



**General Assembly  
of the  
Confederation of European  
Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery**

Date: Monday, July 1, 2019, 13:00 – 15:00.  
Location: Panoramic Hall (5<sup>th</sup> floor), Square, Brussels

## **MINUTES**

### **1. President's Welcome**

On behalf of the entire Presidential Council and himself, Hans E. Eckel welcomed all those present and reminded the duties to be done during the General Assembly according to the Constitution:

- Shall accept the report of the President
- Shall accept the report of the Treasurer
- Shall accept and approve the annual budget
- Shall accept and prove the report of the Auditors
- Shall, according to the Congress guidelines, vote on the location of the congress and the congress President, at least four years in advance

Hans E. Eckel reminded the situation created at the last General Assembly in Barcelona; it was decided to change the Constitution: one country, one vote and was approved. After the GA, the lawyer informed that the General Assembly was not entitled to vote as this change was not announced within the specific period in advance and the vote was not valid. This situation forced the Presidential Council to work on a new text for the Constitution and, in order to give all the society members the option to have a look, it was sent some weeks before the congress and properly announced that during the General Assembly the new Constitution shall be voted. Hans E. Eckel reminded that the regulations of the old Constitution still apply and have to act according to that.

### **2. Affirmation of Eligible Voters and Quorum**

Hans E. Eckel announced that the quorum achieved with 24 Eligible Voters present from a total of 33. (See list of participants in separate attachment).

### **3. Vote on opening General Assembly to guests**

With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, it was voted to open the General Assembly to guests.

#### **4. Approval of the minutes of the October 9, 2017 Confederation General Assembly in Barcelona**

With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, the minutes were accepted.

#### **5. Report of the President**

Hans E. Eckel reported about the activities of the Confederation since the 2017 congress in Barcelona.

Revision of CEORL Constitution:

- The main topic has been to delete Voting Circles; it is proposed on the new Constitution that each national society member has one vote in the General Assembly. This action means that the voting rights for the subspecialty societies have been adjusted to have a similar number of votes between national and subspecialty societies.
- The President explained that the composition of the Presidential Council have been redesigned by adding two additional officers with no voting rights, the Senior Councillors; these are two persons that have a long history of working inside the Confederation and will bring the expertise to the Confederation. The PC voted on Prof Marc Remacle and Prof Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen.
- The President informed that the Confederation would maintain the division of the two member groups: national and subspecialty societies but considering them as the two main bodies of the Confederation working together.
- The Constitution has been adjusted to the daily needs of practical work

Review of the process of building the scientific program for the Confederation Congress: Hans E. Eckel explained that Marc Remacle and Elisabeth Sjogren have been working on the process of building up the congress program. For the first time the officers tried to have an open and transparent process to prepare the program and did the best to include all the inputs from national and subspecialty societies. The Presidential Council will continue to work on that and will be achieved by Piero Nicolai, Congress President of 2021 Congress, and his team.

Defining steps towards a better collaboration with member societies: in order to have a better communication, it took place the first Advisory Board meeting on Sunday, June 30. This meeting is the place for an informal communication between the member societies and the officers of the Confederation to define how we can better work together in the future. Hans E. Eckel informed that the Advisory Board meeting will take place at every congress and invited all the representatives to participate in Milano 2021.

Confederation Society Village: it has been incorporated for the first time at the exhibition area. It gives the opportunity to the member societies the showcase their activities, is the place to meet and have some exchange.

Criteria for new subspecialty societies and affiliated societies have been defined.

Hans E. Eckel informed that have been collecting proposals for future congress venues for four years in advance to get the best conditions on congress venues; have been building proposals for future PC officers to be presented and voted at the General Assembly and have been discussing future roles for the Confederation: support the member societies, be the platform to communicate with other societies outside Europe but not act in place of our member societies.

Hans E. Eckel thanks all the members of the Presidential Council for doing all best work.

There are no questions on the Report of the President.

With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, the Report of the President was accepted.

## 6. Report of the Treasurer

Pietro Palma presented the balance for 2017 and 2018. He reported that the critical point is that the Confederation only receives funding every two years from its meetings, this situation has to be taken into account to choose the future congress venues.

<b>Account overview 2017</b>		
<b>Balance December 31, 2016</b>		<b>303.954,29 €</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		<b>85.581,97 €</b>
Education:	Fellowships	35.000,00 €
	Travel Grants	7.500,00 €
Administrative Costs:	Society Secretariat and Third Party Costs	36.569,98 €
	Reimbursement travel expenses Board	6.335,38 €
	Bank fees	176,61 €
<b>Incomes:</b>	Congress	<b>0,00 €</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2017</b>		<b>218.372,32 €</b>

<b>Account overview 2018</b>		
<b>Balance December 31, 2017</b>		<b>218.372,32 €</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		<b>102.020,35 €</b>
Education:	Fellowships	52.500,00 €
	Travel Grants	4.500,00 €
Administrative Costs:	Society Secretariat and Third Party Costs	39.872,46 €
	Reimbursement travel expenses Board	4.804,43 €
	Bank fees	343,46 €
<b>Incomes:</b>	Congress (Barcelona 2017)	<b>95.745,00 €</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2018</b>		<b>212.096,97 €</b>

<b>Budget 2019</b>		
<b>Balance December 31, 2018</b>		<b>212.096,97 €</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		<b>90.256,00 €</b>
Education (*):	Fellowships	35.000,00 €
	Travel Grants	4.000,00 €
Administrative Costs:	Society Secretariat and Third Party Costs	43.956,00 €
	Reimbursement travel expenses Board	7.000,00 €
	Bank fees	300,00 €
<b>Incomes:</b>	Congress (Bruxelles 2019) (**)	<b>204.213,92 €</b>
<b>Preliminary Balance December 31, 2019</b>		<b>326.054,89 €</b>

Pietro Palma pointed that thanks to the revenue of the 2019 Congress, the Confederation will be safe for the next two years.

Hans E. Eckel indicated that the only income of the Confederation is the Congress, if one of the congress failed, the Confederation is gone.

With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, the Report of the Treasurer and the budget for 2019 was accepted.

#### **7. Report of the Internal Auditors | 8. Election of two Internal Auditors**

Stephan Lang and Dominique Chevalier reported that have checked the financial reports and have found that everything is in order and clear.

Hans E. Eckel informed that approached to Stephan Land and Dominique Chevalier and proposed them to be the Internal Auditors for another period of two years, both have accepted.

With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, the Report of the Internal Auditors and the Re-election of the Auditors was accepted.

Hans E. Eckel thanked both the work done.

#### **9. Election of Presidential Council positions**

Hans E. Eckel explained that propositions for the Presidential Council must come from the member societies, the candidates must be Otorhinolaryngologists, must be members of one of the Confederation member societies and must have supporting letters from at least three member societies.

- 9.1 President-Elect: Per Cayé Thomasen, Denmark. Letters of support by Danish Society of ORL-HNS, EAONO and ESBS.  
Per Cayé-Thomasen presented himself and explained the motivations to be member of the Presidential Council. With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, Per Cayé-Thomasen was accepted as President-Elect.

- 9.2 General-Secretary-Elect: Dr. Elisabeth Sjögren. Letters of support by Dutch Society of ORL-HNS, EHNS, ELS and ERS.

Elisabeth Sjögren presented herself, explained her involvement with the Confederation as speaker in previous congresses and Chair of the Scientific Committee at Brussels Congress. With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, Elisabeth-Sjögren was accepted as Secretary General-Elect.

- 9.3 Treasurer-Elect: Tomislav Baudoin, Croatia. Letters of support by Croatian Society of ORL-HNS, EAACI and ERS.

Tomislav Baudoin presented himself. With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, Tomislav Baudoin was accepted as Treasurer-Elect.

#### **10. Vote on changes to constitution**

Hans E. Eckel explained that the new version of the Constitution has been sent to all the Representatives of the Member Societies in advance to bring them time to review the document. He mentioned that the most important changes of the Constitution were the elimination of the voting circles for the national societies and re-balancing the votes for the subspecialty societies, apart from minor changes that become necessary due the fact that the voting circles would be deleted.

Hans E. Eckel requested that after reading the draft of the Constitution if any of the Representatives present may ask questions or address any specific topics.

The representative from Germany addressed the topic of potential Membership fees and which would be the model: one vote = one country = one subspecialty society = one fee or according to the number of members of each society. The President informed that the Constitution says that the GA has the right to impose membership fees; he informed that this topic had been discussed at the Presidential Council meetings and arrived to the conclusion that as long as the Confederation do not offer additional services to the member societies other than the congress, no member fees will be applied. This topic will be discussed within the Presidential Council and voted at the General Assembly.

Marc Remacle informed that before the merging of EUFOS and the Academy, the member societies paid membership fees to the Academy: 500 € for the major societies and 250 € for the minor societies.

The President informed that due to the financial situation, the Confederation has been able to pay for fellowships in the past but will not be able to introduce new fellowships this year; this is still a matter of debate since fellowships can be offered by the member societies or by the Confederation.

As there are no other comments on the proposed Constitution, with a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, the new Constitution was accepted.

#### **11. 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of European ORL-HNS, June 29 – July 3, 2019, Brussels**

Marc Remacle reported about the 2019 Brussels, thanked to all the Representatives for attending the Congress and Elisabeth Sjögren for the job did to build up the scientific program.

Hans E. Eckel on behalf of the Confederation recognised Marc Remacle and Elisabeth Sjögren for the organisation of the Congress.

- Registration Statistics as of Monday 01/07/2019:
  - Almost 3000 Participants from 97 Countries
    - 639 Faculty Members
    - 1920 Delegates
    - 272 Industry Representatives
    - 138 Others (Accompanying persons, staff etc.)
  - Delegates per continent:
    - Europe: 65%
    - Asia: 19%
    - South America: 7%
    - Africa: 4%
    - North America: 4%
    - Oceania: 1%
  - Top 10 countries:
    - Belgium: 160
    - United Kingdom: 152
    - Spain: 124
    - Italy: 121
    - Portugal: 121
    - Colombia: 111
    - Germany: 94
    - Netherlands: 94
    - France: 92
    - Russia: 91
  - Invited countries:
    - India: 20
    - Morocco: 61
    - Republic of Korea: 55
    - Taiwan: 50
    - United Arab Emirates: 21
- Industry:
  - Gold Sponsors: Medtronic, Stryker
  - Silver Sponsor: Olympus
  - Bronze Sponsor: Storz, Zeiss
  - Friends of ORL-HNS: Ambu, Arri Medical, Atmos, Atos, Brainlab, Codman, Collin, Fahl, Heinemann, Kurz, Spiggle & Theis, Xion
  - Other contributors: ENT&Audiology News
  - 47 Exhibitors – 647sqm
- Projected result as of 21/06/2019: 204.213,92 €

## **12. 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of European ORL-HNS, October 16 – 20, 2021, Milano**

Piero Nicolai thanked the members of the current Presidential Council and the previous Presidential Council for supporting the Milano proposal for 2021. He introduced, Isabel Vilaseca as Scientific Chair. He presented the logo for the 2021 congress, the congress dates that will be in October and the attractive city of Milano.



#### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Start Online Registration:**  
February 2021  
**Call for Abstracts:**  
February 2021

**Congress Management,  
Contact for Sponsorship and  
Exhibition Management**

#### CONGRESS VENUE

MiCo – Milano Convention Centre  
Piazzale Carlo Magno, 1  
20149 Milano – Italy

Mondial Congress & Events  
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#### CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Piero Nicolai, Italy

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#### SCIENTIFIC CHAIR

Isabel Vilaseca, Spain

[www.ceorlhns2021.org](http://www.ceorlhns2021.org)



### 13. Application 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of European ORL-HNS and election of the Congress President 2023

Hans E. Eckel informed that the PC received one proposal on time for Dublin from John Russell.

John Russell presented the application for 2023:

- Congress President: John Russell
- Scientific Chair: Michael Kuo
- Dates: July 3 – 7, 2023
- Venue: The Convention Centre Dublin (CCD)
- Dublin:
  - Airport located 10 km from the city centre and 15 km from the CCD
  - Flights to over 195 destinations
- The congress venue, CCD is located centrally in Dublin's Docklands, the facilities are modern and have sufficient experience in hosting large international association meetings as the ESPO Congress in 2014 organised by John Russell. The venue will be rented exclusively for the Confederation.
- The Scientific Chair will be Michael Kuo. He is currently the President of the British Paediatrics Laryngology Association among other societies and had been involved in the organisation of scientific programs of different conferences.

Hans E. Eckel informed that the PCO looked for suitable venues with good connections with Europe, a national society endorsing the congress and with a congress centre that may afford the congress.

With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, the venue and the President for 2023 Congress was accepted.

#### **14. Presentation of the new Confederation Presidential Council**

Hans E. Eckel presented the new Presidential Council and welcomed Cem Mecco as President of the Confederation. The President, the General Secretary and the Treasurer presented themselves to the Representatives.

Cem Mecco expressed the gratitude to Hans E. Eckel for his leadership during the last two years and the tremendous work that he has done especially to form the new Constitution in its current format so that the Confederation could now function on this solid platform to develop future projects. Additionally, he has thanked John Russell and Pietro Palma for their outstanding services in their posts as active officers, which was altogether acknowledged by the quorum.

**President:** Cem Mecco

**President-Elect:** Per Cayé-Thomassen

**General Secretary:** Jan Plzák

**General Secretary-Elect:** Elisabeth Sjögren

**Treasurer:** Miroslav Tedla

**Treasurer-Elect:** Tomislav Baudoin

**Congress President 2021:** Piero Nicolai

**Congress President 2023:** John Russell

**UEMS Representative:** John Fenton

**EBEORL Representative:** Ulrik Pedersen

**Past President:** Hans E. Eckel

**Senior Counsellor:** Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen

**Senior Counsellor:** Marc Remacle

#### **15. Application of the Azerbaijan National Society for full membership**

The National Society of Azerbaijan applied for full membership, as per the Constitution all European countries acknowledged by the United Nations may be apply as society members; since Azerbaijan is on this list they may apply. Hans E. Eckel invited the Representative of Azerbaijan to present the Society.

With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, the application of Azerbaijan as national society was accepted and has been welcomed to the Confederation.

#### **16. Application of Balkan and Danube Societies for affiliated membership**

Hans E. Eckel informed that the Balkan and Danube societies have applied to become affiliated memberships of the Confederation.

The Balkan Society unites the ORL-HNS societies from the Balkan countries, they have a Constitution, organise regular meetings, have a presidential council, and they fulfil all the requirements to become members. The Danube society is on the same situation, the society organise a congress every 4 years and fulfil all the requisites needed.

With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, the application of Balkan and Danube societies as affiliated members were accepted.

The President specified that affiliated members have the right to send a Representative to the General Assembly but do not have the right to vote.



*Note: the Constitution says that the Presidential Council decides on the admission of Affiliated members, so although it has been voted at General Assembly, the application of Balkan and Danube societies as Affiliated members will be decided by the next Presidential Council.*

#### **17. Application of Brazilian and Mexican Societies for co-opted membership**

Hans E. Eckel informed that the Confederation accepts co-opted members, currently there are two: Korean and Egypt Societies of ORL, which are regular visitors to the congress. He specified also that co-opted members have the right to send a Representative to the General Assembly but do not have the right to vote. He informed that during the Congress the Confederation has received two applications to become co-opted members: Brazil and Mexico societies of ORL, both with a huge number of members and in good relation with European societies. With a total quorum of the present Eligible Voters, the applications of Brazil and Mexico as co-opted members were accepted.

#### **18. Next General Assembly of the Confederation**

It will take place on the occasion of the 6th Congress of European ORL-HNS in Milano in October 2021.  
Date t.b.a.

#### **19. Any other Business**

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen announced that the Spanish Society applied to organise the IFOS World Meeting in Barcelona in 2025, he requested the support of all European Societies if there is not any other society bidding for the Congress.

Hans E. Eckel indicated that the last IFOS Congress took place in Paris four years ago. He indicated that the Confederation will support always bids of European Countries for IFOS congress and requested the support to the Spanish bid.

Hans E. Eckel thanked all the participants for their attendance.

The General Assembly was closed at 14:30 h