



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

Date: Monday, October 9, 2017, 12:00 – 16:00.
Location: HALL 8 – HALICARNASSUS, CCIB Barcelona

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen greeted all those present. He congratulated Ferhan Öz on achieving such a great success despite the event having been moved from Turkey to Spain. More than 2000 participants have registered.

2. Affirmation of Eligible Voters and Quorum

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen announced that the quorum has been met. The Eligible Voters have received their voting cards (see signed list of participants in separate attachment).

3. Vote on opening General Assembly to guests

With two abstentions, it was voted to open the General Assembly to guests.

4. Approval of the minutes of the June 8, 2015 CEORL-HNS General Assembly in Prague

The minutes were accepted.

5. Report of the President

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen reported that among the activities of CEORL-HNS since the 2015 congress in Prague, Fellowships were awarded for Rhinology (2016, to Dr. Alperen Vural, Turkey), Otology-Neurotology (2016, to Dr. Manuel Gómez Serrano, Spain) as well as Paediatric ORL (2017, to Dr. Özgül Gergin Tinay, Turkey). In addition to the fellowships, several travel grants have been awarded as well as grants to visit educational events in the respective subspecialty.

A Fellowship planned for Facial Plastics was withdrawn by the request of EAFPS as they have created their own fellowship.

In that context, Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen announced that CEORL-HNS will no longer create the content of Fellowships. The idea of the CEORLHNS in starting with fellowship programmes was to stimulate the

subspecialty societies in offering fellowships to young doctors and not to interfere with their commitments.

– The CEORL-HNS will create a special fund (e.g. EUR 10.000) that will be made available to subspecialty societies on a first come, first served basis, to be used by the subspecialty societies for research (preferred) or travel grants.

6. Report of the Treasurer

John Oates reported that since the CEORL-HNS only receives funding every two years from its meetings, it is especially important that these are financially successful. Following a disappointing financial result in Nice 2013, the successful 2015 congress in Prague did much to stabilise the financial status of the CEORL-HNS.

Therefore, it was possible to award approx.. EUR 50.000 in fellowships and travel grants. Based on the promising numbers of participants and industry, John Oates estimated that this year's congress will also have a positive outcome.

ACCOUNT OVERVIEW 2016				
interest				
Interest				
income				
Congress income/Membership fees/donations	0,00			
expenses				
Reimbursement travel expenses Board		-3.901,62		
other expenses. eg Fellowship, travel grants		-22.523,50		
bank fees/taxes		-163,20		
society secretariat and third party costs		-24.398,12		
	354.940,73	0,00	-50986,44	303.954,29
balance Dec 31, 2015		income + interest 2016	expenses 2016	balance Dec. 31, 2016

John Oates also commented favourably on the prudence of his fellow Presidential Council members when it came to travel expenses, adding that the society's funds are being spent as wisely as possible. He then announced that after this meeting, Pietro Palma will take over as treasurer from him and thanked everyone for the good cooperation and discussions.

7. Report of the Internal Auditors

Klaus Albegger reported that Reidar Grénman and himself had checked the financial reports and had found that everything is in order. The report was then approved.

8. Election of two Internal Auditors

Following the decision of Klaus Albegger and Reidar Grénman to step down as auditors, Ulrik Pedersen and Istvan Sziklai were elected.

NOTE: We may have to find 2 new auditors since both Ulrik and Istvan will stay on in the PC.

Following the constitution, the auditors may only be part of the General Assembly. I will consult our lawyer.

9. Election Presidential Council positions

9.1 Treasurer-Elect: Miro Tedla, Slovak Republic

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen briefly introduced Miro Tedla, adding that he had received letters of support from the Slovak Society of ORL-HNS as well as ELS and UEP.

Miro Tedla is unanimously elected Treasurer-Elect.

9.2 General-Secretary-Elect: Jan Plzak, Czech Republic (letters of support by Czech Society of ORL-HNS, EAONO, ELS, ERS, EASM and UEP)

Following a brief introduction, Jan Plzak is elected General Secretary-Elect.

9.3 President-Elect

It was announced that in addition to Jannis Constantinidis (who had submitted letters of support by Panhellenic Society of ORL-HNS, ERS and EAFPS), a second candidate has been put forward: Cem Mecoc from Turkey, the secretary of this meeting. The Turkish ORL-HNS Society, ELS and ESPO have provided letters of support for him.

After both candidates had outlined their plans and objectives for the future of CEORL-HNS, Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen proposed a secret vote.

From all votes received, the result was 15 votes for Cem Mecoc and 9 votes for Jannis Constantinidis. 1 voting card was handed in empty.

10. Vote on changes to constitution

A. Change of term in German-language version

“die Europäischen Gesellschaften für HNO-Subspezialitäten” instead of “Fachgesellschaften” applies to 2.1.1 and 2.1.3 (German version only)

B. Additions to the Presidential Council

4.1.4. (...) and one Representative delegated by the European Board Examination in Otorhinolaryngology (EBEORL-HNS)

- Tenure 4 years, may be extended once (4.3.3)
- No voting right (4.6.14)

4.1.6. (...) one Representative delegated by each Subspecialty Society (2.1.1), that is a full member of the Confederation with 300 or more current members. However, should a Representative of such Subspecialty Society hold a function according to 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3 or 4.1.5, that Subspecialty Society is not entitled to delegate a Representative to the Presidential Council according to this provision.

- Tenure 2 years, may be extended once (4.3.4)

Niall Considine, Eligible Voter for UK & Eire, stated that it is important to also include societies on the “borders of our specialty” in the CEORL-HNS bodies.

4.1.7. The immediate past-President and past Secretary General

- Tenure 2 years, cannot be extended (4.3.5), no voting right (4.6.14)

C. Tenure of elected officers

4.3.6. The officers remain in office beyond the tenures above until new officers for the respective positions have been elected or delegated.

- Reason: In case the congress doesn't take place exactly within the 2-year timeframe

D. Letters of support

4.4.1. Any individual person who is a member of a society that is a Full Member of the Confederation can be elected as President-Elect, Secretary General-Elect or Treasurer-Elect according to 4.1.1, 4.1.2 or 4.1.3. To be eligible for election by the General Assembly he or she has to present Letters of Support: Firstly, from the National Society he or she is a member of. Secondly, from one of the following: EAONO, EHNS, ELS, ERS, EAFPS and ESPO. Thirdly, from one of the other Member Societies.

E. Financial independence

6.5. For the purpose of clarification: All members are independent entities and the Confederation can therefore not be held liable for a member's obligations.

F. Transitional Provisions

They refer to the situation in 2013 before the current constitution came into effect. No longer relevant, they are removed.

- ➔ All changes are accepted by a vast majority. One abstention (4.1.7.)

11. Vote on own vote for Italy and Turkey and additional vote for ESPO and EAFPS

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen explained that as the highest sovereign body in the CEORL-HNS, the General Assembly can vote on changes of the agenda. .

As the agenda stated, it was planned to vote on own country votes for Italy and Turkey and an additional vote for ESPO and EAFPS.

However, at the recent PC Meeting, it was decided to propose another change to the General Assembly instead, namely to abolish the "country group"-structure taken over from EUFOS and introduce a "one country, one vote"-system instead.

Only the official national ENT society would be eligible to carry that vote. This would be relevant in the case of Poland, which has not yet officially re-applied for membership but from where an application for membership has been received from another ENT society.

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen asked whether the General Assembly was in favour of discussing and voting on this change: While Norbert Stasche, Eligible Voter for Germany suggested to only discuss it but not decide today, 2/3 of the Eligible Voters agreed upon the change of the agenda and to vote on this particular proposal.

Most considered this is a fair offer as similar structures are in place also in UEMS, where each country has 2 votes irrespective of size, or IFOS.

G. New voting structure

5.3.1. Each national member society has one vote irrespective of size, with an appropriate adjustment of the subspecialty society votes to maintain the previous balance between the two voting groups.

5.3.6. The General Assembly can decide by a two thirds majority of the Eligible Voters present and a quorum according to 5.4.11 to establish new Voting Circles with one vote each and to assign Full Members to these Voting Circles.

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen then asked whether the PC has the mandate of the General Assembly to take this wording to the lawyer to make the necessary legal interpretation.

- ➔ A vast majority voted "yes", with one abstention
- ➔ The new wording will be discussed with the lawyer in Vienna.
- ➔ Updated constitution to be ratified at the next General Assembly of CEORL-HNS

In case the above proposed change would raise legal issues it was accepted to include a final ratification of this change in the next agenda at the beginning (in order to allow all members to vote later on).

12. Vote on co-opted membership of South Korea

South Korea is accepted as co-opted member by a vast majority.

13. Fellowship reports

Robert Sifrer from Slovenia, recipient of the 2015 Fellowship in Head and Neck, reported on his experiences working at the VU Medical University Clinic Amsterdam with Prof. C. René Leemans from 1 September 2016 to 1 September 2017.

Dr. Sifrer's main objectives were to learn to perform microvascular reconstructive procedures as well as to improve his surgical skills. He had already taken Dutch lessons prior to his visit and continued to do so while in The Netherlands, which enabled him to later run outpatient consultations and attend meetings in Dutch. Eventually, he also took the B2 state exam.

During 4 days per week in operating theatre, he observed, assisted the operating surgeon as well as operated as a main surgeon; he also dealt with the admission of new patients, patient follow-up and joined the Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Oncology Board.

He appreciated learning about different strategies of diagnostics and treatment as used in Slovenia and The Netherlands, an experience which improved his overall surgical skills.

He also held lectures for the residents, fellows and staff members, while also conducting research which led to an article "Evaluation of vascular features of vocal cords proposed by European Laryngological Society" which is currently under review by the European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology and Head & Neck. In addition, he is working on an article called "Metastasis of pleomorphic adenoma".

In a nutshell, according to Dr. Sifrer, to spend a year away in a foreign country is "not easy." Nevertheless, he urged potential future fellows to "Go for it. Learn the language."

Two recipients of travel grants also report on their activities.

One was Gauthier Desuter from Belgium who visited Leiden Medical University with an H&N travel grant awarded in 2015. His research resulted in an article on "Shape of Thyroid Cartilage Influences Outcome of Montgomery Medialization Thyroplasty: A Gender Issue" published in Journal of Voice, Vol. 31, No. 2, Nov. 2017. Gauthier Desuter has since been admitted to the doctorate programme of Leiden University Medical Center.

Dr. Ignacio Javier Fernandez from Italy, recipient of a 2016 travel grant for Otology-Neurotology, visited the Otology, Skull base surgery and Cochlear implant unit of Professor Sterkers at the University Hospital (Pitié – Salpêtrière) in Paris from May 29 – July 14, 2017. In addition to observing numerous operations, Dr. Fernandez also benefitted from attending an Otology and Skull Base Surgery course organized by Prof. Sterkers and Dr. Bernardeschi, as well as the IFOS Congress.

All three were thankful for the opportunities provided by the CEORL-HNS and encouraged others to

apply for future Fellowships.

14. 4th Congress of European ORL-HNS, October 7-11, 2017 in Barcelona

Ferhan Öz reported that even though the congress had been moved from Antalya to Barcelona and despite recent events, more than 2000 participants had registered for the meeting. The relocation had not been an easy decision, because he and his staff had looked forward to welcoming the congress to their home, Turkey, and to letting participants enjoy the country's hospitality.

The congress is proceeding very well, with only a few cancellations from speakers as a result of current political developments.

He thanked the members of the PC as well as all those present for their support and cooperation in creating this event.

15. 5th Congress of European ORL-HNS, June 29 – July 3, 2019, Brussels

Marc Remacle presented the logo for the 2019 congress along with information on the congress venue The Square. Elisabeth Sjögren, Head of the Leiden ENT clinic, will be Scientific Chair



Regarding the scientific programme, he announced that the subspecialty societies will be invited to nominate two representatives for the Scientific Committee.

Following two smaller programme meetings, the Scientific Committee will meet on June 29, 2018 in Brussels.

Important Dates

Wednesday, December 20, 2017
Scientific Programme Meeting I

Friday, June 29, 2018
Scientific Programme Meeting III –
with representatives of subspecialty societies

Saturday, April 24, 2018
Scientific Programme Meeting II

Monday, October 1, 2018
Call for Abstracts and Start Online Registration

First round of abstract selection will be done online; beginning of 2019, there will be an Abstract Reviewing Meeting in Brussels for the final selection.

16. Application 6th Congress of European ORL-HNS and election Congress President 2021

Piero Nicolai has submitted a proposal to host the 2021 congress from October 16 – 20, 2021 at the MiCo Milano Congressi.

In October, there is less competition with other international meetings (e.g. IFOS 2021). Also, a higher attendance by Italian delegates may be expected as their national meeting takes place in Spring.

In addition, weather conditions in Milan in October should be ideal.

Milano offers 3 international airports, 200 flight destinations are linked by 364.000 flights a year. The city has 380 hotels with over 21.000 guest rooms.

The congress centre itself is right in the centre of Milan, directly accessible by subway, 4 km from the Duomo and just 5 minutes from Leonardo's Last Supper. Its modern facilities and experience in hosting large international association meetings make it ideally suited for the CEORL-HNS congress.

Following his presentation, Piero Nicolai was elected Congress President 2021 with a vast majority.

17. Presentation new CEORL-HNS Presidential Council

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen presented the new PC:

President: Hans Edmund Eckel

President-Elect: Cem Mecö

General Secretary: John Russell

General Secretary-Elect: Jan Plzak

Treasurer: Pietro Palma

Treasurer-Elect: Miro Tedla

Congress President 2019: Marc Remacle

Congress President 2021: Piero Nicolai

UEMS Representative: John Fenton

18. Next General Assembly of the CEORL-HNS

It will take place on the occasion of the 5th Congress of European ORL-HNS in Brussels.

Date t.b.a.

19. Any other business

Dominique Chevalier, Eligible Voter for France, suggested that for the future, the participation of women should be sought more.

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen thanked his fellow PC members for their active participation and continued support; he also thanked Andrea Balcar for the good cooperation.

Hans Edmund Eckel in turn thanked Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen, praising his achievements in creating a stable society. He also thanked Ferhan Öz for the great success of the 4th European Congress of ORL-HNS, despite a change in date and country.

The General Assembly was closed at 14:20.