

**Final Agenda and Minutes for the EFAS General
Assembly,
Tenerife, Hotel Semiramis, Room Islas Canarias
Tuesday, 23rd June 2009 at 6.00p.m.**



1. Welcome from Chair (Holgers)

2. Attendance:

Voting representatives (14 present): Atas (Turkey), Attias (Israel), Barajas (Spain), Dauman (France), Dillier (Switzerland), Kentala (Finland), Luxon (U.K.), Marn (Croatia), Mikic (Serbia), Pace Balzan (Malta), Stephan (Austria), Sulkowski (Poland), Verschuure (Netherlands), Tavartkiladze (Russia).

Non-voting representatives and observers (18 present): Angulo (Spain), Davies (U.K.), Geczy (Slovenia), Grandori (Italy), Hoppe (Germany), Kiss (Hungary), Kollmeier (Germany), Kompis (Switzerland), Laukli (Norway), Raglan (U.K.), Salesa (Spain), Serbetcioglu (Turkey), Skarzynski (Poland), Sliwinska-Kowalska (Poland), Uhlen (Sweden), Vainutiene (Lithuania), Wouters (Belgium), Zenker (Spain).

Apologies: Farkas (Hungary), Kiessling (Germany), Martini (Italy), Pitt (Ireland), Uloziene (Lithuania), Vik (Norway).

3. Minutes of GA in Goteborg, June 2008

Correction of Item 6, para. 4. The word 'Association' should read 'Federation'.

4. Chairman's Report on: Activities/Education in Audiology (Holgers)

In these past 2 years EFAS had launched scholarships for students/young scientists attending and presenting at its Congresses and worked on co-ordinating education in Audiology in Europe. EFAS was also hoping to have a 'Code of ethics' implemented, if the document circulated was approved by the Committee of Representatives. The federation also expected to become more involved with the 'Hearcom Project'. The Council had also proposed to produce a 'roadmap' for arranging EFAS Congresses which would be circulated among the membership so that they could give their input to this document before it was finalized. There had been increasing collaboration with ISA and Holgers had also been involved with the ISA executive committee.

5. Treasurer's report/ HearCom-supporting the initiative (Dillier)

Dillier presented the Treasurer's Report. The balance had increased since he had taken over from Spillman in 2007 (from approx. 27,000 Euros to almost 36,000 Euros) and the sources of income and expenditure were outlined for the delegates. He also outlined possible ways in which EFAS could use the money in its account in the coming years. Dillier asked for comments from the Auditors and Sulkowski remarked that he was satisfied with the report. Holgers explained how the idea of sponsoring exchange programmes mentioned by Dillier as a way of making use the money in the EFAS account had been suggested at the recent Council meeting (Tenerife, June 21st). Raglan welcomed this initiative and asked whether it was formulated as a proposal that could be presented to the national societies. Attias replied that the idea of the council was to suggest this initiative at the ongoing GA and (should it be found acceptable) eventually set up a designated Committee. Holgers added that members who were interested in forming part of this Committee should inform the Secretary.

Dillier spoke about the Hearing in the Communication Society (HearCom) Project, and the HearCom Internet Portal. The Executive Project Manager (Marcel Vlaming) also talked about the cost of maintaining the Hearcom Project and invited EFAS to become one of the partners committed to maintain this European Project going. To become a full partner of the HearCom Internet Portal Association (HIPA) EFAS would need to contribute 1,000 Euros a year. Kollmeier said that the Board responsible for maintaining the Hearcom Portal is composed of persons coming from the different Partner Institutions and that input/comments/contributions to the contents of the Portal from Member Societies of EFAS was to be encouraged.

The delegates present voted in favour of sponsoring and becoming a full partner of HIPA for one year. It was decided that the GA would vote with regards to contributing to the maintenance of the HearCom Project year by year.

6. Secretary's report/ Vote regarding code of ethics (Pace Balzan)

EFAS is represented in 34 European Countries and there have not been any new countries joining EFAS in the past 2 years. The secretariat was failing to contact the country representatives from Iceland, Latvia and Ukraine.

EFAS is a member of the European Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery and the representative of the Federation at their next General Assembly will be the incoming Chairman of EFAS (Luxon). Both Luxon and Holgers had been nominated by the Council to sit on the advisory board for the new European Board Exam in Otolaryngology.

The EFAS website (www.efas.ws) now features a link to the website of the 10th EFAS Congress which will be held in Warsaw in 2011 (www.efas2011.org).

The delegates present were asked to make any comments/suggestions about the 'Code of

Ethics' document that had been circulated prior to the meeting in Tenerife, and then invited to take a vote regarding the publication this document.

Grandori proposed a change in the wording; the term 'members' could be more appropriately replaced by the words 'members of Member Societies'.

Kollmeier remarked that EFAS could not impose a change in the code of ethics of its member societies, but that member societies could themselves decide to adopt the EFAS code of ethics. Holgers added that EFAS might say that the code was a 'recommendation' for member societies. Dillier suggested posting the document on the website anyway, so that the National Societies could make use of it if they wanted to.

The majority of the delegates voted in favour of posting the 'Code of Ethics' document on the EFAS website.

7. EFAS scholarship 2009 (Attias)

Attias explained the process that had been undertaken to award the 2 EFAS scholarships, since the idea originated at the EFAS GA in Heidelberg 2 years previously. The recipients of the scholarships were then called. Both Limor Lavie (Israel) and Tatiana Golubok-Abyzova (Ukraine) spoke briefly and thereafter received certificates in acknowledgment for their contribution to the Scientific Programme of the Congress.

8. Report on Tenerife Congress (Barajas)

The Congress had been attended by 376 delegates, including the 2 scholarship winners and 9 students. Barajas also spoke of the structure of the scientific programme, the sponsors of the meeting and the exhibitors.

9. Report on Warsaw 2011 Congress progress (Skarzynski)

Skarzynski gave a video presentation about the venue and the topics for the scientific programme of the 10th EFAS Congress in Warsaw. The congress fees for students will be very much reduced (50 Euros).

10. Nominations and voting for next EFAS Congress in 2013.

3 countries presented bids for the organization of the 11th EFAS in 2013:

Turkey (Istanbul), presented by Atas

Hungary (Budapest), presented by Kiss

U.K. (London), presented by Luxon

The result of the ballot was 8 votes for Budapest, 7 votes for London and 5 votes for Istanbul, therefore Budapest was chosen as the venue for EFAS Congress in 2013.

11. Nomination Committee Report and Council Elections

The Secretary and Treasurer had accepted to retain their office for a further 2 years.

Thus there was one vacant position in the Council; that of Vice-Chairman. No written report was available from the nomination committee. However, the nomination committee had identified one candidate, who had agreed to be proposed for the position of Vice-Chairman: Erna Kentala from Finland.

Kentala was invited to introduce herself to the Assembly.

After Kentala had given a brief resumé of her career and interests, the Chairman asked if there were any other suggestions and if the GA could proceed in voting. Hands were raised to vote for the candidate for vice-president, but Kollmeier halted proceedings and called for a secret ballot. Dauman then intervened and explained that, as a founder member of EFAS, he was not satisfied with the nomination process and felt that the Nominations Committee

was not functioning effectively. He was concerned that one candidate for the position of Vice-Chairman did not give the GA sufficient choice. The incoming President, Luxon then spoke warmly of Professor Kentala's outstanding academic career and attributes and also emphasised the need to adhere to EFAS bylaws even if mistakes had been made by the Nomination Committee. Dauman maintained his position and offered himself as a second candidate for the position of Vice-chairman, but the GA did not accept this offer.

The President suggested that the Board should remain unchanged for a further term but this too was not accepted by the GA.

As an immediate remedy, Attias suggested that a new Nomination Committee should be formed before the Committee of Representatives voted anyone to the position of Vice Chairman. He suggested a Committee made up of previous Chairmen of EFAS. Stephan (on behalf of the Nomination Committee) accepted to resign.

After considerable discussion, the GA decided not to vote for a Vice President at the present General Assembly. The GA decided that the Vice Chairman position should remain vacant. Attias, Verschuure, Dauman and Holgers were elected by the GA to form the Nomination Committee.

The new established Nomination Committee will circulate the names of candidates for the office of Vice Chairman by September 2009 and that a postal ballot would be held by October 2009.

12. Discussion of Proposed changes in EFAS bylaws on §4 in order to open up for non-voting members to become elected to EFAS council (Holgers).

At present: §4. COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Committee of Representatives shall consist of the Voting Representatives from all member nations of EFAS.

§5. COUNCIL

The council shall consist of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Past Chairman, the Secretary and

the Treasurer, elected from the members of the Committee of Representatives.

Suggested change to §4. COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*The Committee of Representatives shall consist of the Voting **and Non-Voting Representatives** from all member nations of EFAS. **Each country** has one vote in the Committee of Representatives. No country can have more than one member elected to the council.*

Holgers asked the country representatives to look at these suggested amendments in the EFAS by-laws so that they could vote regarding these changes in the next GA in 2010.

12. Any other business

There was no time for discussion of other issues. The meeting was called to an abrupt end because it had taken much longer than expected, and transport was waiting for the delegates.

13. Handover of Duties of Presidency

At the gala dinner that same evening Holgers thanked the members of the Council and the Committee of Representatives for all the support they had given her during her two year term as Chairman of EFAS. She also thanked the Past Chairman, Joseph Attias for his contribution in the Council. She then invited the new Chairman of EFAS to take the stage.

14. Vote of thanks to retiring Council members and Close of meeting

Luxon thanked Holgers for her work and commitment to EFAS. She also thanked all the delegates for their support to the organization and expressed her desire to continue the good work done so far, particularly in the field of Education in Audiology.