



European Society of Contraception (ESC)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Prague, Czech Republic
2 May 2008

Present

Apter D. (Finland), Chair Internal Scientific Committee
Bartfai G. (Hungary), Secretary Assistant
Cibula D. (Czech Republic), President
Lazaris D. (Greece), Vice-President
Lech M. (Poland), Treasurer
Loeber O. (The Netherlands), Secretary General
Özalp S. (Turkey), Assistant Treasurer

Board members, ESC members

In attendance P. Erard, R. Maes, N. Habils (ESC Central Office)

AGENDA

Welcome address (D. Cibula)
Minutes of the last meeting (O. Loeber)
Report by the Secretary (O. Loeber)
Treasurer Report (M. Lech)
Science, education, and projects
Seminars (M. Lech)
Congress Report
ESC Publications and ESC promotion
Agenda requested by members
Board Elections (D. Cibula and O. Loeber)
Date of next meeting

Welcome address

The President welcomed all Members on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Board and thanked them all for their continuous support towards the European Society of Contraception.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last General Assembly (Istanbul, Turkey, 5 May 2006) were agreed and signed as an accurate account of the proceedings of the last GA.

Report by the Secretary General (O. Loeber)

Membership report

	2006	2007	2008 (30 April)
Members	1114	1214	929
Affiliated members	151	220	304
Total	1265	1434	1233
Paid-up	67,7%	64,2%	74,2%

Affiliated Societies 2008

- Spanish Society of Contraception (n = 134)
- Societa Italiana Della Contraccezione SIC (n = 93)
- Israeli Society of Contraception (n = 57)
- Russian Association of Family Planning (n = 20)

Societies who declared their interest for affiliation:

Family Planning and Sexual Health Association, Lithuania
Danish Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Slovenian Society of Reproductive Medicine
Greek Family Planning Association
Turkish Society

Committee meetings since GA Istanbul

Congress Scientific Com (19 Aug 2006, Brussels)
EG Sexual education (21 Oct 2006, Brussels)
Executive Com (2 Dec 2006, Brussels)
Executive Com (21 April 2007, Ankara)
EG Non hormonal C (15 April 2007, Prague)
Executive Com (23 June 2007, Brussels)
Executive Com & Board (Sept 2007, Bucharest)
Executive Com (19 Jan 2008, Brussels)
ESC Business meetings (Prague Congress 2008)

Information on changed/new rules and policies

The Secretary General informed the Members that art. 6 of the Rules of Procedure has been changed and that art. 19 and 20 were new. Changes and new rules were accepted by the Board.

a) Rule 6: Affiliation to other organisations

Adapted rule (changes in Italic):

"International or national organisations with similar or related aims may apply for affiliation to the ESC. Members of affiliated societies shall pay a 50 percent reduced yearly fee (suggested by the EC, approved by the Board). Those seeking affiliation must submit an application in writing to the Secretary General. The Board shall ratify the final affiliation. This decision shall be followed by a signed contract including rights and duties of members of affiliated societies. The Central Office of the ESC

shall receive a complete list of members including email and postal addresses from the affiliated Society. *Members of affiliated societies have the same rights as other ESC members including voting rights during the GA.*

Members of affiliated societies are entitled to:

- a) *receive a hard copy or an electronic form of the Journal of the ESC*
- b) receive an electronic form of the Newsletter
- c) receive information about seminars, congresses and other meetings organised or supported by the ESC
- d) free attendance at ESC seminars
- e) preferential registration rate at ESC congresses

Affiliated societies will:

- a) inform the Secretary of the Central Office of any change of address
- b) pay a yearly subscription”

b) New rule (nr 19): ESC sessions during other congresses:

“Besides regular seminar and congresses the ESC may support a speaker or organize a session during national or international congress of societies with similar aims as the ESC. Requests are collected by the Central Office. The Central Office is responsible for the negotiation about financial aspects of the participation. A maximum of 7 % of the income from the last Congress is dedicated each year to cover expenses of ESC speakers. The EC is responsible for the final selection of meetings which will be supported, according to the budget available. The ISC is responsible for the preparation of the scientific programme.”

c) New rule (nr 20): Committee of Past Presidents:

“The ESC Committee of Past Presidents consists of all past ESC presidents on a voluntary basis. The essential role of the Committee is to assist in ensuring continuity and stability in the life of the ESC. The activities of the Committee are limited to providing advice and proposals. The Committee will, when requested, be the „Ambassador“ of the ESC towards European or international institutions dealing with contraception or reproductive health. Special attention should be paid to establishing contacts and collaboration in European countries which are not yet represented in the ESC. The Committee could help or even negotiate in the case of serious problems with ESC representatives or within the Society. The Committee can send one member to participate in Board meetings but with no right to vote. The committee meets every other year during the ESC congress and produces a report to the Board. Members are invited by the ESC. Continuation of the Committee will be evaluated by the Board after the next two congresses ie 2012.”

d) Involvement of ESC officers in industry symposia

(policy, no new rule)

ESC Officers are not allowed during an ESC Congress or Seminar or other ESC sponsored event:

1. To chair sponsored sessions
2. To do presentations on product-oriented topics

3. To do a presentation in sponsored symposia which are in parallel to the major official programme

Change of the name of the Society

The President stated that, looking at our activities, projects and area's of interest, it is clear that our society is dealing and interested in much more than contraception only (abortion, sexuality, education, STI, ...).

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors therefore asked the ESC members to vote for changing the current name of the society 'European Society of Contraception' to 'European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health '. The abbreviation would remain 'ESC'.

The decision should be approved on a majority of two thirds.

The ESC Members were asked to raise their hands to indicate acceptance or rejection. The change of the name of the Society was accepted unanimously.

The Report of the Secretary General was accepted by the Members.

Report by the Treasurer (M. Lech)

Final accounts 2006 and 2007

	IN	OUT
2006	1.102.744,30	1.081.583,82
2007	263.100,54	344.546,69

ESC assets (reference point : 31 Dec)

2008* (1 April)	1.156.869
2007	555.110
2006*	779.553
2005	352.427
2004*	492.421
2003	108.961
2002*	350.732
2001	211.673
2000*	438.663
1999	351.792

* Congress year

Support of humanitarian activities

2006: ESC donated 5,000 euro in the year 2006 to the Bosnia and Herzegovina project of the 'Save the Children' organisation.

2007: ESC donated 5,000 euro in the year 2007 to the Serbian project of the 'Save the Children' organisation (keywords: children, roma community, education).

Review of ESC accounts

art X of the Statutes : “The written statement of accounts will be reviewed and countersigned as a true and fair view of accounts every two years by two members of the Society from separate countries who are not on the Board. The General Assembly will vote on these nominations by simple majority.”

Review of the financial report at the GA in Istanbul has been signed by two ESC members: I. Batar (Hungary) and R. van Lunsen (The Netherlands).

P. Krepelka (Czech Republic) and K. Bakalianou (Greece) volunteered to revise the GA Financial report 2008. The GA agreed unanimously on these nominations.

The Report of the Treasurer was accepted by the Members.

Science, education and other projects

1. Internal Scientific Committee - ISC (report by Dan Apter)

Mandates

- D. Apter (Chair of the ISC) stays in the ISC if re-elected for a second term as Board Member
- D. Lazaris and J. Bitzer, elected by the Board in Bucharest
- G. Bartfai and V. Unzeitig cannot be re-elected as they will no longer be Board members and need to be replaced in the ISC. Elections will be organized during the meeting of the new Board on Saturday 3 May 2008.

New applications for ESC support

a) Applicant: Society for Family Planning and Sex Education - Czech Family Planning Association

Project: Sex Education and Enlightenment for Mentally Disadvantaged People.
The aim of the initiative is to enable mentally disadvantaged people to exercise their human rights to sexual and reproductive health in the same manner as other population do and to have equal access to appropriate information and education about sexuality and sexual and reproductive health and services. To reach this aim it is necessary to educate and train the personnel who provide services to mentally disadvantaged clients.

Decision proposed by the ISC and approved by the Board: applicant must submit a pilot project including the required budget.

b) Applicants: Marta Szucs (Hungary), K. Sedlecky (Serbia), G. Bartfai (Hungary), I. Blidaru (Romania)

Project: Questionnaire - What do women think about menstruation? (Sample size: 400 students)

The application was accepted by the ISC and approved by the Board.

c) Applicant: Research and Prevention for Families Foundation (RPFF), Hungary

Project: Conference - 1st Central and Eastern European Summit on Preconception Health and Prevention of Birth Defects, Budapest, Hungary, August 27-30, 2008.

The ISC did not approve this bid due to the fact that the conference theme is beyond the scope of the ESC. The Board agreed and decided not to support the application.

2. Expert Groups

Structural

In principle, each group should have at least one seat for a Board member. Because of the changes in the Board since Istanbul, quite a lot of members of the Expert Groups are no longer Board member. Some of the groups are without Board member representation. This point has been discussed by the Board in Bucharest and it was agreed not to replace existing members. One good reason not to replace them is that all groups are in the process of working on different projects. However, it was agreed that each expert group should have at least one Board member represented. Elections will be organized during the meeting of the new Board on Saturday 3 May 2008. Each group has a coordinator who is the group leader.

Membership of the Expert groups

Expert Group on Sexual and reproductive health and education

O. Loeber (The Netherlands), coordinator
D. Apter (Finland) – Board member
B. Pinter (Slovenia)
S. van der Doef (The Netherlands)
G. Lazdane (WHO)
S. Reuter (UK)

Situation: No vacancies expected for this group.

Expert Group on STI

D. Rebelo (Portugal)
G. Creatsas (Greece)
J. Paavonen (Finland), coordinator
B. Stray – Pedersen (Norway)
C. Wilkinson (UK)

Situation: one vacancy (currently no Board members in this group)

Expert Group on Abortion

E. Aubeny (France)
A. Verougstraete (Belgium), coordinator
A. Pretnar Darovec (Slovenia)
C. Fiala (Austria)
C. Gemzell (Sweden)
K. Guthrie (UK)

Situation: one vacancy (currently no Board members in this group)

Expert Group on Hormonal Contraception

J.J. Amy (Belgium) – Board member
D. Cibula (Czech Rep) – Board member
D. Serfaty (France), Coordinator
S. Skouby (Denmark)
R. Sitruk – Ware (USA)

Situation: No vacancies for this group.

Expert Group on Non-hormonal methods of contraception

C. McNicholas (Ireland) Board member
R. Beerthuizen (The Netherlands)
I. Sivin (USA)
G. Freundl (Germany)
I. Batar (Hungary), coordinator Board member

Situation: No vacancies expected for this group.

3. Web library on sexual education

O. Loeber reported that the Web library was online since March 2007 and includes links, informative sites for clients and tools and downloads. She informed the GA that the EG on Sexual and reproductive health and education is working further on the promotion and development of the content of the web library.

4. Granted projects

M. Lech reported as follows:

Follow-up of a pending application
Initiator: Medical Media, The Netherlands
Project title: Contraception Education Animations
Current status: pending

Follow-up of an approved application
Initiator: D. Cibula
Project title: Population survey on quality and impact of sexual education
Current status: finalized

Follow-up of an approved application
Initiator: G. Bartfai
Project: Seminar in Visegrad (Hungary) as a joint meeting with the Hungarian Family Planning Society
Current status: finalized

5. Postgraduate Course on Contraception and Sexual Education

M. Lech informed the GA that the ESC is organizing a postgraduate course, specified as follows:

Theme: Modern contraception in the modern World
Place: Budapest, Hungary
Dates: February 2009

Aim: educational workshop for gynaecologists or experts working in the field of family planning, especially focussed on Eastern Europe, Balkan area, former Soviet Union.... and aiming to approve their skills

6. ESC Sessions at other congresses

Since Istanbul

EBCOG congress in Torino (5 to 8 April 2006, Torino)
ESHRE Congress (18 to 21 June 2006, Prague)
FIGO (5 to 10 November 2006, Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia)
5th Congress of the Francophone Society of Contraception (31 May to 2 June 2007, Fes, Morocco)

Future congresses

Clinical Conference 'Reproductive Health 2008' of the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (Washington, 17 to 20 September 2008)
FIAPAC Congress (Berlin, 24 - 25 Oct 2008)
FIGO 2009 Congress (Cape Town, South Africa, 4 to 9 October 2009)

Seminars

9th Seminar

21 to 23 September 2007
Bucharest, Romania

A full report has been published in a Supplement of the Newsletter, including the evaluations by participants.

10th ESC Seminar

Belgrade, Serbia
Date
Theme : Barriers to modern contraception use and possible solutions
Hosting organizer : K. Sedlecky

Congresses

Prague 2008 Congress

D. Cibula briefly reported on the following issues:

- Scientific programme
- Accreditation
- Abstracts: 361
- Awards

- Webcasting
- Participation: 2600; 90 countries represented

The Hague 2010 Congress

19 to 22 May 2010

Theme : Culture, Communication, Contraception

R. Beerthuizen and Rik van Lunsen, hosting organizers, briefly introduced the congress and invited the members to attend the next edition of the ESC Congress.

Bids to host the 2012 Congress

D. Cibula reported that bids have been received from:

- Denmark, Copenhagen (S. Skouby)
- Greece, Athens (D. Lazaris and N. Salakos)
- Italy, Milan (P. Crosignani)

After a short presentation of the three proposals, the bids were subject to voting by the General Assembly.

At the first count the results were:

Denmark - received 92 votes

Greece - received 86 votes

Italy - received 36 votes

Total: 214 votes

The President explained that the General Assembly takes its decisions by simple majority. He defined 'simple majority' as 50 percent + 1 vote not simply "the country with the most votes".

As there had not been clarity as to which type of voting was being undertaken, the GA was asked to vote on the 2 voting mechanisms:

A] the country with the most votes after round 1

B] 50 percent + 1 vote

If Option B was chosen, there would need to be a second round of voting as Denmark had not achieved 50% + 1 vote.

The President also advised that members could use their proxy votes.

The results were:

Option A] 'Stick to the first round decision' 114 votes

Option B 'Decide by means of a second round of voting' where only the 2 highest contenders are included: 120 votes

Total votes: 234

It would appear that some members did not use their proxy vote in the first round of voting

A second round of voting was held:

The results were:
Denmark – received 101 votes
Greece - received 120 votes
Total votes 221

It was therefore decided that Greece (Athens) will be the destination for the 2012 ESC Congress.

ESC Publications and promotion

1. European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care (report presented by J.J. Amy)

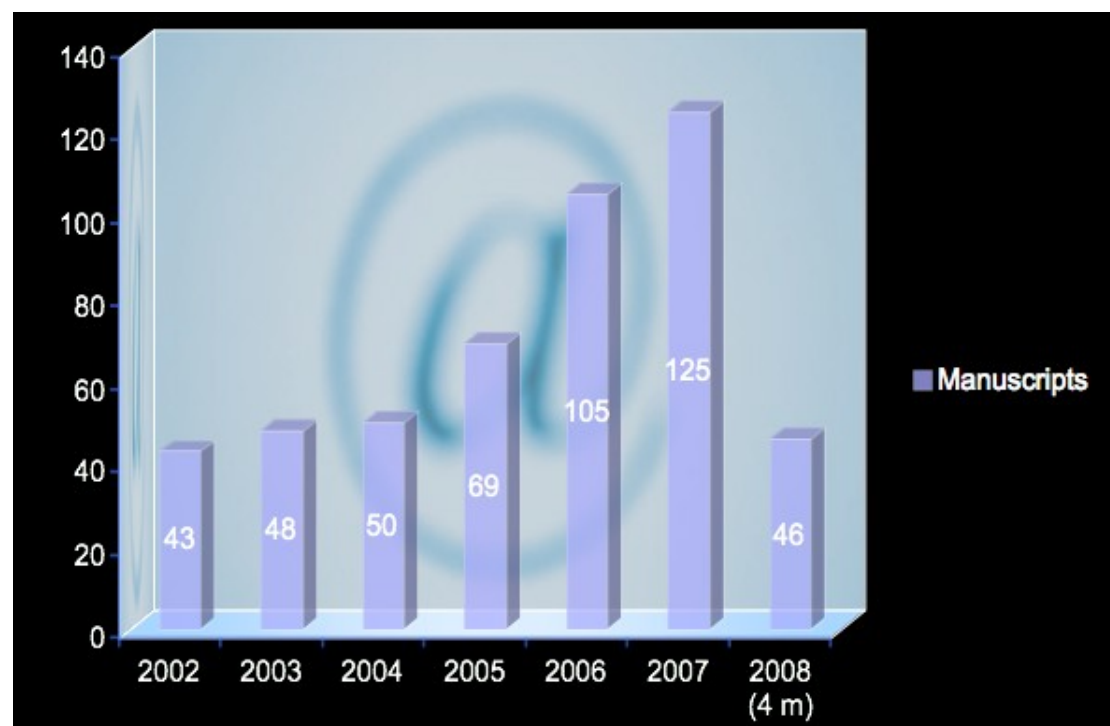
Reference period : Volume 11 Number 2 (June 2006)

Editor-in-Chief: J.J. Amy

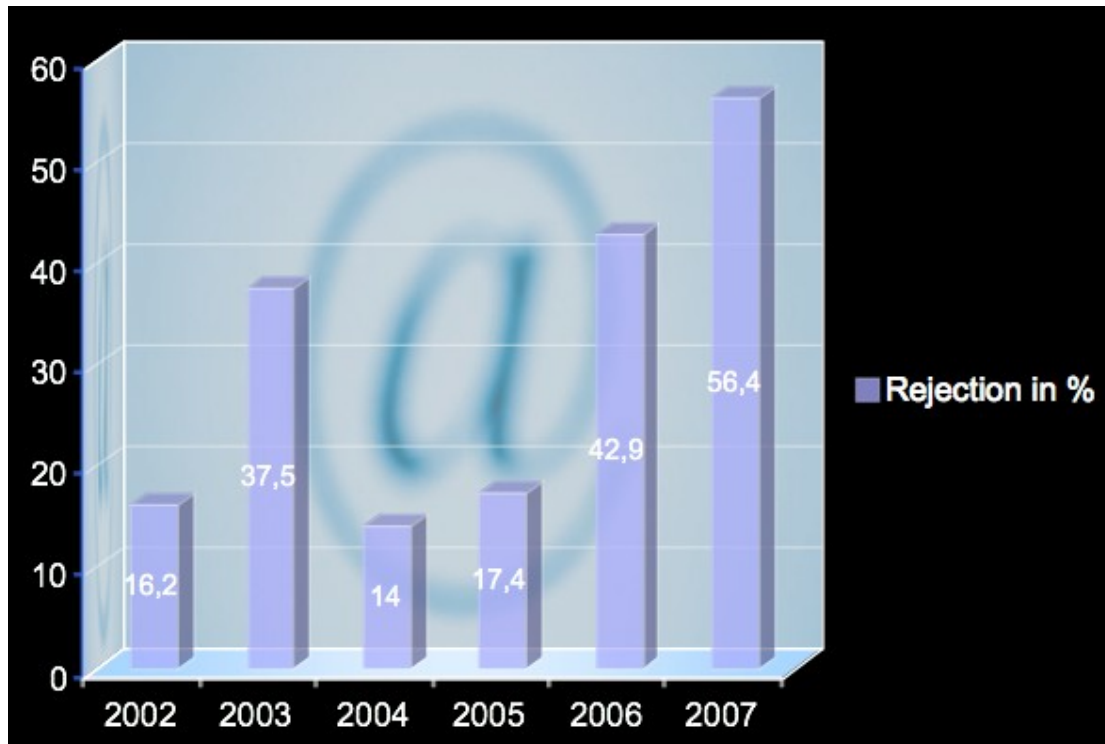
Editors: D. Apter, D. Lazaris and M. Lech

Honorary Editor-in-Chief: G. Creatsas

Submission rate



Rejection rate



Time intervals

Time from submission of the manuscript to completion of its peer review (first decision)

	2006	2007
MS n	79	76
Average time	90,9 days	74,5 days

Time from submission of the manuscript to final acceptance

	2006	2007
MS n	46	38
Average time	197,7 days	168,5 days

Impact Factor

2003 = 0.581
 2004 = 0.480
 2005 = 0.721
 2006 = 0.467 (57th out of 59 titles in OB/GYN)
 2007 = will be known in June 2008

Supplements

Finalised:

- Congress Book of Abstracts Prague
- Past and future of Implanon

Under consideration:

HPV vaccination (Guest Editor: J. Paavonen)

Type of papers (in 2007)

Research (45)

- New development
- Clinical study
- Epidemiological study

Historical and Sociodemographic aspect (0)

Review (3)

Short communication (0)

Case report (3)

Debate (0)

Editorial (4)

Letter to the Editor (2)

Online system

Since 1 December 2007, manuscripts have been submitted through the ManuscriptCentral system.

2. ESC Newsletter (reported by O. Loeber)

- Platform for Society related news & info
- Editor-in-chief: Olga Loeber
- Published quarterly (email, hard copy in Journal)
- Distributed to 6000 email addresses
- High interest

3. Website

A status report can be requested from the webmaster (R. Beerthuisen) on simple request.

4. ESC guide

All congress participants received the ESC guide in their personal envelope. The guide presents the ESC in a very brief and comprehensive way and is used to promote the ESC at all possible occasions.

5. ESC visibility

D. Cibula reported that continuous efforts have been done to strengthen the relation with relevant national and international societies and organizations:

Affiliated national societies

National societies interested in affiliation

FIGO

EBCOG

Association for Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP, USA)

European Society of Endocrinology

AsiaPacific Council on Contraception (APCOC)

COGI

Long list of (inter) national societies and organizations

Agenda items requested by members

No items were raised by members.

Board elections

Before starting the election process, the President acknowledged the Board Members leaving the Board and thanked them all for the work done during their mandate:

G. BARTFAI (Hungary)
A. BIGRIGG (United Kingdom)
O. LOEBER (The Netherlands)
M. ORLEANA (Latvia)
S. OZALP (Turkey)
B. PINTER (Slovenia)
V. PRILEPSKAYA (Russia)
V. UNZEITIG (Czech Republic)
A. YESHAYA (Israel)

The mandate period of the current Executive Committee Members will end as well during this General Assembly. The President thanked them for their support and hard work for the society :

G. BARTFAI (Hungary), Assistant Secretary
D. CIBULA (Czech Republic), President
D. LAZARIS (Greece), Vice President
M. LECH (Poland), Treasurer
O. LOEBER (The Netherlands), Secretary General
S. OZALP (Turkey), Assistant Treasurer

The principles

O. Loeber informed the GA on the principles of the Board election process:

10 to 49 members = 1 representative
50 or more members = 2 representatives

- When the membership numbers from a country drop below the set level, the representation on the Board will be adjusted.
- Closing date for membership was Friday 2 May 2008 at 12:00 noon
- Representation will be decided by all paid-up ESC members of a country, irrespective of whether they belong to an affiliated society or are full members.
- It is permissible for a non attending paid up ESC member to hand their proxy vote to an attending member. Each attending member can only cast one proxy vote.

Current situation per country

Country	Members	Representation	Current rep	To elect
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Armenia	10	1	-	1
Austria	2	0	NA	NA
Belgium	17	1	-	1
Bulgaria	12	1	B. Pehlivanov	-
Croatia	10	1	G. Crvenkovic	-
Cyprus	14	1	-	1
Czech Rep	62	2	D. Cibula	1
Denmark	13	1	-	1
Finland	13	1	-	1
France	63	2	H. Missey	1
Georgia	1	0	NA	NA
Germany	11	1	-	1
Greece	66	2	N. Salakos	1
Hungary	10	1	-	1
Iceland	1	0	NA	NA
Ireland	13	1	-	1
Israel	63	2	-	2
Italy	99	2	-	2
Latvia	10	1	-	1
Lithuania	10	1	-	1
Norway	2	0	NA	NA
Poland	10	1	M. Lech	-
Portugal	10	1	T. Bombas	-
Romania	21	1	I. Blidaru	-
Russia	55	2	-	2
Serbia	19	1	K. Sedlecki	-
Slovakia	18	1	V. Cupanik	-
Slovenia	15	1	-	1
Spain	134	2	Lete/Lopez	-
Sweden	10	1	-	1
Switzerland	69	2	J. Bitzer	1
The Netherlands	25	1	-	1
Turkey	50	1	-	2
Ukraine	1	0	NA	NA
UK	52	2	S. Randall	1
USA	13	1	-	1

The countries where elections were needed, proceeded with the voting.

Results of the elections

Armenia	G. Okoev	2008 - 2012
Belgium	J.J. Amy	2002 - 2008 - 2012
Bulgaria	B. Pehlivanov	2006 - 2010
Croatia	G. Crvenkovic	2006 - 2010
Cyprus	P. Patroclou	2008 - 2012
Czech R.	D. Cibula	2000 - 2006 - 2010
	P. Weiss	2008 - 2012
Denmark	K. Petersen	2002 - 2008 - 2012
Finland	D. Apter	2002 - 2008 - 2012
France	H. Missey-Kolb	2006 - 2010
	F. Mousteou	2008 - 2012
Germany	T. Rabe	2002 - 2008 - 2012

Greece	N. Salakos	2006 - 2010
	D. Lazaris	2002 - 2008 - 2012
Hungary	I. Batar	2002 - 2008 - 2012
Ireland	C. McNicholas	2002 - 2008 - 2012
Israel	D. Seidman	2008 - 2012
	A. Berr	2008 - 2012
Italy	P. Crosignani	2002 - 2008 - 2012
	A. Volpe	2008 - 2012
Latvia	D. Baumanne - Auza	2008 - 2012
Lithuania	V. Vanagiene	2008 - 2012
Poland	M. Lech	2000 - 2006 - 2010
Portugal	T. Bombas	2006 - 2010
Romania	I. Blidaru	2006 - 2010
Russia	M. Tarasova	2008 - 2012
	V. Yaglov	2008 - 2012
Serbia	K. Sedlecki	2006 - 2010
Slovakia	V. Cupanik	2006 - 2010
Slovenia	A. Stolfa Gruntar	2008 - 2012
Spain	I. Lete	2006 - 2010
	E. Lopez Arregui	2006 - 2010
Sweden	K. Gemzell Danielsson	2008 - 2012
Switzerland	J. Bitzer	2006 - 2010
	B. Frey Tirri	2008 - 2012
The Netherlands	R. Beerthuisen	2008 - 2012
Turkey	Haldun Guner	2008 - 2012
	H. Satiroglu	2002 - 2008 - 2012
United Kingdom	S. Randall	2006 - 2010
	M. Kishen	2002 - 2008 - 2012
USA	I. Sivin	2008 - 2012

Date of next meeting

The Hague, The Netherlands
21 May 2010