



European Society of Contraception (ESC)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Istanbul, Turkey
5 May 2006

Present

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
Minutes of the last meeting
Report by the Secretary
Treasurer Report
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Seminars
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Agenda items requested by members
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Any Other Business
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. He also expressed his sincere appreciation for the work done by the Organising and Scientific Committee of the 9th ESC Congress.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last General Assembly (Edinburgh, UK, 25 June 2004) were agreed upon and signed as an accurate account of the proceedings of the last G.A.

Report by the Secretary General (O. Loeber)

1. Membership Report

2006 interim report (dated 05 May 2006)

868 ordinary members, including 292 new members
151 affiliated members
In total: 1.019 members

Payment status : ordinary and affiliated members : 82%

2. Information on the Rules of Procedure

The Secretary General informed the Members that art. 7 of the Rules of Procedure has been changed and that art. 15, 16, 17 and 18 were new. Changes and new rules were accepted by the Board.

art. 7 Publications (change)

« The ESC may have publications such as a Newsletter and a scientific Journal, proposed by the EC and approved by the Board of Directors

7.1. The ESC Newsletter

The content of the ESC Newsletter will consist of a forum for members as well as Society related and other relevant information.
Either the General Secretary or the Assistant Secretary of the EC will be the Newsletter Editor and will be appointed by the EC.

7.2. The Journal

(a) The Journal will be managed by an *Editor-in-Chief* (EiC) and three *Editors*. The four of them will work in very close collaboration. Non scientific secretarial management of the journal will be the responsibility of the *Editorial Office*, particularly collecting manuscripts and managing the review procedures. The tasks and duties of the EiC, the Editors and the Editorial Office will be described in a written protocol.

(b) The EiC and the Editors are proposed by the EC to the Board and must be members of the Society. Nominations for Editor should be sent to the Central Office at least one month prior to the Board meeting where the decision is to be made.

(c) The EiC and the Editors (one of whom will be delegated to act as deputy when the EiC is unavailable) are elected by the Board by a simple majority for a period of four years. Each of them can be re-elected. To ensure continuity, the past EiC can be

nominated as Honorary Editor. The General Assembly must be informed of each change of mandate.

(d) The EiC will be invited to the EC meetings, when necessary but will have no voting rights. If the EiC is not able to participate in the meeting, the deputy EiC will attend.

(e) An *Editorial Board* might be formed by the Editor-in-Chief and Editors from experts in different fields in order to facilitate the peer-review process. Their tasks and remit will be described in the protocol as mentioned in 7.2.a. If any member of the Editorial Board is unable to complete their remit, the Editor-in-Chief will appoint a replacement.

(f) A *Journal Management Committee* (JMC) will, in collaboration with the Editorial Office, deal with the non scientific related matters of the Journal, particularly financial aspects, contracts, marketing and contacts with the publisher. The JMC will consist of the EiC, the deputy EiC, the EC Treasurer and one Board Member. The Board will choose their representative on the JMC by voting. Both the Editor-in-Chief and the Journal Management Committee will report to the EC when requested and during each Board meeting.

art. 15 ESC award (new)

« An ESC Medal and an ESC Diploma are established to honour outstanding scientific work and/or organizing activity performed in accordance with the aims of the Society.

The Medal might be conferred to a maximum of two members of the ESC every even year at the time of the ESC biannual congress and the Diploma to a maximum of two members of the ESC every odd year at the time of the ESC Seminar. The Medal award is decided during the seminar Board meeting and the Diploma award during the Congress Board meeting.

Nominations for such honours are put forward by the members of the Board of Directors. A written proposal on a nomination form should be signed by at least 3 Board members and the CV of the nominee must be attached. Nomination forms are available at the ESC central office. Proposals should be sent to the ESC CO not later than 3 months prior to the Board meeting.

All proposals will be initially scrutinized by the Internal Scientific Committee (ISC) and will then be presented to the Board. Conferral of the Medal or Diploma are carried out by the President of the ESC. The awarded person may be asked to present a lecture if its bestowal was based on scientific activities, and the award lecture should be published in the ESC Journal. «

art. 16 Internal Scientific Committee (new)

« The Internal Scientific Committee is made up of 5 Board members who are elected during the Board meeting in the year of each congress. Members are elected for the period of 4 years (2 members from the first group are elected for 2 years only) for a maximum of two terms. If one is a Board member and not reelected as Board member but in the ISC, one has to be replaced.

Members of the ISC elect a chairperson.

Main current responsibilities are: identify candidates for the ESC award, select candidates for supported projects, and follow-up of granted projects. Additional responsibilities are identified by the Executive Committee and agreed by the Board. The

detailed report is presented at each Board meeting and, on request, at the Executive Committee meeting.»

art. 17 Expert Groups (new)

« Expert groups are groups of internationally recognized experts in different fields of contraception and reproductive health. Each group consists of 5 to 7 members from different countries, including a maximum of three Board members. Nominations from the Board are delivered to the CO at least 3 months before the congress. Proposals for new experts from outside the Board are prepared by the Internal Scientific Committee. Composition of each group is reconsidered every two years by the Board.

Each group is responsible for preparing a report of progress in their area annually, which will be published in our journal or on the website. All members will be invited to the congress (travel expenses and accommodation supported; registration fee waived) where one session should be organized by each group if requested by the Scientific Committee of the Congress.

Each group should also prepare their statement either spontaneously or at the request of the Board, when any new significant development occurs. »

art. 18 Support towards local initiatives (new)

« In accordance with aims of the Society, an ESC member or national (local) society working in family planning may apply for financial support for a meeting or seminar. This must not be one of the regular meetings. The following items are needed for application: 1) the scientific programme; 2) a description of how the granted budget will be used.

The application must be sent to the Central Office, which distributes it to members of the Internal Scientific Committee. This Committee is responsible for preparing a short presentation of all proposals and selection of the best candidates.

The final decision is made by the Board. Each year a maximum of two meetings can be supported to a maximum of 10.000 euro each. Organizers are responsible for using the budget in accordance with the proposal, writing a report which will be presented during the Board meeting and published in the Journal or posted on the ESC website. One representative from the Board will participate in the preparation of the scientific programme. The ESC must be stated, officially, as co-organizer. At least one speaker must be a member of the Board, with their expenses paid out of the grant. »

3. Close down German Society

The Secretary General reported that the German Society was now closed down officially. A General Assembly meeting with the 8 founders/members was held in Frankfurt on 4 February 2006. They agreed to close down the German Society and appointed D. Serfaty as liquidator. A letter was signed for the Register of Commerce and for the Tax Services.

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

Treasurer Report (M. Lech)

1. Final report 2004

Chapter	IN	OUT
Committee costs	0,00	8831,40
Bank	98,86	275,2
Membership	26314,80	90,00
Working costs ESC Officials	1019,18	11983,20
Secretariat working costs	1790,03	50118,32
ESC Publications	15676,19	24075,17
Web site	0,00	1714,20
Accountancy and legal advise	0,00	22292,11
Unknown	125,37	0,00
7th Seminar Budapest	201,81	25353,08
Internal transaction	220000,00	500000,00
9th Congress Istanbul	0,00	8630,28
8th Congress Edinburgh	1038215,59	608259,66
VAT	43621,42	0,00
Granted projects	17500,00	713,90
Totals	1364563,25	1262336,52

2. Final report 2005

	IN	OUT
Committee costs	5063,32	18795,91
Bank	194,93	414,02
Membership	29950,53	198,16
Working costs ESC Officials	0,00	22126,58
Secretariat working costs	0,00	68665,07
ESC Publications	0,00	11495,00
Web site	0,00	4372,52
Accountancy and legal advise	0,00	22442,76
Internal transaction	105336,94	35336,94
9th Congress Istanbul	59103,01	57409,60
8th Congress Edinburgh	16950,79	15211,87
VAT	11214,59	12629,68
8th Seminar Warsaw	29411,38	61608,99
Totals	257225,49	330707,10

3. Report on the Seminars

	Warsaw 2005	Budapest 2003	Coimbra 2001
Total out in euro	63317,43	68680,42	66418,77
Sponsoring	29715,88		
Loss	33601,55	68680,42	66418,77

4. Review of the accounts by auditors

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. In the first instance the Executive Committee will appoint the two signatories, but in the future the General Assembly will vote on these nominations by simple majority. At least four nominations will be proposed by the Board members for each ordinary General Assembly.»

Review of the financial report at the GA Edinburgh has been signed by two ESC members according to the Statutes: J. Newton (UK) and B. van Herk (The Netherlands).

I. Batar (Hungary) and R. Van Lunsen (The Netherlands) volunteered to revise the GA Financial report 2006.

The Report of the Treasurer was accepted by the Members.

Scientific and education

1. Internal Scientific Committee

The President reported that an Internal Scientific Committee (ISC) was established. The ISC serves as a body responsible for all scientific activities of the Society.

The main responsibilities of the ISC are to identify candidates for the ESC award, to select candidates for supported projects and follow-up of granted projects, to advise on scientific programmes and projects, and recommend new members for expert groups.

Members :

- * D. Apter (Finland), Chair
- * G. Bartfai (Hungary)
- * R. Beerthuisen (The Netherlands)
- * A. Pretnar Darovec (Slovenia)
- * V. Unzeitig (Czech Rep)

2. Expert Groups

Expert groups were established to search for new developments in certain areas. They are responsible for preparing a progress report in their field annually, which is published in our journal or on the website.

Currently established groups:

Expert Group on Sexual and reproductive health and education

Members from the Board

- O. Loeber (The Netherlands)
- D. Apter (Finland)

B. Pinter (Slovenia)

Members outside the Board

S. van der Doef (The Netherlands)

G. Lazdane (WHO)

S. Reuter (UK)

Expert Group on STI

Members from the Board

D. Rebelo (Portugal)

G. Creatsas (Greece)

Members outside the Board

J. Paavonen (Finland)

B. Stray – Pedersen (Norway)

C. Wilkinson (UK)

Expert Group on Abortion

Members from the Board

E. Aubeny (France)

A. Verougstraete (Belgium)

A. Pretnar Darovec (Slovenia)

Members outside the Board

C. Fiala (Austria)

C. Gemzell (Sweden)

K. Guthrie (UK)

Expert Group on Hormonal contraception

Members from the Board

J.J. Amy (Belgium)

D. Cibula (Czech Rep)

D. Serfaty (France)

Members outside the Board

S. Skouby (Denmark)

R. Sitruk – Ware (USA)

Expert Group on Non-hormonal methods of contraception

Members from the Board

C. McNicholas (Ireland)

I. Batar (Hungary)

R. Beerthuis (The Netherlands)

Members outside the Board

J. Guillebaud (UK)

Irving Sivin (USA)

Freundl (Germany)

3. EBCOG logbook

The President explained that the ESC received a request from EBCOG to revise the existing logbook for basic training in O/G and to make amendments and improvements related to family planning and sexual education.

4. Promotion of the ESC

Aiming to increase the visibility and the networking opportunities, the ESC presented itself to other societies and organizations:

- Database of 175 relevant European and international societies
- Info file containing complete information on the ESC
- Accompanying letter, offering information, communication and collaboration

5. Grants and support

The President encouraged the Members to apply for grants or support by means of art 14 and 18 of the Rules of Procedure:

art 14. ESC granted projects

Individuals or organisations may apply for financial support from the ESC for activities that are in accordance with the aims of the Society as described in the Statutes. Up to a maximum of 5% of the balance in the ESC accounts can be awarded in any one financial year.

art 18. Support towards local initiatives

In accordance with aims of the Society, an ESC member or national (local) society working in family planning may apply for financial support for a meeting or seminar. This must not be one of the regular meetings. The following items are needed for application: 1) the scientific programme; 2) a description of how the granted budget will be used. Each year a maximum of two meetings can be supported to a maximum of 10.000 euro each.

Seminar reports

1. Seminar 2005

8th ESC Seminar, Warsaw, Poland

"Sexual Education: The Key Issue of Reproductive Health"

23-24 September 2005

Some data

- 36 abstracts have been submitted
- financials: see presented budget

- 360 registrations

2. Seminar 2007

- Local organiser : Iolanda Blidaru
- Site : Bucharest (Best Western Hotel), Romania
- Dates : 21 and 22 Sept 2007 (from Friday early morning till Saturday late evening)
- Theme: from abortion to contraception
- Seminar Committee: M. Lech, D. Lazaris
- Scientific programme should be ready by the end of the year

Congress reports

1. 9th Congress, Istanbul/Turkey, 2006

S. Özalp reported briefly on the following items :

- final programme (306 abstracts)
- sponsors and exhibit
- congress venue
- social programme
- registrations : 1750 p.
- evaluations
- CME in Turkey and Europe
- translation (Turkish and Russian)

2. 10th ESC Congress, Prague/Czech Rep., 2008

Prague, 30 April to 3 May 2008

Non-contraceptive impact of contraception and family planning
Prague Congress Centre

3. 11th ESC Congress, 2010

Only one bid to host the 2010 congress was received from The Netherlands, The Hague, and submitted by R. Beerthuizen en R. van Lunsen.

R. Beerthuizen presented the bid to the GA.

The Assembly decided that The Hague will be the destination for the 11th ESC Congress.

4. ESC Sessions at other congresses

EBCOG congress in Torino (April 5 – 8, 2006)

ESC session (Friday 7 April, 12:00 – 13:30)

ESHRE Congress (18 to 21 June 2006, Prague)

ESC session on Wednesday 21 June, 08:30 – 09:30

FIGO, Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia (5 to 10 November 2006)

ESC session date : not confirmed yet

ESC Publications

1. Journal

1.1. Report from the Editor-in-Chief G. Creatsas

Editor-in-Chief: G. Creatsas

Editors: J.-J. Amy, C. Coll and M. Lech

Manuscripts

	2002	2003	2004	2005	(2006)
Submitted	43	48	50	69	34
Published	36	30	30	32	9
Rejected					
n	7	18	7	12	3
%	16,2%	37,5%	14%	17,4%	

Origin of authors (2004 - 2005 - 2006)

Africa	3,9%
Asia	9,7%
USA	3,9%
South America	1,3%
Europe	81,2%
(Turkey 29,6 % from all manuscripts)	

Impact factor

2005 = not published yet (will be released in June/July of this year*)

2004 = 0.480 (or 51st out of 55 titles in OB/GYN)

2003 = 0.581

The Impact Factor is calculated by taking the number of articles published in a two year period (in this case 2002 and 2003) and identifying how many times these have been cited in the Impact Factor year (in this case 2004). This is only released after the necessary analysis has been completed after that year, so in this case if they analyzed all of the citations in 2004 in early 2005 before releasing the data in June/July of that year.

Concept of Review Articles: these articles generally attract three times the number of citations and we anticipate that over the longer term this will benefit the journal's Impact Factor.

1.2. Report from the Journal Management Committee

First meeting of the JMC in Athens on 5 November 2005, resulting in the following action plan :

- intensification of the contacts with reviewers and revision of the list
- replacement of the former Journal Com by the current JMC
- revision of the instructions for authors
- revision of the referee form
- follow up of the impact factor
- editorial to be written by the EiC and the editors in rotation
- extension and revision of the Editorial Board
- evaluation of the current publisher (Taylor and Francis) and consideration to change
- sponsorship

Extension and revision of the Editorial Board

Following names were approved by the JMC :

Daniel R. MISHELL, Editor-in-Chief, Contraception
Alan DeCHERNEY, Editor-in-Chief, Fertil Steril
PFA van LOOK, WHO
Dimitrios LAZARIS
Sven SKOUBY
Mary SHORT

1.3. Editorial Office Report

Shift from Athens to Central Office in summer 2004.
Set up of new data base and administrative procedure.
No hard copy correspondence (email only).

1.4. New editorial team

The President informed the Members that a new editorial team was elected by the Board (according to art 7 of the Rules of Procedure). He thanked the former Editor-in-Chief (G. Creatsas) and Editors (J.J. Amy, C. Coll and M. Lech) extensively for their work and efforts and then presented the new team:

- Editor-in-Chief: J.J. Amy
- Editors: D. Apter, D. Lazaris, M. Lech
- Honorary Editor-in-Chief: G. Creatsas

2. Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief: Olga Loeber - Published quarterly - Distributed to 3000 email addresses (members, non members, organizations, press etc) - Increasing interest

3. Website

D. Cibula reported briefly on the website and on the activities of the webmaster, Rob Beerthuisen..

A detailed report is available at the Central Office on simple request.

Agenda items requested by members

No items were raised.

Any other business

M. Short disagreed with the methodology used to accept minutes and reports presented during the GA. In her opinion, once the call for acceptance of the previous meeting minutes has been issued, it should be seconded, and accepted by voting.

O. Loeber, Secretary General, repeated the call for acceptance of the minutes of the 2002 GA and the reports mentioned elsewhere in this document 2006. Mary Short seconded and the members accepted the minutes and the reports unanimously.

Rik van Lunsen had a problem with the possible influence of the industry. He said that the meet the expert sessions got minor attention because of the parallel sponsored symposia. Furthermore, he objected to the idea that ESC officials were involved in the programme of sponsored symposia. He stated that this concept was against the ESC Rules.

D. Cibula took note of this remark but replied that there is no such article in neither the Rules of Procedure nor in the Statues. He added that he received a lot of positive echoes on the expert sessions as well as on the symposia and that there was an increasing demand for educational activities. He confirmed that this issue was discussed twice in the EC and concluded that the ESC officers are allowed to participate actively in sponsored symposia. However this issue will be discussed by next EC and the Board.

B. Gbolade said there is a need for a comprehensive way of information. He was not aware of the new Rules and thought that the Newsletter might be an excellent vehicle to inform the members. D. Cibula replied that the rules were published both in the Newsletter and on the website since long.

One of the Members wondered if congress abstracts can be published as full presentation on the website? The President said that a CDr indeed might be considered, but that authors must be asked for agreement first – and all abstracts and available lectures will be published on our web site.

One of the Members suggested to introduce a young investigator session during the congress.

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:

A. Verougstraete (Belgium)
S. Skouby (Denmark)
E. Aubény (France)
D. Serfaty (France)
M. van Santen (Germany)
G. Creatsas (Greece)
V. Bruni (Italy)
D. Rebelo (Portugal)
M. Sousa Fernandez, (Portugal) - resigned
C. Coll (Spain)
A. Webb (UK)

1. Practicalities related to the Board election

Principle is simple:

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

Mandates are of 4 years duration.

2. Scenarios

Countries with > 50 members, one board member till 2008 + one board member who may stand for re-election = elections needed

Countries dropping to <50 but >10 members and with currently one board member till 2008 + one board member who may stand for re-election = elections not needed

Countries dropping to <50 but >10 members and with currently two board member till 2008 = members of the country will need to vote for one of them

Countries dropping to <10 with currently one or two board members till 2008 = can not be represented in the Board

3. Practicalities

Elections by members of the countries who need to vote will be guided by a hostess.

Elections for all countries will take place at the same time

Procedure when gathered around the hostess:

- Step 1: call for candidates
 Step 2: written voting ballot
 Step 3: hostess counts and reports the result

4. Situation per country

	Member Status	Mandates in the Board	Elections Needed ?
Austria	5	0	No
Belgium	17	1	No
Bulgaria	10	1	Yes
Croatia	13	1	Yes
Cyprus	12	1	No
Czech Republic	80	2	Yes
Denmark	10	1	No
Estonia	1	0	No
Finland	11	1	No
France	10	1	Yes
Georgia	0	0	No
Germany	14	1	No
Greece	53	2	Yes
Hungary	61	2	No
Ireland (Rep. of)	17	1	No
Israel	16	1	No
Italy	5 ord + 23 aff	1	No
Latvia	12	1	No
Lithuania	20	1	No
FYROMacedonia	0	0	No
Norway	0	0	No
Poland	16	1	Yes
Portugal	11	1	Yes
Romania	14	1	Yes
Russia	53	2	No
Serbia and Montenegro	16	1	Yes
Slovakia	10	1	Yes
Slovenia	10	1	No
Spain	4 ord + 128 aff	2	Yes
Sweden	8	0	No
Switzerland	10	1	Yes
The Netherlands	28	1	No
Turkey	60	2	No
Ukraine	1	0	No
United Kingdom	61	2	Yes

5. Results of the elections

Belgium	J.-J. Amy
Bulgaria	B. Pehlivanov

Croatia	G. Crvenkovic	
Cyprus	C. Riris	
Czech Republic	V. Unzeitig	D. Cibula
Denmark	K. Petersen	
Finland	D. Apter	
France	H. Missey - Kolb	
Germany	T. Rabe	
Greece	D. Lazaris	N. Salakos
Hungary	I. Batar	G. Bartfai
Ireland (Rep. of)	C. McNicholas	
Israel	A. Yeshaya	
Italy	P. Crosignani	
Latvia	M. Orlean	
Lithuania	V. Sadauskas	
Poland	M. Lech	
Portugal	T. Bombas	
Romania	I. Blidaru	
Russia	V. Prilepskaya	I. Savilieva
Serbia and Montenegro	K. Sedlecki	
Slovakia	V. Cupanik	
Slovenia	B. Pinter	
Spain	I. Lete	unknown
Switzerland	J. Bitzer	
The Netherlands	O. Loeber	
Turkey	H. Satiroglu	S. Ozalp
United Kingdom	A. Bigrigg	S. Randall

Date of next meeting

Prague, Czech Republic, between 30 April to 3 May 2008 (exact date to be confirmed later).