



**Advisory Board Meeting of the  
Confederation of European  
Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery**

Date: Sunday, June 30, 2019, 13:00 – 15:00.  
Location: Panoramic Hall (5<sup>th</sup> floor), Square, Brussels

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome**

Hans E. Eckel welcomed all the Representatives to the Advisory Board Meeting. He explained that the main meeting for all the member societies is the General Assembly but the agenda is usually packed and the time for discussion is too short; this is why it was decided to organise this meeting to have the opportunity to discuss, on an informal setting, things that are not clear between the member societies and the Confederation.

### **2. Introduction of the new CEORL secretary**

Hans E. Eckel introduced the new Executive Officer since last November, Gloria Casanova. He explained that she is a Mondial employee, the Confederation PCO and is based in Barcelona. She has been involved on the organization of the General Assembly and the Advisory Board Meeting.

### **3. Introduction of current officers of CEORL**

Hans E. Eckel presented the current Presidential Council:

**President:** Hans E. Eckel

**President-Elect:** Cem Mecó

**General Secretary:** John Russell

**General Secretary-Elect:** Jan Plzák

**Treasurer:** Pietro Palma

**Treasurer-Elect:** Miroslav Tedla

**Congress President: 2019:** Marc Remacle

**Congress President 2021:** Piero Nicolai

**UEMS Representative:** John Fenton

**EBEORL Representative:** Ulrik Pedersen  
**Past President:** Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen  
**Past Secretary General:** Istvan Sziklai

The President explained that at the General Assembly there will be voted the new positions for the next Presidential Council.

#### **4. Contribution of National and Subspecialty Societies to the ongoing work of CEORL and to the next congress**

Hans E. Eckel explained that the main task of the Confederation is to organise the biannual congress. The national and subspecialty societies contribute on the build-up of the scientific program.

For 2019 congress, it had been tried to introduce a formal process to collect information and suggestions by national and subspecialty societies into the making of the program. Elisabeth Sjögren, Congress Scientific Chair, organised two larger meetings with the Representatives to build the program. Hans E. Eckel explained that the Presidential Council is conscious that most of the societies were not happy with this process because some of the suggestions made were not finally included into the program. He indicated that is not possible to accept all the proposals received from the societies and the second problem was that some topics were extensively proposed by the member societies and it is needed to find the way to include the relevant topics for all those ones that want to attend this meeting. He informed that the Presidential Council is working to improve this process.

#### **5. Confederation Society Village**

Hans E. Eckel presented “the Confederation Society Village”, located at the exhibition area. He explained that is reserved for the member societies, to showcase themselves who they are and what their activities; it could also be used for informal networking and meetings. Many of the member societies have prepared short presentations and invited the Representatives of the societies to attend these presentations and listening what other societies are offering.

#### **6. Membership fees**

Hans E. Eckel explained that the only income that the Confederation has is the Congress, for the time being the congress gives sufficient financial resources but this means that if one of the congress fails, the Confederation is gone. He indicated that has to be considered if is the time to put the Confederation on a financially broader basis, which means to collect membership fees. He informed that before the merging of EUFOS and the Academy, the member societies were used to paid membership fees to the Academy. The Presidential Council will work on this topic to propose, probably, membership fees at the next congress in Milano.

#### **7. Topics proposed by National and Subspecialty Societies**

Hans E. Eckel invited the Representatives to share with the Confederation their thoughts and impressions.

- **Pre-Congress workshops:** as they have been well attended, it is proposed to organise one day more for pre-congress workshops in Milano and some kind of extra educational activities. Hans E. Eckel informed that the proposal would be taken into consideration although the room rental will be an extra cost. He pointed that will try to involve the companies although is difficult.
- **Organise direct cadaver dissections sessions** in the morning transmitted from a hospital attract more delegates. Piero Nicolai informed that is difficult according to European regulations. Marc

Remacle informed that to organise these sessions depends also on the location of the congress, they tried to organise in Brussels but was not allowed. It is proposed to pre-produce videos for cadaver dissection, show, discuss them and look for the sponsorship from companies.

- For future meetings it is requested to have **more transversal aspects of the program regarding national societies**. They had suggested names for the program and have completely disregarded and this situation could be improved. Hans E. Eckel informed that he is not the only member that pointed this situation; informed that the Presidential Council is working on a revised process of building the program in order to avoid that this situation happens again. This has been the first time that tried to implement a structured, open and transparent process; Elisabeth Sjogren has worked to structure the program and the process of selecting abstracts. She informed that, previously, there was no structure available to do this task, she tried to merge national and subspecialty societies, asked for a particular format and had learned a lot to work for Milano congress. Hans E. Eckel proposed that the PC and the group building the program have, first, to identify relevant topics, communicate those to the member societies and ask for their input and for specific proposals; once this process is done, it has to be finalised with the representatives of the member societies. Marc Remacle pointed that It is needed a real scientific committee that will work properly on the build-up of the scientific program with a really engage.
- **Company sponsored courses**: the Representative from Germany informed that in German congresses companies finance the symposia and pre-congress workshops. He asked if in this congress was not planned and if could be increased in the future. Hans E. Eckel explained that tried the best to have lunch symposia and pre-congress courses but the funding process between European and national congresses is different as some companies are not interested in showing at European congresses because they are selling their products only in some countries. The second problem is that including industry lunch symposia within the program makes the European accreditation process complex and difficult. Elisabeth Sjögren mentioned that due the size of the Congress, for the next congress it is needed more people involved in the organisation of the project, especially to be able to fit all the extras, contact the companies and organise the facilities together with Mondial.
- **Not start again the process to build-up the scientific program**, it is proposed to send the program from previous congresses to the member societies and ask for additional topics. Hans E. Eckel informed that the Presidential Council is working on how we can preserve the knowledge from congress to congress to build the next congress.
- It is mentioned that **counting the people in the rooms** is a good starting point to organise the program for Milano, it gives an insight on how well accepted is a topic and will help to organise the program for Milano. Hans E. Eckel informed that there will be available a very detailed report that will help the planning for next congress but, but taking into consideration that some things cannot be foreseen.
- **Include voting sessions** on specific topics to have the complete European opinion. Hans E. Eckel agreed on this and will be proposed to submit proposals and presenters for such sessions. *On the 2019 congress, there were voting sessions.*
- **Recording sessions on video**: Hans E. Eckel informed that sessions are not being recorded, as it is complicated for Data regulation purposes. It is mentioned that ERS recorded some sessions on video, upload them on the webpage and had 10.000 hits in less than 6 months. Hans E. Eckel indicated that will be considered for the future although one of the main advantages of the Confederation Congress is the personal encounter.
- **To open a menu on the Confederation website to propose topics for the next congress**. Hans E. Eckel indicated that the electronic distribution proposed is good but matches more with subspecialty and national society's requirements than with the Confederation.
- Cem Mecoc informed that the Presidential Council is planning to **create some education platforms** with the help of the member societies.
- **Journals**: Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen reminded that the Confederation has two official Journals European Archives and Rhinology and that, both, have increased their impact. Manuel Bernal-

Sprekelsen requested reviewers who have time to review the manuscripts. He encouraged the attendants to submit articles to the European Journals of the Confederation. He proposed to do a fast track admission for specific papers presented at the meetings and create an official session for that: authors submit the abstract with the complete manuscript, selected papers get a keynote lecture that increase the CV and authors compromise to submit the full manuscript in 2/3 months. Marc Remacle invited the representatives to attend the meeting with Springer (European Archives).

Hans E. Eckel thanked all the presents for the fruitful meeting and informed that the Advisory Board Meeting will take place on regular basis during the congress.

The meeting is closed at 14:20 h