The name of this union shall be Union of National European Paediatric Societies and Associations (UNEPSA). The union is registered with its office in Munich.

### Article 2: Objectives

- A.** To encourage cooperation between national pediatric societies/associations in Europe in their task to promote child health and comprehensive paediatric care. Paediatric care is defined as the medical care of the human being during and up to the completion of growth and development.
- B.** To obtain information concerning paediatrics at the national level from societies and associations, and to make it available to member countries.
- C.** To stimulate research in appropriate field of pediatrics by drawing attention to outstanding problems in the European context.
- D.** To cooperate with the International Paediatric Association (IPA), in the context of its policy with respect to regional societies as well as at the European level with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international agencies in the field of child health.
- E.** To sponsor European meetings and carry any other policy promoting paediatrics, that may be laid down by the general assembly, such as forming *ad hoc* expert committees to study and make recommendations on important issues of general pediatrics interest in Europe.

### Article 3: Membership

Member of the union can be any European national paediatric society/association representing a whole nation. Application for membership shall be addressed to the Secretary-General to be voted on at the next General Assembly.

The member societies/associations shall pay dues to the amount of which being determined by the General Assembly.

Membership can be terminated by making a declaration on this matter.

### Article 4: General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of the endorsed representatives of the respective member societies/associations. Each country shall have one vote to be cast by a member of the board of the national society/association. If two or more national societies/associations exist, these must themselves decide which Board Member will cast the single vote on behalf of the country. The functions of the General Assembly are:

- A.** To elect the President and two Vice-Presidents.
- B.** To elect the Secretary General.
- C.** To elect two more Members of the Executive Committee without special functions.
- D.** To elect one or two Auditors.
- E.** To decide on the admission of new Members.
- F.** To lay down policies of the UNEPSA in accordance with article 2 D and E.
- G.** To decide the annual fee of the members of the Union.
- H.** To delegate to the Executive Committee the authority to deal with any matter to be handled between the meetings of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly is convened by the President. It shall take place at least every two years. Convocation shall be done in writing not less than six weeks before the date of the General Assembly, calculated from the day of dispatch.

The Secretary-General is responsible for drawing up minutes of proceedings of the General Assembly. They must be signed by him or by another member of the Executive Committee.

#### **Article 5: Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall consist of 6 elected members reflecting the various regions of Europe. It shall consist of:

The President  
Two Vice-Presidents  
The Secretary General  
Two Members

Candidates for each post can be proposed by any country but shall be endorsed by their national societies/associations.

Voting will be by secret ballot at the General Assembly.

The President shall carry out the policies that are laid down by the General Assembly. He chairs the General Assembly and the Committees of the Union. In case of his absence, he appoints one of the Vice-Presidents to replace him as Acting President.

The Secretary General shall be in charge of the administrative and financial affairs of the Union. He will carry out such functions and authorities that may be delegated to him by the Executive Committee or the President. The President may -for a special purpose or in general- delegate to each member of the Executive Committee matters to be handled by him as the President or by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall elect the Candidate for the Standing Committee of the International Paediatric Association and carry out such policies that are laid down by the General Assembly.

All Members of the Executive Committee will serve for 2 years. The President, Vice-Presidents and the two Members of the Executive Committee will be eligible for re-election for one period of 2 years only, and thereafter will be ineligible to occupy the same post. The Secretary-General may be re-elected for two further periods of two years, each making a total tenure of six years possible. No person may be a member of the Executive Committee in any capacity for more than six years. The President of the forthcoming meeting is a member of the Executive Committee *ex officio*.

Candidates for post as President, Vice-President, Secretary General, and other Members of the Executive Committee may be proposed in writing, and handed to the Secretary General at least one hour before the scheduled time of the Assembly Meeting.

### **Article 6: Voting**

The quorum for voting of the General Assembly shall be one third, for the Executive Committee two thirds of the members.

A simple majority of the members present is valid for voting in the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. In the event that the vote is tied, the President shall cast the deciding vote. For amendment of the constitution half of the members shall be present, and a two third majority is required for changing the Constitution.

### **Article 7: Amendment of the Constitution**

Proposal for changing the constitution shall be sent to the Secretary General, signed by representatives of at least three member societies/associations not later than three months before the next ordinary General Assembly meeting of the Union.

### **Article 8: Non-profit Institution of Public Utility (gemeinnutzung)**

- A.** The Union exclusively and directly pursues non-profit objective according to the paragraph "Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke" of the tax regulations of the Federal Republic of Germany as well as to corresponding decrees of other European countries.
- B.** The Union acts unselfishly; it does not, in the first line, pursue economic objects for its own.
- C.** The means of the Union shall only be used for objectives in accordance with the constitution. The members of the Union shall not receive allowances from the funds of the Union. In case of their withdrawal or at the dissolution or suspension of the Union, the members do not get back the dues paid by them nor do they have any claim to the fortune of the Union. No person shall profit from expenses not corresponding to the objectives of the Union nor from disproportionately high reimbursement.
- D.** All officers of the Union act unpaid. Commercial operations are not allowed on behalf of the Union.
- E.** In the case of dissolution or of suspension of the Union, or in the case of cessation of its objectives, the fortune of the Union shall devolve upon the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund -UNICEF- represented by Deutsches Komitee für UNICEF, 50670 Köln, Steinfelder-Gasse 9, for the direct and exclusive use in non-profit objectives.
- F.** The responsible revenue office where the Union is registered must be notified of any amendment to the constitution.

---

## Appendix 10A

### Annual fees due by the Society/Membership

- 800 Euros by: Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Switzerland.
- 500 Euros by: Denmark, Finland, Israel, Portugal, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland.
- 300 Euros by: Croatia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Russia, Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 100 Euros by: Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Ukraine.