



## Minutes of the EFAS online General Assembly, Video-conference, Thursday May 20th 17:45-19:15

### 1. Welcome from Chair:

Birger Kollmeier welcomes the attendants to the online General Assembly meeting.

### 2. Attendance and Apologies:

Stefan Stenfelt reports that the following representatives and countries are represented:

**Present:** *Austria:* Kurt Stephan; *Belgium:* Jan Wouters, Melina Willems; *Croatia:* Robert Tropic, Darija Birtic, Lana Kovac Bilic; *Czech Republic:* Josef Syka; *Finland:* Jukka Kokkonen; *France:* Francoise Artieres, Hung Thai-Van, Francois Dejean; *Germany:* Birger Kollmeier, Ulrich Hoppe; *Ireland:* Theresa Pitt; *Israel:* Joseph Attias, Liat Kishon-Rabin, Limor Lavie; *Italy:* Alessandro Martini, *Montenegro:* Maja Jovanovic; *Netherlands:* Erwin Baas; *Norway:* Vinay Swarnalatha Nagaraj; *Poland:* Piotr Skarzynski, Wieslaw J Sulkowski; *Portugal:* Melissa Cravo; *Romania:* Madalina Georgescu; *Russia:* George Tavartkiladze, Vigen Bakhshinyan, Maria Boboshko; *Slovenia:* Nina Bozanic Urbancic, Lea Zupan; *Spain:* José Barajas, Juan Garcia Valdecasas Bernal; *Sweden:* Jenny Widmark, Susanna Ahlström, Stefan Stenfelt; *Switzerland:* Norbert Dillier, Dorothe Veraguth; *UK:* Bonnie Asher

**Apologies by e-mail:** Martin Kompis(CH)

**No response:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine

### 3. Minutes GA Lisbon, May 2019 and GA Oldenburg/virtual, Sept 2020

→ Minutes Accepted

See <http://www.efas.ws/noticeboard/pastassemblies.htm>

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

→ No matters added

#### **5. Chairperson's report:**

Birger Kollmeier addressed the following issues:

→ Current EFAS board

- Birger Kollmeier, chair
- Francoise Artieres, past chairperson
- Liat Kishon-Rabin, vice chair/ chairmain elect
- Stefan Stenfelt, secretary general
- Dorothe Veraguth, EFAS treasurer

→ Search committee

- Martin Kompis, Jan Wouters, and Theresa Pitt

→ EFAS congress 2019 in Lisabon a success and election of location for 2023 congress in Vienna.

→ Preparation of EFAS 2021 Congress in Sibenik

→ Update of EFAS website (Theresa Pitt, Francoise Artieres). There are plans for a reorganization.

→ Report from the workshop: e-Trends in Audiology: University teaching, mobile tools and multilingually. Approximately 110 participants, held in September 2020.

→ It was decided that due to the pandemic to move the EFAS Sibernik congress to 2023 and Vienna congress to 2025. A virtual EFAS 2021 congress was done together with the German Audiological Society.

#### **6. Treasurer's report:**

Dorothe Veraguth reports on the period from August 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021.

→ Sum of income 6,242.50 Euro (member fees)

→ Sum of Expenses 1,030.07 Euro (EFAS Meeting and Website)

→ Balance as of April 2021: 80,373.07 Euro

Statement of the auditors and voting on acceptance by the GA

The Auditors Vinay Nagaraj (Norway) and Piotr Skarzynski (Poland) 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 the report by online voting.

### **7. Report on the ongoing virtual Congress 2021**

Birger Kollmeier made a short report on the ongoing virtual Congress 2021. The concept of the completely virtual congress was six condensed focus sessions with invited speakers and 18 free contributions. So far, 402 participants are registered.

### **8. Report on progress for Croatia Congress 2023 and future congresses (Austria 2025)**

A short report and update on the plans for the EFAS 2023 congress in Sibenik, Croatia as well as the EFAS 2025 congress in Vienna, Austria was given.

### **9. EFAS awards**

The 2021 EFAS life-time award was given to Prof. Jan Wouters from Leuven, Belgium, for his contributions and commitment to clinical and experimental audiology. Jan Wouters have previously served as general secretary of EFAS. The laudation on behalf of Jan Wouters was given by Prof. Wouter Dreschler, Amsterdam.

### **10. Election of new EFAS board (period 2021-2023)**

Two candidates were proposed for the post as Vice chairperson, Madalina Gerorgescu from Romania and Robert Trotic from Croatia. The outcome was that Robert Trotic was elected as Vice Chairperson.

The others who were elected for the board were re-elections of Stefan Stenfelt (Sweden) as Secretary-General and Dorothe Veraguth (Switzerland) as Treasurer.

The two Auditors, Vinay Nagaraj (Norway) and Piotr Skarzynski (Poland) were also re-elected.

### **11. Short report from EFAS working groups**

Short reports from the EFAS working groups were presented. The activities of the working groups can be found at the webpage.

→ *WG School Hearing Screening*: Presented by Jan Wouters.  
<https://www.efas.ws/conferences/wg1.htm>

→ *WG Audiology and Intellectual Disability*: Presented by Melina Willems.  
<https://www.efas.ws/conferences/wg2.htm>

→ *WG Auditory Processing Disorder*: Presented by Vivian Iliadu.  
<https://www.efas.ws/conferences/wg3.htm>

→ *WG Audiology Education in Europe*: Presented by Birger Kollmeier  
<https://www.efas.ws/conferences/wg4.htm>

## **12. Location and date for meeting and General Assembly 2022**

Next GA is planned to be held in Tel Aviv, Israel in the end of May, 2022. More information on the event will be provided closer to the meeting.

## **13. Handing over of presidency and close of meeting**

Birger Kollmeier handed over the presidency to Liat Kishon-Rabin, and Liat thanked for the participation of all attendees and hope to meet at the next EFAS General Assembly. The meeting was closed