

Minutes of ESSOP Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Istanbul, Turkey

15 October 1999

Attendees: G. Gökçay, A. Nesbitt, S. Nakou, S. Logan, N. Spencer, E. Özmert, R. Chamberlin, K. Yurdakök, A. Waterston, G. Julien, I. Szilagyi-Pagowska, C. Colomer, S. Tsitoura, E. Papadopoulou, T. Schulpen, JC. Vuille, E. Demirezen, P. Bouvier, T. Panagiotopoulos, O. Duperrex, A. Aszman, A. Sito, J. Colomer, N. Spencer, N. Uzel,

Agenda

- Report of the president and the general secretary
- Report of the treasurer
- New membership applications
- Amendments in the constitutions
- Election for the executive committee members

1. Report of the president

Gülbin Gökçay (GG), who combined the roles of President and Secretary General during the past year, presented her report covering the following topics

A laptop computer was bought to allow GG to update the list of membership. The computer will stay with the person acting as Secretary General.

According to the list sent by Bengt Lindstrom, there are 312 members from 24 European countries (out of 48). A new information form was created and sent to 312 members together with an ESSOP leaflet and the minutes of the last general assembly in Bordeaux. In the form, it was asked whether they still want to be a member and what is their status of membership (lifetime or not). Only 55 replied confirming their membership. It was learned that Prof. Lindqvist has been dead. Two members (Dr. Rolo Bilo from Holland and Ragnhild Kornfalt from Sweden) wrote that they wanted to quit from their membership status. There were address changes for three members. The low rate of returns might be due to the misunderstanding, some members might have thought that they are already members so there is no need to send the form back.. The number of changed addresses should be higher than the number of returned letters

2. Membership applications

The following membership applications were accepted unanimously :

1. G. Julien (Canada)
2. E. Demirezen (Turkey)
3. S. H. Stronski (Switzerland)
4. F. Mathies (USA)
5. E. Hegedüs (Hungary)
6. D. Harvey (UK)
7. M. Giovannini (Italy)
8. F. Oğuz (Turkey)
9. S. U. Baysal (Turkey)
10. A. Egemen (Turkey)
11. S. Logan (UK)
12. E. Papadopoulou (Greece)
13. S. Raman (Australia)
14. S. Memon (Pakistan)
15. A. Kılıç (Turkey)
16. S. B. Gülnar (Turkey)
17. B. Ulukol (Turkey)
18. E. Kırımı (Turkey)
19. J. Colomer (Spain)
20. E. Tokyay (Turkey)

The Executive Committee (EC) proposed that the status «**life-long membership**» is abolished (no new life-long members, existing life-long members will keep their status meaning they do not need to pay annual fees). This was accepted by the General Assembly (AGM).

3)ESSOP 2000

EC received 2 proposals for the ESSOP 2000 congress : UK (N.Spencer, A. MacFarlane) and Canada (Gilles Julien). The EC is concerned that Canada will be too far (too expensive) for some of the ESSOP members and suggests a joint meeting in Montréal rather than an annual congress. The EC therefore proposed that next year the congress should be in UK in a location to be determined. The AGM accepted with a majority. The subject will be « inequalities in health » or « child poverty » and the location will be determined later.

4)Amendments in the Constitution

The EC proposed the following changes to the constitution : 1 Society President elected for 4-5 years, 1 Congress President (no Vice-President), 1 Secretary General, 1 Treasurer, and a number of members.

A discussion followed in which several points were raised, such as :

- the need for staggering the roles of Society President and Secretary General
- election criteria, duties and privileges of EC members were not clear
- the EC may prove difficult to operate if there is no limit in the number of EC members
- non ex-officio EC members should be elected for 2 years to provide the opportunity for other members to join the EC (the same people have been in the EC for a long time !)

The EC clarified that :

- EC members had no financial privilege
- there is usually one EC meeting between the Annual Congresses
- no travel fees are paid for EC – everybody has to pay for their travel
- in the past years, the reality was that only a small number of EC members were really active in ESSOP and that too few rather than too many people wanted to become EC members
- the revised constitution could be reviewed if it does not function properly

The AGM finally accepted the following revision in the constitution:

- (a) There will be a “society president” for five years and a “meeting president” for one year.”.
- (b) Proposed changed to Item 9 “The Executive Committee shall consist of the society president, meeting president or presidents, the secretary general, the treasurer and a number of committee members as decided by the general assembly – to be elected for four years.

5. Election of the new Executive Committee (EC) members

Jean-Claude Vuille (JCV) is leaving the EC and the function of treasurer (after 2 decades). The EC and the AGM thanked him warmly for his work. He proposed Paul Bouvier (PB) to succeed to him. Lubomir Kukla (Czech Repub.) and Alena Petrakova (Czech Repub.) were the Prague congress organisers and are now leaving the EC.

Bengt Lindström (Sweden) was in the EC for many years as the General Secretary. He had important contributions for ESSOP but due to his personal work load he could not attend the last two meetings of the Society. Therefore it was proposed that Bengt Lindström should not be in the EC for this term. Lennart Köhler (Sweden) was proposed to be the honorary president in recognition of his life-long commitment to ESSOP of which he was a founding member.

The following names were put forward and finally accepted by a majority for the EC.

- Aidan Macfarlane (UK) – *Society President*
- Gülbin Gökçay (Turkey) - *General Secretary*
- Paul Bouvier (Switzerland) - *Treasurer*
- Nick Spencer (UK) – *Congress President*
- Rudy Burgmeijer (Netherlands)
- Concha Colomer (Spain)
- Olivier Duperrex (Switzerland)
- Gilles Julien (Canada)
- Takis Panagiotopoulos (Greece)
- Ilona Szilagyi-Pagouska (Poland)
- Kadriye Yurdakok (Turkey)

3. Treasurer report

The main expenses during the past years were support to Israel for the Annual Congress of ESSOP and the purchase of a laptop computer for the Secretary General.

	SFr.
Balance on 01.05.1992	12'033.80
Incomes	+3202.95
Expenses	-10'244.70
Balance on 30.9.1999	4'992.05

JCV handed over the financial file to PB.

4. Journals

The EC proposed to take *Ambulatory Child Health* and *Child: Care, Health and Development* (owned by the same publisher) as official journals of ESSOP which will give substantially reduced subscription to ESSOP members and an access to publication space for publicising ESSOP activities. This was accepted by AGM.

5. Geographical representation in ESSOP

The EC asked members for contacts in countries not represented in ESSOP so that ESSOP could have representatives from most European countries. ESSOP could even become an umbrella for national groups. The suggestion was made to contact the national societies and to propose a reduced rate if a national group joins as a whole (see example of International Society for Tropical Paediatrics). Liaison with the national group should at least be proposed if joining is not possible/desired (Gilles Julien).

Co-ordination of contacts : a. Macfarlane

6. SmithKlein Beecham (SKB) project

SKB contacted ESSOP because it is looking for voluntary organisations working for children, to which it will give some money. They need an evaluation of these voluntary organisations and will pay for it. The EC proposed to put a proposal forward to assess (with a scientific input) the candidates, with the condition that it will not be used for advertising purposes. The AGM had no objection.

7. ESSOP Research Register

Concha Colomer (CC), who is the Research Officer in charge since 1992, will update the inventory of work done by the ESSOP members. She therefore asks the members to answer and send back the questionnaire she will prepare. The aim is to put the register on the ESSOP website so that it is available to everyone.

CC also informed the AGM that an offer has been made to ESSOP by the European Society for Paediatric Research to organise and co-ordinate a round table on 'Research in Social Paediatrics' at their annual meeting in 2000. Details can be obtained via CC.

8. Website

ESSOP website has proved difficult to find. It was prepared by one of Gülbin Gökçay's students and needs someone to maintain it. It is proposed to develop it into a useful communication tool for ESSOP. Olivier Duperrex will take responsibility for it.

28/10/1999 Olivier Duperrex/Gülbin Gökçay