



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

Date: Monday, June 8, 2015, 12:00 – 14:30.  
Location: venue of congress – Small Theatre, Ground Floor

### **AGENDA**

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

Marc Remacle greets all those present, and announces that just before, the European Academy of ORL-HNS was officially dissolved, leaving CEORL-HNS as the one body of European ENT in Europe.

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

The Eligible Voters are affirmed.

With all except one voting circle represented by an Eligible Voter, the quorum has been met (see signed list of participants in separate attachment).

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

The General Assembly is opened to guests.

#### **4. Approval of the minutes of the CEORL-HNS General Assembly, April 30, 2013 in Nice**

The minutes of the General Assembly in Nice are approved.

Piero Nicolai, whose term as General Secretary is ending now, congratulates Marc Remacle and Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen on the successful process of unifying European ENT. For him, this meeting is proof that this is a winning idea.

Piero Nicolai also thanks his fellow-members of the Presidential Council (PC), as well as Andrea Balcar and Stefan Walter from Mondial.

Marc Remacle in turn thanks Piero Nicolai for his support and participation in the PC.

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

Marc Remacle outlines the gradual process of melting together EAORL-HNS and EUFOS into one body representing ENT in Europe, a process which now has been finalised by the legal dissolution of EAORL-HNS decided in its General Assembly just before.

However, EUFOS and EAORL-HNS will live on in spirit, both in the scientific sense and in the structure of CEORL-HNS, with a current 15/15 balance of votes, of which there may be modifications made in the future.

The fact that all European subspecialty societies, and all except three European national ENT societies have re-applied is a good sign of cooperation!

In that context, the Eligible Voters should not only represent their voting circles in the General Assembly, they should also act as liaison officers, helping in diffusing

information on the CEORL-HNS and its activities, and encouraging colleagues to submit their own events via (<http://www.ceorlhns.org/events/submit-event/no-cache.html>).

For its own economic future and that of its activities (such as the Fellowship), the CEORL-HNS depends on income from meetings. Judging by the Prague congress, the CEORL-HNS seems very well-suited to organise events that are interesting to participants from all over the world. Marc Remacle congratulates Jan Betka and his team on a great success, both scientifically and socially, thanking them for their great efforts and hospitality.

Since the IFOS Congress will take place in June 2017 in Paris, the 2017 CEORL-HNS meeting will be later in the year (October 18-22, 2017), in Antalya. The first “regular” CEORL-HNS congress according to the congress guidelines will be organised in 2019.

## 6. Report of the Treasurer

Dominique Chevalier expresses his pride in having been part of the unification process of European ENT, and thanks his fellow PC-members for the good cooperation.

He present an overview of the finances of EUFOS, EAORL-HNS and CEORL-HNS:



### Financial Overview 2014

EAORL-HNS account 50671 554 101	72.988,39	
CEORL-HNS account 52946 026 849	9.600,97	
EUFOS account 00061534595	115.777,60	
EUFOS account 00058120086	14.647,30	
<b>Total funds by Dec. 31, 2014:</b>	<b>213.014,26</b>	excluding new Income

### Expenses 2014

1. Mondial Management Fee	11.827,20	<b>details</b> 308,5 hrs x 32 + 20% VAT
2. Travel Reimbursements PC	3.078,89	(estimate was 4000)
3. Third Party Costs	5.051,90	Brussels PC M, Prague PC M, other meetings website, travel AB, SW, accommodation, meetings, expenses...
4. Fellowships & Travel Grants		
5. Extraordinary (Lawyer,...)		(estimate was 2500)
<b>Total Expenses 2014:</b>	<b>19.957,99</b>	

### Income 2014

Conferences

The society and its affiliated sister societies EUFOS and EAORL-HNS are in a healthy financial situation (see Attachment on financial overview of the three societies by Dec. 31, 2014) with total funds of app. EUR 213.000 and running yearly expenses (before fellowships) of app. EUR 20.000.

As John Oates points out, most of these funds originate from part congresses, mainly Vienna 2007, Mannheim 2009 and Barcelona 2011. The 2013 Nice meeting, on the other hand, seems to have been a rather expensive meeting as the financial outcome for CEORL-HNS was just a meagre EUR 5000,-.

He believes that the CEORL-HNS is in a good financial position, especially with the Prague meeting being such a great success.

While 2017 is expected to be a smaller-scale event, 2019 can be expected to have a significant financial outcome.

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen then expresses his gratitude to Dominique Chevalier for accepting the task of EUFOS Treasurer at a time when EUFOS was facing severe challenges, thanking him for the great job that he did.

With completion of the merger of EUFOS and EAORL-HNS with CEORL-HNS also on a legal level (see chapter 6.) there is discussion whether or not the three accounts should be consolidated into one master account.

It is agreed that spreading the CEORL-HNS's financial assets – in light of the current financial climate – has some advantages.

### **7. Report of the Auditors**

René Dauman, one of the CEORL-HNS auditors, confirms the accuracy of the CEORL-HNS account (located in Vienna), adding that despite the great steps taken in the history of the society, the financial status is quite stable – a good thing when it comes to matters of money.

Marc Remacle then thanks René Dauman for his support as auditor.

### **8. Election of two Internal Auditors**

Klaus Albegger is re-elected as auditor, and Reidar Grénman is elected as second auditor by the General Assembly.

### **9. Elections Presidential Council Positions**

Marc Remacle explains that as the CEORL-HNS is still quite young, it is too early for competing candidacies for positions in the CEORL-HNS Presidential Council. Instead, the Presidential Council makes proposals to the General Assembly, which may be discussed, accepted or rejected.

He then introduces the candidates for the three positions, all experienced on society matters, and supportive of CEORL-HNS's role in Europe.

#### **9.1 President-Elect 2015-2017**

candidate: Hans-Edmund Eckel (Austria and ELS)

Hans-Edmund Eckel has held numerous positions, such as President of ELS, General-Secretary (and soon also President) of the Austrian ENT society, and is a good and trusted friend. Marc Remacle is sure that the collaboration between Hans-Edmund Eckel and Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen will be a very good one.

The General Assembly unanimously elects Hans-Edmund Eckel as President-Elect for 2015-2017, to take over the role of President in 2017.

#### **9.2 General-Secretary-Elect 2015-2017**

candidate: John Russell (ESPO and Ireland)

Marc Remacle explains that it was deemed important to open the doors of representation in the Presidential Council to all the subspecialty societies. ESPO is one such society, and having its President John Russell in the PC will surely be of benefit.

There is a majority decision to elect John Russell General-Secretary Elect for 2015-2017, to take over the role of General Secretary in 2017.

#### **9.3 Treasurer-Elect 2015-2017**

candidate: Pietro Palma (Italy and EAFPS)

EAFPS President Pietro Palma, Marc Remacle states, is another valuable addition to the Presidential Council. There is a majority decision to elect Pietro Palma Treasurer-Elect for 2015-2017, to take over the role of Treasurer in 2017.

As Jan Betka has not yet arrived for his report of the Prague congress, Ferhan Öz brings his report on Antalya 2017.

**10. 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of European ORL-HNS**, October 19-22, 2017 in Antalya, Turkey  
Ferhan Öz thanks Jan Betka and his team for a well-organised meeting, adding

that he hopes to do the same in 2017. He then shows some slides on Antalya, stating the dates and venue and describing the set-up of the scientific programme.

A discussion then ensues between members of the audience and the podium, regarding the question of representation of different subspecialties in the programme, both in Prague and also planned in Antalya. One guest, Mario Sanna from Italy, criticises a lack of otology and skull base topics. In addition, he feels both are under-represented in the PC as well as the General Assembly. Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen counters that the scientific programme and representation in the society are two different matters, adding that for several years, ESBS was represented by Piero Nicolai who acted as General Secretary for the CEORL-HNS. Also, Jacques Magnan organised the 2013 meeting in Nice.

Regarding the scientific programme, Mario Sanna feels that Otology has had a lower consideration in the scientific programme compared to other subspecialties. Nuri Özgirgin, representative of the EAONO, explains that all subspecialty societies were invited to a meeting in December 2014 in Prague to set up the structure and content of the programme.

Jan Betka, who has joined the General Assembly, then points out that all subspecialty societies were treated equally, adding that “no subspecialty society agrees to less time.” He then goes on to say that he himself is very interested in skull base, so he feels this comment to have no basis.

Frederik Dijkers then congratulates Ferhan Öz on the good preparations for 2017.

Mario Sanna then asks about the Fellowship, and why it is a Head and Neck Fellowship. Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen explains that Head and Neck was chosen because this subspecialty was the first with a finished logbook. For the future, Laryngology, Rhinology and Otology will follow. However, as this Fellowship is a paid one, it was important to make sure that the financial situation was stable.

#### **11. 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of European ORL-HNS**, June 7-11, 2015 in Prague, Czech Republic

Jan Betka reports that 3400 participants have been registered for the event, the second highest number in the history of CEORL-HNS.

300 Industry representatives have come to Prague. So far, no serious problems have been encountered. Marc Remacle then thanks Jan Betka for all his work and congratulates him on a large as well as interesting meeting.

#### **12. Application 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of European ORL-HNS and election Congress President 2019**

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen reports that one application has been received to organise the 2019 congress, namely by Marc Remacle (supported by the Belgian ORL society as well as by the Benelux countries).

Another candidature by Greece had been considered, but ultimately was postponed. He reports that on June 16, a site inspection will take place for the SQUARE in Brussels; however, other venues may be considered.

The General Assembly unanimously votes to elect Marc Remacle Congress President 2019.

Marc Remacle thanks the members of the GA for accepting his bid, and presents some slides on Brussels.

Reidar Grénman the raises the topic of the dates, suggesting that since the end of June is usually a time for holidays, timing might be reconsidered. Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen replies that while this may be true, previous meeting in the beginning of July have been successes, such as Vienna 2007 and Barcelona 2011. The major advantage is that the period from July 1 on is considered “low-season” by hotels and congress venues in most European cities, which means prices for hotel rooms (and also the venue) are considerably lower.

### 13. Presentation new CEORL-HNS Presidential Council

## CEORL-HNS PC until and after Prague

### Positions as per New Constitution

	until Prague	after Prague
<b>President</b>	M. Remacle	M. Bernal-Sprekelsen (2017)
<b>President-Elect</b>	M. Bernal-Sprekelsen	<b>H.-E. Eckel</b> ('17, then '19)
<b>Secretary General</b>	P. Nicolai	I. Sziklai (2017)
<b>Secretary General-Elect</b>	I. Sziklai	<b>J. Russell</b> (2017, then 2019)
<b>Treasurer</b>	D. Chevalier	J. Oates (2017)
<b>Treasurer-Elect</b>	J. Oates	<b>P. Palma</b> (2017, then 2019)
<b>UEMS ORL Repr.</b>	U. Pedersen	U. Pedersen (2017)
<b>Congress Presidents</b>	J. Betka and F. Öz	F. Öz (2017) and <b>M. Remacle</b> (2019)

### 14. CEORL-HNS Fellowship in Head & Neck

Hans-Edmund Eckel as Chair of the Fellowship Committee reports that 12 valid applications for the Fellowship were received, of which six applicants were invited to the Hearing which took place on Sunday, June 7, 2015, from 13:30 to 14:30.

The general impression was that all of them were qualified, which made ranking them no easy task. In the end, the committee selected Robert Sifrer from Ljubljana as recipient of the Fellowship, and he has accepted. He has chosen to visit the VU University Medical Center, ORL Dept headed by Prof. Leemans.

At the Hearing, after a discussion, it is agreed that the two runner-ups, Gauthier Desuter and Ali Cemal Yumusakhuylyu – provided they accept the terms – will receive a EUR 5000,- educational travel grant: duration minimum of 6 weeks, at one or more accredited H&N centres, at the end of which a written report (minimum 1000 words) has to be submitted.

It is believed that these grants, in addition to the Fellowship itself, will make the application more attractive to interested doctors. However, the awarding of these grants will remain a discretionary decision.

Marc Remacle adds that applicants need to have passed the EBEORL exam previously and live and work in Europe in order to be eligible. Some clinics require fluency in the local language, in which case applicants need to prove their language skills. Local rules need to be followed.

The question is raised whether unpaid fellowships may also be considered, as well as fellowships paid by the applicant's home-country. For these, also, the EBEORL exam would be mandatory.

As far as host clinics are concerned, Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen invites all those interested to submit relevant details on their clinics, to be included in future Fellowships.

### **15. Next General Assembly of the CEORL-HNS**

The next General Assembly will be held during the 4<sup>th</sup> CEORL-HNS congress, October 18-22, 2017 in Antalya, Turkey.

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen then explains that at yesterday's meeting of the CEORL-HNS Presidential Council, it was decided to award Mondial the contract for (continuing) Association Management services, and congress organisation from 2019 on.

To aid in the decision-making, the offers submitted by Mondial and Guarant, Jan Betka's PCO were analysed by an independent accountant in the UK.

In the end, even though Guarant's rate was slightly lower, it was decided that the trust established during years of cooperation outweighs financial advantages (Andrea Balcar has acted as Association Manager since 2005 for EAORL-HNS, with EUFOS since 2009, and for CEORL-HNS since before its legal inception in 2011).

Mondial, however, did agree to lower its profit share by 1% to 10, and has included an exit clause (valid for both parties) for the end of 2019.

Following this General Assembly, the contract will be signed.

There is unanimous approval for this decision.

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen and Marc Remacle congratulate Mondial, and thank Guarant for an outstanding job here in Prague.

### **16. Varia**

Bernard Fraysse invites all those present to the 2017 UFOS World Congress, due to take place from June 24-27, 2017 in Paris. He thanks Robert Laszig, Karl Hörmann and Reidar Grénman for supporting Paris's bid early on.

The 2nd announcement is ready, online abstract submission will be possible from beginning of 2016 on, and registration will open in June 2016.

Before closing the meeting, Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen brings up two further topics for discussion.

a) One concerns the number of letters of support necessary for candidates aspiring to positions in the Presidential Council. So far, candidates have been actively approached by the current PC, for the future it is envisioned that interested persons will gather support from their own societies through letters of support, as specified by the constitution.

To equalise the procedure for all societies (big or small) as well as raise chances of success for the candidate, it is discussed to raise the number of letters of support required to three for both groups: one from the respective national society, one from a "smaller" subspecialty group, and one letter of support from one of the (currently) four large "Founding Societies" EAONO, EHNS, ELS and ERS.

Any rephrasing of the constitution would be put to the vote in Antalya.

b) In addition, within the Presidential Council the grouping of the national societies has been discussed.

The groupings were taken over from old EUFOS, and may need to be reconsidered and possibly changed in the future.

Both Turkey and Italy are members large enough to warrant having a vote of their

own.

If so, two new votes would then become available for distribution among the subspecialty society groups, in order to keep the balance of power (possibly by EAFPS and ESPO receiving a second vote each, as they are among the largest subspecialty societies).

Again, any such changes would also be voted on in Antalya.

In that context, any other changes may be proposed for discussion in the Presidential Council.

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen then thanks Marc Remacle for his active Presidency. Marc Remacle closes by thanking the Presidential Council and Mondial for the good cooperation, adding that when his term as President ends on Thursday, he will feel that what started as a distant aim has become a real success – the merging of subspecialty and national societies into the CEORL-HNS.

The General Assembly then ends at 13:45.