



Minutes of the EFAS General Assembly 18h30-20h on May 24th, 2019 Culturgest, Lisbon

1. Welcome from Chair:

Françoise Artières welcomes the attendants and thanks Jorge Martins and his team for organizing an excellent EFAS congress and the opportunity for a General Assembly meeting.

2. Attendance and Apologies:

Jan Wouters reports that the following 26 of the 35 countries are represented (person executing the voting rights are marked in green):

Present (N=19): Austria (**Stephan**), Belgium (**Wouters**, Laureyns), Croatia (**Trotic**, Birtic, Bilic), Czech Republic (**Syka**), Finland (**Myteleanen?**), France (**Artieres**, Thai-Van), Germany (**Kollmeier**, Hoppe), Ireland (**Pitt**), Israel (Lavie, Kishon-Rabin), Italy (**Sardone**), Montenegro (**Jovanovic**), Netherlands (**Goedegebure**), Norway (**Vik**, Nagaraj), Poland (**Sulkowski**, Skarzynski), Portugal (**Martins**, Cravo), Romania (Cozma), Russia (**Tavartkiladze**, Boboshko), Slovenia (**Nina Urbancic**, Zupan), Spain (Templado), Sweden (**Uhlén**), Switzerland (Dillier, **Kompis**, Veraguth), Turkey (**Konukseven**, Serbetcioglu)

Apologies and voting by e-mail (N=7): Bosnia Herzegovina (**Spiric**), Israel (**Attias**), Romania (**Georgescu**), Serbia (**Mikic**), Spain (**Barajas**, Zenker), Sweden (Stenfeld), Ukraine (**Golubok-Abyzova**), United Kingdom (**Dawes**)

Hungary (Kiss) did not show up even though indicated

No reaction to the invitation (neither apology nor acknowledgement of receipt of the invitation) have been received from the following N=8 countries: Denmark

(Yde), Estonia (Lepplaan), Greece (Xenelis), Iceland (Hinriksdottir), Latvia (Kise), Lithuania (Uloziene), Malta (Balzan), Slovakia (Profant),

Guests: Austria (Katzbauer, Heinze, Sprinzl, Clems?, Astril?, Puilyg?), Belgium (Dobbels), Croatia (Matkovic), Denmark (Neher, Hammershoi), Germany (Holube, Wetzel), Netherlands (de Laat), Romania (Bitere), Turkey (Davarci, Kuserl, Alkin, Uludoy, Adol, Getinkayo, Meral)

3. Minutes of GA Interlaken, June 2017 & GA Montpellier, September 2018

With the preliminary agenda the link to the minutes of the Interlaken (June 2017) and Montpellier (September 2018) was sent around. No objections from the members were recorded. Hence, the approved minutes will be put on the EFAS website (www.efas.ws).

4. Matters arising (not otherwise covered on Agenda):

None

5. Chairperson's report:

Françoise Artières addressed the following issues:

2017 EFAS General Assembly:

- **Election of new EFAS Board:** Birger Kollmeier was elected as vice chairman/chairman-elect and Jan Wouters as secretary-general for the period 2017- 2019.
- Re-election of **EFAS treasurer**, Martin Kompis (in office since 2013)
- **Election of a new search committee** : Norbert Dillier, Kurt Stephan, Özlem Konukseven.
- EFAS 2017 Interlaken wonderful congress organized by Martin Kompis
- Election of the location for the **EFAS Congress 2021**. Croatia, Sibenik.

Major activities 2017 -2019:

- Update EFAS Website by Theresa Pitt, Norbert Dillier, Jan Wouters (2018-)
- Established contacts to National Audiology Societies to fill in open positions to extend involvement in EFAS and reactivate contacts.
- New members in **Czech Republic** (Libor Cerny), **France** (Hung Thai Van), **Portugal** (Melissa Cravo), **Serbia Montenegro** (Maja Jovanovic), **Slovakia** (Lukas Vargas), **Slovenia** (Bozanic Urbancic, Spela Kordis), **Sweden** (Josefina Larsson, Anette Sörlin) and **Italy**
- Contacts with countries Lithuania, Iceland
- **EFAS session in CI Conference 2018 Antwerp:** « CI- assessment in patients with special needs » Jan Wouters, Martin Kompis and Françoise Artières
- **EFAS -representation Conference European ORL -HNS 2019 Brussels:** Martin Kompis, Françoise Artières

EFAS Workshop 2018, New applications in Audiology, Palavas, Institut Saint-Pierre, France:

- **Working Group Reports** at EFAS 2018 Workshop Montpellier/Palavas
- Four EFAS working groups are active:
 - **EFAS WG SHS:** School Age Hearing Screening, Chair: Jan Wouters, **11 countries.**
 - **EFAS WG AID:** Audiology screening and services for Intellectual Disability, Chair: Melina Willems, **7 countries**
 - **EFAS WG APD:** Auditory processing disorders, Chair: Vasiliki Maria (Vivian) Iliadou & Hung Thai-Van, **13 countries**
 - **EFAS WG EDU:** Audiology Education in Europe, Chair: Kollmeier
- Reports of all 4 working groups have been presented at the Wednesday pre-

symposium of the Lisbon EFAS 2019 congress

- EFAS 2018 General Assembly Palavas/France
 - **Attendees n=16:** Belgium , Croatia, Finland , Germany, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, Montenegro, Slovenia
 - **Apologies n=9:** Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Israel, Russia, Slovenia, United Kingdom

EFAS congress 2019 Lisbon:

- Many video/telephone conference meetings were organized with **Jorge Humberto Martins** and his team to prepare the conference program.

Report on preparations 15th EFAS Congress 2021 Croatia:

- The congress chair **Robert Trotic** reported about the preparations. 15th EFAS will be held **May 19th-22^{sd},2021 , Šibenik, Croatia**

Special thanks for continuing support

- to the Board (especially the members leaving the board after a substantial, productive period: Theresa Pitt (2013 – 2019), Martin Kompis (2013-2019), Jan Wouters (2011-2019) ,
- to the search committee :Norbert Dillier, Özlem Konukseven, and Kurt Stephan,
- to the scholarship officer Joseph Attias,
- to the auditors: Wieslaw Sulkowski, Arne Vik

Next meetings:

- Next EFAS Workshop summer 2020: Oldenburg June 4-5
- Next General Assembly will be in Oldenburg in 2020 June 5th

6. Treasurer's report:

Martin Kompis reports on the period from August 1st, 2018 – April 15th, 2019. Income of approximately 7.5k€ and expenses of approximately 2.8k€. This indicates an increase of the current balance of the society by approximately 4.5k€ to about 70k€. Overall, EFAS is financially healthy, with a solid base. The largest expenses have been the EFAS website and the EFAS meeting in Palavas September 27th-28th 2018. Most member states of EFAS have already paid their membership fees which are greatly acknowledged. Since 2000 the number of countries which paid the EFAS membership fee gradually increased. The remaining member societies are thanked for paying as fast as possible.

Statement of the auditors and voting on acceptance by the GA

The Auditors Arne Vik (Norway) and Wieslaw Sulkowski (Poland) received the full report on April 16th, 2019 and reported to the General Assembly, that the financials are being dealt with in an accurate and transparent way so that the member societies are recommended to accept the treasurer's report. The voting members accepted unanimously the report (with one abstain by Martin Kompis)

7. Election of new EFAS board for the period 2019-2021

According to the EFAS bylaws three mandates of the board have to be voted: vice-chairperson, secretary-general, treasurer. The Search Committee Report 2019 has presented the following candidates:

Vice-chairperson/chairperson-elect:

- Liat Kishon-Rabin, Israel
- Özlem Konukseven, Turkey

Secretary-General:

- Özlem Konukseven, Turkey
- Stefan Stenfelt, Sweden

Treasurer

- Dorothe Veraguth, Switzerland

All candidates were asked to send in a CV and a one-page candidacy letter. This information of all candidates and the report of the Search Committee with the names of the candidates have been sent to all EFAS-representatives (voting and non-voting) approximately 4 weeks before the General Assembly. At the General Assembly all candidates got 3 minutes to present their candidacy. Because Stefan Stenfelt could not be present at the Lisbon meeting, he sent in a 3 minute video that was projected to the General Assembly.

Auditor Arne Vik was asked to count the paper ballot votes together with Jan Wouters, who as secretary-general received the e-mail votes.

With a majority of votes Liat Kishon-Rabin was elected as vice – chairperson/chairperson-elect, Stefan Stenfelt as secretary-general, and Dorothe Veraguth as Treasurer in the period 2019-2021

In the name of the board, Jan Wouters also thanked the other candidates for their candidature. According to the bylaws, Françoise Artières will step down from chairperson to past-chairperson and Birger Kollmeier will step up from vice-chairperson/ chairperson-elect to chairperson for the period 2019-2021.

8. Report on the ongoing Lisbon Congress 2019:

Jorge Martins gave a short report about the Lisbon EFAS congress: the more than 700 attendees make this a very successful and financially sound congress, thanks also to the financial support from companies, thanks to his organization team, some technical problems audio-visual support reported, printed program information can be improved.

9. Report on progress for the Croatia congress:

Robert Trotic reported about the ongoing organizational efforts for the EFAS 2021 congress in Sibenik, Croatia, **to be held from May 19th-22nd , 2021** and invited all EFAS members and their society members to attend the conference in large numbers. Information is provided about the professional conference organizer and the congress venue. The next steps will include the launch of a website, the outline of the conference topics, the outline of the budget and negotiations with the EFAS Board, sponsors, and exhibitors.

10. EFAS congress scholarships 2019:

The selection of the EFAS congress scholarships have been made by Joseph Attias (could not be present) and by Birger Kollmeier for the board. The importance of the EFAS scholarships was emphasised. Preference is given to first-time visitors of the EFAS conference that nevertheless exhibit a high quality of the contribution to be presented, and only 1 scholarship per country. The following applicants were awarded with scholarships and were asked to come to the podium at the opening ceremony to receive their certificates from the EFAS chairperson Françoise Artières:

- Ms. Ilayda çelik, Turkey
- Mr. Sofokleus Valentinos, Greece
- Ms. Bieke Dobbels, Belgium (not present at opening ceremony, but received the certificate at the GA)
- Mr. Dan Yaniv, Israel
- Ms. Sandra Eisner, Austria

11. Voting Auditors and Search Committee

Auditors:

Both auditors Arne Vik (Norway) and Wieslaw Sulkowski (Poland) had indicated to stop their mandate as an auditor for EFAS at this meeting. Two new

candidates were proposed:

- Piotr Skarzynski, Poland
- Vinay Swarnalatha Nagaraj, Norway

Voting was done by hand raising, and **both were voted in** by majority.

Arne Vik and Wieslaw Sulkowski were thanked for their many years of careful supervision and inspection of the EFAS accountancy.

Search Committee

The Search Committee consists of 3 people, currently Norbert Dillier, Kurt Stephan and Özlem Konukseven. The bylaws mention that the Search Committee has to be elected as well. Former chairs can become member, and a list of all former board members who might serve on the search committee, was projected. Suggested eligible candidates are Kurt stephan, Norbert Dillier, Jan Wouters, Martin Kompis, Theresa Pitt

Voting is done by writing max 3 names on paper ballots.

The result is that Martin Kompis, Jan Wouters and Theresa Pitt were voted into the search committee.

12. Voting about EFAS congress location in 2023

The 2 bids of the candidates Vienna-StPölten in Austria and Oldenburg in Germany were presented by Georg Sprinzl and by Birger Kollmeier, respectively. Both bidders had sent in a letter of interest and details about their bids prior to the General Assembly and this information with details was sent out by Jan Wouters to all EFAS-representatives (voting and non-voting). During the General Assembly, the two candidates had the chance to present their bids in a 3-minutes presentation. This procedure was adapted to ensure a maximum of

transparency and equal opportunity for each of the two bidders. Both bids are excellent alternatives. EFAS and all delegates can be proud that these attractive alternatives for the EFAS Congress 2023 have been prepared.

The majority of votes went to Vienna which was therefore determined as the location for the EFAS Congress 2023

12. Short reports from EFAS working groups:

Because of limited available time it is decided not to report in the GA

- WG SHS: Working Group on School-Age Hearing Screening (Wouters)
- WG AID: Working Group on Audiology & Intellectual Disability (Willems)
- WG APD: Working Group on Auditory Processing Disorders (Iliadu)
- WG EDU: Working Group on Audiology Education in Europe (Kollmeier)

13. Any other business:

According to an invitation by the incoming chairperson Birger Kollmeier the location and date for a meeting (details to be announced) and the next General Assembly 2020 will be Oldenburg 4-5 June 2020 (GA on June 5th).

The General Assembly 2021 will be held in Srebenik, Croatia, on Friday May 21st, 2021.

14. Handing over of presidency/Close of meeting:

The incoming chairperson, Birger Kollmeier is greeted by the outgoing chairperson Françoise Artières who closes the session with many thanks, to all participants and for the organization.

Lisbon, June 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wouters', is written over two horizontal lines. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jan Wouters (past EFAS secretary-general).