



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

Date: Sunday, October 30, 2022, 13:00 – 15:00.
Location: Room Blue 1 (1st floor), MiCo, Milan

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Cem Mecco welcomes all the Representatives present at the Advisory Board Meeting. He explains that the Confederation values this meeting very much, because it is the executive meeting to review and inform about Confederations activities but more importantly hear feedback from the member societies: Subspecialty, National, Affiliated and Co-opted; open forum to all kind of comments and discussions to guide PC on further developments and decisions that needs to be taken by the Confederation.

2. Introduction of current officers of CEORL

Cem Mecco introduces the current Presidential Council:

President: Cem Mecco

General Secretary: Jan Plzák

Treasurer: Miroslav Tedla

President-Elect: Per Cayé-Thomasen

General Secretary-Elect: Elisabeth V. Sjögren

Treasurer-Elect: Tomislav Baudoin

Congress President: 2022: Piero Nicolai

Congress President 2024: John Russell

UEMS Representative: John Fenton

EBEORL Representative: Ulrik Pedersen

Senior Counsellors:

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen

Marc Remacle

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

3. UEMS

Cem Mecco stresses that he wants to spend a significant portion of this meeting to explain the current situation with UEMS Central which affects at the end national and subspecialty societies and the practice of ORL-HNS in Europe. He mentions that this forum should also create a consensus for the future that would guide the next PC on how they should behave on issues on behalf of all of us as well as ways to inform our member societies:

- Each section within the UEMS has its Log-Book and European Training Requirements (ETR). Earlier the ORL Log-Book and lately in 2020 ORL ETR were approved by UEMS Central including the head and neck surgery and facial plastics procedures that we are already doing as a legal right (24 to 1 votes, only one rejected the document).
- Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons (OMFS) still do not have their Log-Book and their European Training Requirements have been recently approved in 2022 with a very narrow margin voting and controversial approval procedure, against our will - due to the overambitious extensions within invading our specialty areas.
- This specialty is not represented in all countries in Europe and in the countries, where is represented their specialists come from different training backgrounds.
- The proposed and accepted OMFS ETR includes almost all ORL-HNS curriculum.
- The regulation and voting on such documents are done in UEMS Central by the delegates sent by the national medical associations (NMA), thus usually a broad consensus is searched and as a result such documents are legalised with overwhelming majority like the case of our ORL ETR. These NMA Delegates could be from any medical discipline, that it is very probable that they do not understand the details of the issue to vote on, thus many times they need to rely on information from other people. It is very important to get in contact with these delegates to inform them what is really going on and whenever a dispute emerges it is important that they have the information from both sides.
- The UEMS Central have an executive body that is unfortunately not friendly to ORL-HNS, on the contrary they are very good and personal friends of OMFS and are moving on in coordination.
- When the OMFS ETR was first proposed, UEMS Central executive were not expecting that the ORL-HNS colleagues could be effective on the NMAs, indicating that there are many unsolved issues regarding ORL-HNS on that document that needs to be solved before it is voted and accepted, thus the first voting on OMFS ETR was rejected by 14 to 11 voting by the NMAs and it did not pass through. It was stopped to enable further negotiations and corrections on the document, so that a consensus can be reached that would fit to the reality of practice and training throughout Europe. Importantly, it was the first time an ETR was stopped at this level against the will of UEMS Central, which caused an outrage on their side.
- The wish of ORL-HNS colleagues to have contact information of all NMAs to reach out them to explain our point of views were blocked by the UEMS central. There was no way for us to reach out voting NMAs to explain the grave situation, which on the contrary UEMS Central have used its power to advertise for the OMFS side, thus from that point on the NMAs got one sided information. ORL did not have the chance to oppose and inform NMAs adequately.
- Only 6 months later at the next UEMS Central meeting in Cyprus, it was organized a new voting on almost the same ETR document, slightly modified for a make-up, but still containing a significant part of ORL-HNS curriculum. During the time between, the UEMS Central send information to NMAs in favour of OMFS but more importantly during the meeting and discussions just before voting, again ORL-HNS did not have the chance to oppose and inform NMAs adequately.
- The voting in Cyprus was virtual and how the result had been shaped was unclear - while the voting was first tied to 12-12 and it has suddenly changed to 13-11 and the OMFS ETR was approved. There were many irregularities on procedures as witnesses reflected to us.
- Cem Mecco informs that another dispute with UEMS Central is the addition of HNS to ORL name officially. As this is a chronic issue with UEMS Central that they have been blocking it from it

happening since many years, in order to dilute and make the issue even more debateable, this time they came up with the creation of a Multidisciplinary Joint Committee (MJC) on Head and Neck Surgery (HNS). Our section has objected on this, indicating the real practice need, that the MJC should be rather on Head and Neck Oncology – we could not reach out the NMAs to explain our view and at the end it was also voted to pass, a further move to assure omitting HNS from ORL.

- Unfortunately, our relationship got toxic with UEMS Central, many national societies, the Confederation and the UEMSORL section have send letters to UEMS Central explaining our concerns and asking why our specialty has been attacked with the support of Central, but none of the letters have been replied.
- At that point there was a consensus to have some legal advice. The lawyer informed that according to the Belgian law, due to acts against natural justice and flaws at the procedures during the voting, the ORL-HNS side thus as its representative - the Confederation has a strong case. The Confederation send a new letter with no reply. As there were no options were left except the lawsuit, as a last resort to defend ORL-HNS standpoint this way was utilized through the UEMSORL section and funded by the Confederation.
- Now the situation is in the Court, expected to start in January/February 2023 and finish in Summer 2023.
- Recently, the elections of UEMS ORL Section in Copenhagen tried to be prohibited by the UEMS Central; where the national societies as usual have sent delegates there and the lawyer informed that according to the procedure of UEMS and the Belgian law the election should be done, otherwise the mandate would be lost. Accordingly, the new board was elected in Copenhagen, but is not recognized by UEMS Central, creating another legal dispute. UEMS Central have claimed that they took over the governance of ORL Section and blocked the bank accounts. This action cannot be accepted by the Confederation, as the new board was democratically elected by the representatives of our national member societies to govern and protect our rights at UEMS level.
- Nevertheless, due to the fact that previous talks and communications with UEMS central were done through the UEMSORL officers, in order to refresh relationship with the Central and open a new communication channel to know each other as well as showing a friendly gesture, even though our previous letters were not replied, The Confederation invited the UEMS Executive to Milano, ready to cover all expenses just to meet personally for informal talks and have an informal lunch without any binding obligation to both sides, but they rejected the invitation, giving us conditions that cannot be accomplished before negotiating and reaching a consensus on both sides .
- Under these circumstances, unanimously the PC decided to pursue diplomatic ways in the form of unconditional negotiations, but also following on the lawsuit which is our only stronghold to reach a deal and for that to keep pressure on Central which we want to inform all representatives here.

Hans Eckel (Austria) stresses that the direct access to UEMS goes via national societies, the Confederation has no direct access to UEMS. The ORL-HNS national societies must realize that there is a problem, must discuss this problem into the organization and have to decide if want to step in or want to relax. Those who want to be active must found the way to be coordinated. National societies have to discuss this issue internally and come back to their NMAs.

Jan Plzák informs that after the meeting, national societies will receive detailed information to help them to discuss the situation internally.

Ahmed Geneid (UEP) understands the magnitude of the situation and proposes to try to invite again UEMS Central in a neutral place. Proposes to have the communication with the NMAs by face-to-face meeting/contact instead of by email.

Cem Mecoc requests to receive the NMAs contact details to contact them and inform them about the situation and informs that the Confederation will provide two documents on the European Archives of ORL: one informing about the current situation and the second one why our specialty should have the head and neck surgery attached to the name of specialty, this document will help to officially request in your countries to have these name attached.

Ulrik Pedersen (EBEORL) informs that had several meetings with Dr Papalois, President of UEMS Central, he was negotiating with him very hard to leave the EBEORL Exam out of UEMS Central. At the end they arrived at a consensus, he accepted and signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Ulrik Pedersen stresses that do not want that this situation changes his position and start a new fight.

John Fenton (UEMS ORL Section) thanks everybody in the meeting for their support and informs that the countries mentioned: France and Italy have already said that they do not want nothing to do with UEMS and Portugal is having problems and they are talking about leaving. As a Section UEMS ORL needs to stay and defend the specialty and rights. UEMS ORL Section have never been aggressive. He stresses that head and neck departments could be controlled by maxillofacial as is happening in some countries.

Pedro Escada (Portugal) informs that the delegates of UEMS are not nominated by the medical association and informs that is the first time that hears that Portugal wants to abandon UEMS and that this will not happen.

Adrian Agius (UEMS ORL Section) stresses that the only power at UEMS comes from the national medical associations.

Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen (Spain) proposes that national societies do not ask for CME credits to UEMS for their events, they have to ask to their national institutions.

It is proposed to write a letter from the Confederation President to the President of each national society to inform about the situation, then this information can be discussed at the next national meetings.

Elisabeth V. Sjögren proposes that the Confederation collects the answers of the national societies.

4. Individual Membership

Cem Mecoc presents the Individual Membership approved by the Presidential Council to be ratified at the General Assembly.

Membership fees: 50€ annual fee

Who could become a member:

- European ENT: Practicing or retired ENT that are members of a subspecialty and/or national member societies (European countries including Israel acknowledged by the United Nations) will full access to all Confederation benefits.
- International Members: Full member of a non-European ENT society.
- Other Professionals: All other ENT-related professionals as audiologists, speech therapists.

Benefits:

- Access to our multimedia learning portal.
- Regular information by email about ORL-HNS news and events via our Confederation newsletters.
- Opportunity to apply for Confederation grants, awards, fellowships and observerships under their specific rules and procedures.
- Discounts on standard registration fees to Confederation congresses and educational events.
- Inclusion in the Confederation community- easily connect with your peers, ask advice, publicise your own events, receive support and friendship.

5. Contribution of National and Subspecialty Societies to the ongoing work of CEORL and to the congresses

Cem Mecco informs about the level of contribution of the subspecialty and national member societies to Milan congress:

Track	RT	RT Allocated	RT %	KL	KL Allocated	KL %	IC	IC Allocated	IC %	Total %	Confederation GL
Otology	20	20	15,50%	18	18	15,13%	23	23	19,33%	16,65%	18-22%
Rhinology	19	19	14,73%	25	25	21,01%	20	20	16,81%	17,51%	18-22%
H&N	15	15	11,63%	16	16	13,45%	17	17	14,29%	13,12%	12-15%
Laryngology	13	13	10,08%	9	9	7,56%	10	10	8,40%	8,68%	12-15%
Facial Plastics	9	9	6,98%	5	5	4,20%	4	4	3,36%	4,85%	20-30%
Pediatrics	9	9	6,98%	8	8	6,72%	7	7	5,88%	6,53%	
Phoniatrics	8	8	6,20%	4	4	3,36%	5	5	4,20%	4,59%	
Salivary Gland	5	5	3,88%	4	4	3,36%	5	5	4,20%	3,81%	
Sleep Medicine	4	4	3,10%	2	2	1,68%	2	2	1,68%	2,15%	
Skull Base	4	4	3,10%	9	9	7,56%	5	5	4,20%	4,96%	
Basic Track	6	6	4,65%	9	9	7,56%	7	7	5,88%	6,03%	
UEMS-ORL	2	2	1,55%	0	0	0,00%	2	2	1,68%	1,08%	8-10%
Presidents' Track	5	5	3,88%	7	7	5,88%	7	7	5,88%	5,21%	
General	1	1	0,78%	1	1	0,84%	0	0	0,00%	0,54%	
Invited Countries*	4	4	3,10%	1	1	0,84%	5	5	4,20%	2,71%	
AAO-HNS	4	4	3,10%	0	0	0,00%	0	0	0,00%	1,03%	
South Korea	1	1	0,78%	1	1	0,84%	0	0	0,00%	0,54%	
	129	129	100,00%	119	119	100,00%	119	119	100,00%	100,00%	

Total number of sessions: 367

- Round tables: 128
- Keynote lectures: 120
- Instructional courses: 119

Proposed by subspecialty societies: 253

- Round tables: 94
- Keynote lectures: 76
- Instructional courses: 83

Total speakers proposed by national societies: 317

- Total invited: 227 (71%)
- Confirmed: 171
- Declined: 35
- Have not answered the invitation: 21

Faculty Application: 115 (105 new potential speakers registered + 10 proposed by national societies)

- Invited: 60 (52%)
- Confirmed: 47
- Declined: 13

Registration fee for faculties:

- Early special until July 7: 600€
- Early fee until September 30: 715€
- Late/on site fee from October 1: 925€

Non-ENT:

- Complimentary day badge
- Attendance the full congress: special fee of 330€

Decisions taken for 2024:

At the Presidential Council meeting of July 12, 2022 it was approved that the congress fees will be waived for:

- Scientific Core Committee
- 2 key members per topic nominated by the subspecialty society to help construct the scientific programme and do correspondence.

6. 7th Congress of European ORL-HNS, Dublin 2024 (John Russell and Michael Kuo)

John Russell introduces Michael Kuo as Scientific Chair.

They present:

- The logo for the 2024 congress.



- The venue: The Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) with 17 parallel sessions.
- The scientific programme is based on Milan.

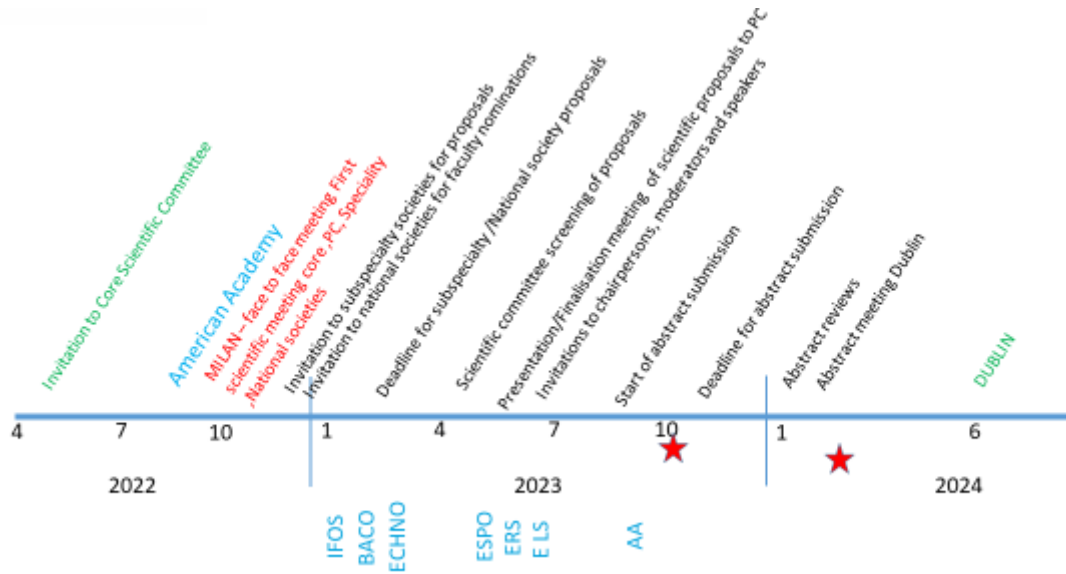
Michael Kuo explains how the scientific programme how will be constructed:

- Preliminary number of sessions to be proposed by the subspecialty societies:

	Round table	Keynote lecture	Instructional course
Otology	20	19	10
Rhinology	19	22	22
H & N	15	17	18
Laryngology	13	10	12
Paediatrics	12	10	12
Facial plastics	8	5	7
Phoniatics	8	4	5
Salivary gland	5	4	5
Sleep medicine	4	2	2
Skull base	4	7	5
Basic track	6	10	7
UEMS-ORL	2	0	2
EBORL		1	1
President's track	5	7	7
Invited countries	4	1	5
AAO-HNS	4	0	0
South Korea	1	1	0
Free paper sessions 48x90 Min	130	120	120
Total sessions 418			

- The programme will be designed by the subspecialty societies.
- Organization Chart:
 - On the top there will be the Scientific Chair, Michael Kuo, in direct contact with the Congress President and the Presidential Council.
 - The Scientific Core Committee that will help to develop a well-balanced programme from the proposals submitted by the two key people of each subspecialty and together with the Scientific Chair, Michael Kuo, will complete the programme with the speakers proposed by the national societies and, in the future have to advise on possible replacements should the need arise.
 - Two key people from each subspecialty societies to propose round tables, keynote lectures and instructional courses.
 - National societies that will nominate faculties based on population size.
- Two key people from subspecialty societies:
 - Facial Plastics - EAFPS: Alwyn D'Souza & Jose Carlos Neves
 - Head & Neck – EHNS: pending to be confirmed
 - Laryngology – ELS: Alberto Paderno & Jerome Lechien
 - Otology – EAONO: Jef Mulder
 - Paediatrics – ESPO: Vincent Couloigner & An Boudewyns

- Phoniatics – UEP: Ahmed Geneid & Tadeus Nawka
- Rhinology – ERS: Jannis Constantinidis & Paolo Castelnuovo
- Salivary Gland – MSGS: Francis Marchal & Vincent Vander Poorten
- Skull Base – ESBS: decision will be taken at Milano meeting
- Sleep Medicine – EASM: Clemens Heiser & Ulrich Sommer
- Scientific Core Committee:
 - Otology: Simon Lloyd (UK) & Andrzej Zarowski (Belgium)
 - Head & Neck: Andreas Dietz (Germany) & Patrick Sheahan (Ireland)
 - Rhinology: Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen (Spain) & Peter Valentin Tomazic (Austria)
 - Facial Plastics: Pietro Palma (Italy) & Alwyn d'Souza (UK)
 - Paediatrics: Vincent Couloignier (France) & Rania Mehanna (Ireland)
 - Laryngology: Marc Remacle (Luxembourg) & Alexia Mattei (France)
 - Basic track: Jerome R Lechien (France) & Joana Araujo (Portugal)
 - Phoniatics: Ahmed Geneid (Finland) & Gauthier Desuter (Belgium)
 - Sleep Medicine: Joachim T Maurer (Germany) & Marina Carrasco-Llatas (Spain)
 - Salivary Gland: Vincent Vander Poorten (Belgium) & Ricard Simo (UK)
 - Skull base: Mario Turri-Zanoni (Italy) & Christos Georgalas (Greece)
- Information to be submitted by subspecialty societies:
 - Round tables: 1 Moderator + up to 3 speakers
 - Keynote lectures: title and 1 speaker
 - Instructional courses: up to 3 speakers, the sessions with more than two speakers, one of the speakers have to be designated as moderator to organize the course.
 - Agree with the speakers to save the date.
 - When designing the program, Michael Kuo requests to take into consideration the gender and ethnic diversity in the panels.
- Information to be submitted by national societies:
 - The number of faculties will be indicated when contacting the societies.
 - Agree with the speakers to save the date.
 - Not all the speakers proposed might have a role.
- Scientific timeline:
 - Early December 2022 (-18): Invitation to subspecialty societies to propose round tables, instructional courses, keynote lectures, moderators and speakers
 - Early December 2022 (-18): Call for Faculty nominations from National societies.
 - March 2023 (-15): Deadline for all National and Subspecialty proposals.
 - April/May 2023 (-14): Preparation/Screening of the scientific program by Scientific Chairman, President and Core Scientific Committee.
 - Early June 2023 (-12): Finalization Meeting (Scientific Chairman, Scientific Core Committee, President and PC) to discuss the program.
 - June 2023 (-12): Invitations to chairpersons, moderators and speakers
 - September 2023: (-9) Start of abstract submission.
 - Early November 2023 (-7): Abstract submission deadline.
 - End of November 2023 (-7): Extended deadline.
 - December 2023/January 2024 (-6): Abstract reviews.
 - February 2024 (-4): Abstract meeting Dublin.
 - February 2024 (-4): Abstract notifications sent.



John Russell presents the venue for the Congress Evening “Guinness Storehouse” and shows a video of Dublin inviting the representatives present to attend the congress.

Sefik Hosal (EHNS): Stresses that it is a lot of work designing a programme and asks about not paying registration fees. John Russell informs that has agreed that the two members of the Scientific Core Committee and the two key people that will construct the programme will have complimentary registration fees.

Marina Carrasco (EASM): Complaint because the speakers have to pay the registration fees and this is unfair. John Russell informs that the Confederation depends on the congress and Cem Mecoc stresses that first the congress has to develop to have 5.000/6.000 participants, then the Confederation can start to think on lower registration fees for faculties, otherwise that the costs and financial balances do not let the Confederation do such a move right now.

Dan Jiang (EAONO): Informs that there is a clash with the EAONO Congress that will take place just after Dublin Congress.

Daniel Kaplan (Israel): Asks about the number of residents attending the meeting and if the Confederation is thinking to do more for Young Colleagues. Cem Mecoc informs that at the last congress it was introduced the basic track that was a success; for 2022 it has been decided to continue with the basic track and it has been introduced in the Presidents’ track 4 panels organized by the Young Confederation. John Russell informs that the Young Confederation will be in charge of organizing the basic track. John Rusell confirms that more than 500 young colleagues (below 35) are registered at the Milan congress and have a reduced rate.

Cem Mecoc thanks John Russell and Michael Kuo for the presentation done.

7. Educational Platform of the Confederation / Young Confederation

Cem Mecoc informs that the Presidential Council had thoughts on to develop an educational platform with below listed four distinct activities that would serve different targets. Even though these have been planned to start during the last three years, due to the Covid pandemic only the Confederation webinars could be inaugurated by the PC, but starting from 2023 the rest will be gradually kicking off like the first Confederation Academy event within the next months. He further informed that the first webinar which he made the opening and moderated by Piero Nicolai was on “Multidisciplinary

discussions on malignant sinonasal tumors” and these board discussion type webinars are further planned and will be also provided as recordings through the educational platform together with other recordings from the Confederation congresses.

The Educational platform is for now planned to consist of:

- “Current Practice in ENT”: Seminars Program > branded as the “Confederation Academy”:
 - Outreach program for all practicing ENT colleagues, especially at areas with restrained resources in Europe
 - Aiming to provide current concepts of modern ORL-HNS practice and problem solving
 - Focus: All ENT Practitioners at all levels
- European Training Program
 - For young generations to support them in their training
 - Focus: Residents and Young Colleagues
- Observership Program
 - 2 to 4 weeks short term visitations to leading centers
 - Focus: Postgraduate Specialists,
- Web-based open access solutions
 - Online Resources, Webinars, etc.
 - Focus: Pan-European and Global reach
 - The first webinar was organized on September 27.

Regarding the European Training Program meant for residents starting from their 3rd year of residency, it is planned to be

- Three-year Curriculum – Once registered obliged to attend 3 consecutive years, each year covering one of the below groups:
 - Rhino: Allergy, Rhinology, Anterior Skull Base, Pediatric ORL and Facial Plastics
 - Oto: Audiology, Otology, Neurotology, Lateral Skull Base, Pediatric ORL and Facial Plastics
 - H & N: Head and Neck, Laryngology, Phoniatics, Pediatric ORL and Facial Plastics
- To take place in Autumn, Winter and Spring cycles / each 4-5 days / each ~200-300 pax
- Create a “European ENT Culture” from the bottom and the idea of creating a young European ENT identity is now coming into life also through the inaugurated Young Confederation which will be the backbone of this program.
- EBEORL-HNS exam mandatory to exit the training program:
 - At the end of the 3rd year curriculum for assessment
 - Part I (written exam) obligatory, Part II (oral exam) could be voluntary, but the Young Confederation colleagues want it to be mandatory as in other disciplines like in Neurosurgery

The first event of the Confederation Academy organized by Tomislav Baudoin will take place in March in Zagreb with a prevision of 100 delegates

Cem Mecoc presents the Young Confederation which is inaugurated with the efforts of the current PC and that himself and the PC is very proud of this development. This organisation will organize the efforts of our young colleagues who will be our future under this association and let them govern themselves and speak out their view and wishes. The Young Confederation is already accepted by the Presidential Council to be a member of the Confederation like a subspecialty member which still needs to be ratified at the General Assembly:

- Will be a subspecialty society member instead of EJD that did not want to be a part of the Confederation anymore.
- The Constitution should be adapted to include the Young Confederation as a member society under the umbrella of the Confederation.

- The Society is created in a simple way, formed by a group of young people with 2 votes at the General Assembly (replacing EJD) after ratification in Milano 2022.
- The society will have their own by-laws, they have their own board and there is no treasurer
- The website is under Confederation website.
- They have already formed their inaugurating executive board as well as working groups and as their first mission they will support the educational activities of the Confederation and EBEORL exams, while organize social networking events among all young colleagues in Europe.

8. Topics proposed by National and Subspecialty Societies

Heikki Irjala informs that the Nordic Association made an application to become affiliated member. Cem Mecco informs that the application has been approved at the Presidential Council and they are welcome as members of the Confederation. Dr Irjala presents the society.

Cem Mecco thanks all the participants for their attendance and their inputs. He again mentions that the feedback that the PC gets from these meetings will be helping them to navigate the Confederation.

The Advisory Board meeting is closed at 15:00h