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EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE  
EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN  
DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING  
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ  
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI  
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING  
ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES  
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES  
EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN  
EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVNIKOV  
EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV  
EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIH LIJEČNIKA**

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## **Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> AEMH-Board meeting, 12 May 2005 in Athens**

**Venue :** Holiday Inn Hotel, 50, Michalakopoulou str., Athens  
**Room “Cronos”**

The President opened the session at 9:00 and welcomed the members of the Board and the Secretary General, who distributed a press release from the European Parliament on the vote of 11<sup>th</sup> May on the Working Time Directive. The outcome of the vote was welcomed and shortly discussed but adjourned for a detailed analysis in the plenary meeting.

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

The Agenda was approved unanimously.

### **2. Approval of the Minutes 42<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting in Brussels 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005.**

The document AEMH 05/010 was approved without changes.

### **3. Relation with CPME and AOs**

- Presidents' Committee, report from last meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

- Report from the Conference on the Future of European Medical Organisations 7<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

The President reported from both meetings, the President's Committee held just before the conference on the future of EMOs was consecrated mostly to the latter. The President compared the conference and especially the Open forum method to the events in 1968 with a lot of discussions but no practical results. The general summary to which every participant subscribed was that a closer cooperation is necessary. Otherwise there is a risk for a split and a creation of a new organisation. The President-elect of the CPME, Dr Mart from Luxembourg will continue the consultation in order to find a common solution. The merge of all organisations into one single organisation will not necessarily be cost-saving, as models of hospital re-organisation have shown the contrary.

The President furthermore reported that at the last CPME meeting, 14 AEMH delegates were present in the national delegations of the CPME. Dr Kirschner questioned why the hospital concerns are then not brought forward. The President intends to propose their assignment at the plenary meeting as it would allow a good representation within the sub-committees of the CPME without generating extra travel costs.

### **4. Patients Safety Conference – 4/5 April 2005 in Luxembourg**

The President chaired the session on patient safety in hospitals, which made the AEMH one of the stakeholders of the event. The patients organisations were well represented, which influenced the content of the “Luxembourg Declaration”. Dr de Deus who attended the conference was of the opinion that the document does not reflect the meeting. The President clarified that the Luxembourg Health Minister received the document for information and will forward to the council as such and not as a reflection of his opinion.

SG Brigitte Jencik informed that the topic of Patient Safety will be carried on by the UK Presidency at the Bad Gastein Health Forum.

The members of the board agreed that the AEMH should in any case follow up the topic in the respective working group and include it on the agenda of next years conference together with the follow up of the CPD Conference and quality improvement in hospitals.

## 5. Relation with FEMS

It was stated that since the meeting of presidents, treasurers and the secretary general when the principal of a common secretariat was approved, no progress had been made as the financial impact will be discussed in FEMS upcoming meeting end of May.

Dr Kirschner clarified that he thinks a rapprochement important not only to rationalize the costs of the secretariat, but also to unite the hospital physicians.

Dr De Deus will represent the AEMH Board at the FEMS meeting and report.

## 6. Finances

- Closing of Accounts 2004
- Treasurer's Report 2004
- Budget 2006

**AEMH 05/003 FIN**

**AEMH 05/008 REV**

**AEMH 05/019 REV2**

The treasurer commented the financial reports by stating that the change of the AEMH account from Germany to Norway had been decided under at that time favourable interest rates, which changed dramatically with the climbing of the Euro. This explains the lower income on interests. The deficit is also due to an increase of the activities especially of the Secretary General who therefore increased her working hours. This was a decision of the Board and is not to be questioned.

Concerning the Budget 2006 it was doubted that the drafted budget alternatives showing a deficit will be accepted by the plenary. It is therefore essential to find a financial income especially if the FEMS does not agree to substantially contribute to the running costs of the secretariat. The CPME/EFPIA statement, if approved by the plenary, could solve the problem of financing conferences. Dr Kirschner clarifies that the Scandinavian countries might accept financing by the pharmaceutical industry under certain circumstances. He furthermore proposed a new alternative budget, including "other income", which would allow a balanced budget, but needs efforts of all to fill in this post.

## 7. AEMH Conference 2005: "Continuing Professional Development"

B. Jencik distributed the programme and speakers' list. Dr Zilling, the organiser and chair of this conference expressed his satisfaction on the programme and the interest it aroused. He thanked particularly the Norwegian Association of Senior Hospital Physicians for bearing the travel and accommodation costs for the invited main speaker, Dr Holm.

### - Draft declaration on the outcome

Dr Zilling had drafted a document, based on the statement adopted by the AEMH in Madrid in 2004 but rejected by the CPME. He therefore implemented a minor editorial change, but which nevertheless is full of consequences as it leaves the problem to national decision. He proposed to delete the last sentence of point 8 : "There is today no evidence that recertification or revalidation methods are helpful in the early detection of incompetent / underperforming doctors. ~~That problem must be dealt with within the organisation."~~

The members of the Board agreed on this change.

**- Decision on follow-up**

Dr Zilling proposed publishing the programme and the speakers' presentations on the AEMH website. Dr de Deus committed to do the same on the website of the Ordem dos Medicos and to have it translated into Portuguese. Dr Zilling welcomed this initiative and hoped that other national delegation will follow this example.

The President questioned whether it would be possible to publish a paper version of the presentations. This cannot be implemented without an external contribution and has to be investigated with some participants at the conference.

**- Topic of the Conference 2006 in Bratislava/ Slovakia**

Dr Kirschner proposed to avoid to split the activities into too many groups, but rather to create a one-in-all working group covering hospital financing, accreditation, patient safety and quality management.

The President favoured to combine the working groups on subjects handled in the CPME subcommittees and including AEMH delegates, who are present at CPME meetings. This would allow to get documents issued by the working group approved by the CPME.

Dr Kirschner further advocated that besides working by e-mail, the members of each working group should meet once; the costs for this meeting should be born by the respective national delegations.

Dr Zilling proposed to hold a brainstorming on possible topics at the next Board meeting in October and to define the working programme for the coming years.

## **8. 58<sup>th</sup> AEMH Plenary Meeting**

Under this item the elections due at the plenary meeting were discussed. The President questioned whether anybody was aware of candidatures, as the statutes of the AEMH allow a candidate to stand up at the very last moment. There were no known candidates.

Dr Kirschner proposed to mandate Mrs Blindheim to draft a proposal for change of statutes on the article ruling elections.

Dr Zilling reported from the experience in his organisation, where an election committee is in charge of the pre-arrangements of the elections.

The President informed that despite his former declarations he is inclined to continue his mandate for another term. This change of view is due to the current situation with the ongoing discussion about the future of the European Medical Organisations in which he has been considerably involved. Furthermore there are new perspectives of collaboration with the President-elect of the CPME, Dr Mart from Luxembourg. In this aspect his national delegation has requested him to pursue his activities in the AEMH. Dr Lies pointed out that if he should be re-elected, he would establish new working methods.

Dr de Deus took the floor and congratulated the president for the work achieved and expressed his opinion that he should continue the discussions undertaken and forwarded the support of the Portuguese delegation for a re-election.

Prof. Nolte also welcomed the decision of Dr Lies and offered the full support of the VLK taking the example of their former President Prof Hoffmann, who has been President of the VLK during 20 years.

Dr Kirschner reiterated that he had contacted the president about the question of re-election a long time ago, to get a clear reply so as to avoid the situation experienced in 2004, with new candidates brought forward at the meeting. This had led to some bitterness with some candidates and certain national delegations. He believed in openness and predictability, and favoured a subcommittee including Mrs Blindheim to look at the statutes regarding elections, including an election committee. Hearing that the President had made up his mind to run for another term, he was not a candidate.

### **9. Next Board Meeting**

- 29 October 2005 in Luxembourg

### **10. Miscellaneous**

No other business was brought forward.

The President closed the session at 12:00.