

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING OF THE ESC  
Coimbra, Portugal, 7 October 2001**

Present: S.O. Skouby (President)  
E. Aubeny (Vice-President)  
M. Short (Secretary General)  
B. Pinter (Assistant Secretary)  
D. Cibula (Treasurer)  
A. Verougstraete (Assistant Treasurer)

G. Creatsas (Greece)  
G. Bartfai (Hungary)  
R. Beerthuizen (The Netherlands)  
V.B. Bruni (Italy)  
C. Coll Capdevila (Spain)  
S. Jones (Ireland)  
M. Lech (Poland)  
O.E. Loeber (The Netherlands)  
M. Orlean (Latvia)  
S. Özalp (Turkey)  
A. Pretnar-Darovec (Slovenia)  
V.N. Prilevskaia (Russia)  
D.M. Rebelo (Portugal)  
D. Serfaty (France)  
A. Yeshaya (Israel)

Apologies: A. Bigrigg (United Kingdom)  
P. Martinez (Spain)  
V. Unzeitig (Czech Republic)  
M. van Santen (Germany)  
A. Webb (United Kingdom)

In attendance: P. Erard (Secretariat)

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

The meeting was opened by Prof. Skouby who thanked the Board Members for their presence and efforts to prepare this meeting. He acknowledged and underlined the work which has been done by D. Rebelo and his local Organising Committee leading to the success of the 6<sup>th</sup> Seminar.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Paris, March 31 - April 1, 2001  
Minutes were accepted without amendments.

### **3. Matters arising**

O. Loeber wondered if there would be any special arrangement to support H. Doppenberg to attend the 7th Congress. The President answered that this arrangement was documented in the minutes of one of the previous meetings. A fee waiver would be offered and if H. Doppenberg would apply for travel and lodging support, the ESC would be glad to consider this.

No further matters arised.

#### **4. Correspondence**

The incoming and outgoing correspondence will be reported in the next subchapters of these minutes.

#### **5. Membership report**

The Secretary reported as follows (situation October 1, 2001):

- 687 membership records in the database
- 204/687 'affiliated' and 483/687 'normal' members
- 487/687 (70,9%) paid membership 2001
- affiliated societies pay with delay of one year (normal)

The administrative procedure was processed as follows:

- Renewal form
- Reminder 1 (July 6)
- Reminder 2 (August 31)
- Final reminder (October 15)

Top 10 (excl. affiliated members):

- United Kingdom (70)
- France (44)
- The Netherlands (42)
- Czech Republic (35)
- Portugal (26)
- Russia (25)
- Greece (22)
- Hungary (22)
- Belgium (19)
- Germany (18)

It was said that, after final processing of the Seminar registrations, Portugal will probably move to place 2.

Membership fee:

- 50 euro - Inside Europe
- 35 euro - Outside Europe
- 25 euro - Affiliated members

The Secretary reported that the Turkish members did estimate themselves as 'outside Europe' members and applied for the lower membership fee.

#### Cancellations:

- 60 members were not longer estimated as member on 1 January 2001 (1999 and 2000, no payment received)
- 15 members stopped their membership spontaneously
- 8 postal returns (new address unknown)

New members in 2001: 37

#### Affiliations:

Irish Association of FP centres (+17 members)  
Spanish Contraception Society (+187 members)  
Interest from Portuguese and Turkish Society to affiliate.

The Secretary raised the key-question if the Society needed to extend the number of affiliated Societies in an active way or not. If yes, a promotion campaign towards the national Societies was recommended. However, the consequences on financial level and in relation with the Journal should be considered and estimated.

#### Discussion:

S. Skouby said that the Executive Committee planned to change the wording and not to keep the terms 'inside' or 'outside' Europe. Only the difference between members and affiliated members would be kept. It was proposed to charge 50 euro for normal and 30 euro for affiliated members.

Considering the above mentioned key-question from the Secretary, S. Skouby estimated that doing so, it would be beneficial for the impact of the society. He stated that a possible first disadvantage might be that one country might dominate the outcome of a vote during the General Assembly. A second negative point might be the financial consequences related to the Journal. A possible solution might be to have the Journal accessible in electronic form for affiliated members.

C. Coll said that this was an old discussion. She stated that the more national societies would be included, the stronger the society would be. She agreed on the financial implications, but the healthy financial balance was not found to be a very important argument not to proceed with the idea of affiliation. She continued that the number of members via affiliation will always be higher than individual memberships and thus the difference in membership fee would be compensated in this way. C. Coll rejected the idea of having two kind of members.

A. Yeshaya was in favour to attract national societies to affiliate.

G. Bartfai proposed to create an ad hoc Board on this matter.

G. Creatsas stated that one should consider the technicalities of electronic access of the articles.

D. Serfaty described the problem rather as the impact of the national societies during the General Assembly. The more societies affiliated, the higher the risk will be.

E. Aubeny agreed with C. Coll that we need to escape from the differentiation between normal and affiliated members.

C. Coll thought that the fear of having monopolies during a GA is rather a sign of weakness.

M. Short stated that it would be better to have structures in place for any eventuality.

S. Skouby concluded the discussion by saying that the Executive Committee will look at this matter in depth and will prepare the file for further discussion and conclusions during the General Assembly.

## **6. Report from the Treasurer**

D. Cibula reported on the different financial related topics as follows:

a) Due to non-professionalism, the relation with Fortis-bank was questioned and the ABN AMRO bank was contacted as alternative. However, this bank does not accept ESC as a client, since there is a minimal financial resource needed of 25 mil. Euro.

b) ECOG (EAGO/EBCOG) Prague 2002  
This organisation has a new structure and it was asked if there might be a kind of co-operation with the ESC, for instance by means of exchanging promotional materials during congresses.

The 5% reimbursement to the Prague and Ljubljana Congress organisers, is now a fact.

c) Research projects, follow-up:

- Project 1 (S. Carr, A. Bigrigg) - project is making good progress, results are analyzed, paper will be submitted

- Project 2 (R. Beerthuisen) - project rewritten, new title, waiting for approval of the Dutch Foundation for Contraception, estimated finalization December 2002

- Project 3 (J. Rademakers) - finished in the beginning of 2001, article has been submitted

d) Allowance for Executive Committee members

The amount of 1.875 EUR was allocated to the former Executive Committee.

The actual Executive Committee received 1.000 EUR for this year.

No final recommendation (at the level of technical acceptability) was received from Deloitte and Touche in this matter.

e) Deloitte and Touche

The ESC file has been submitted to Belgian VAT authorities: Society will soon have a VAT number.

Request on VAT exemption has been submitted to the Italian authorities. No answer yet.

Deloitte and Touche is taking care of the close down of the German Society.

The Treasurer expressed his concern related to the slow progress of the above.

f) Analytical report period 1 Jan - 31 Aug, 2001

<i>Expenditures (in euro)</i>	<i>164.059,40</i>
Committee costs	52.164,86
Bank	90,14
Memberships (bank costs)	368,32
Working costs ESC officials	12.199,34
Secretary costs central off.	14.762,75
Publications	6.892,88
Accountancy and advise	4.002,96
Website	147,38
Research programme	17.017,00
6th Seminar (Coimbra)	10.381,68
7th Congress (Genova)	20.976,67
6th Congress (Ljubljana)	10.417,99
5th Congress (Prague)	14.637,43
 <i>Income</i>	 <i>9.797,35</i>
Memberships	10.070,24
Interests & other	527,11
Subscription congresses (late reimbursement)	- 800,00
 Result	
Expenditures	- 164.059,40
Income	+ 9.797,35
<i>Balance</i>	<i>- 154.262,05</i>

g) Overview of the balances over the last three years

<i>On working account</i>
21.503,51 euro (25 Sept 2001)
278.877,62 euro (26 Sept 2000)
100.801,88 euro (27 Sept 1999)
<i>On saving account</i>
241.804,59 euro (27 Sept 2001)
231.717,46 euro (27 Sept 2000)
225.000 euro (27 Sept 1999)
<i>On USD account</i>
7.106,26 USD (31 Aug 2001)
47.749,25 USD (23 Aug 2000)
46.491,81 USD (15 Dec 1999)

h) Seminars Amsterdam versus Coimbra

	Amsterdam	Coimbra
<b>sponsors/exhibitors</b>	<b>8.388</b>	<b>15.000</b>
<b>outgoings</b>	<b>40.603</b>	<b>69.981</b>

<b>balance</b>	<b>- 30.400</b>	<b>- 54.981</b>
venue	5.502	5.270
printing/promotion	9.363	9.315
organization costs	12.347	13.159
mailing	5.444	1.700
secretariat costs		1.500
local organ. Com.	1.336	420
unforseen	1.435	4610
<b>VIP</b>	<b>4.314</b>	<b>24.248</b>
		<i>(adol. forum, Board mm., dinner on Sunday)</i>
	4 VIP – non Board mm., non local	7 VIP – non Board mm., non local

i) Congresses Prague versus Ljubljana

	Prague	Ljubljana
No of participants	1.193	890
sponsors/ exhibitors	475.457	331.363
registration fees	336.492	292.633
total income	811.949	624.030
outgoings	439.613	441.167
balance	341.888	182.863
venue,catering, social programme	214.943	239.944
VIP	105.105	66.893
printing costs	45.405	38.665
organisation costs	60.024	63.039
transport, secretariat costs, distribution	16.959	23.215
local org. committee	8.654	6.314
unforseen	18.266	1.824

j) Meetings

year	list of meetings	total cost
1999	Barcelona (II/99)	7.081
	Amsterdam (III/99)	9.879
	Berlin (VI/99)	7.682
	Paris (VII/99)	410
	Amsterdam (X/99)	11.386
	Copenhagen (XI/99)	693
	Ljubljana (XI/99)	5.100
	Total	<b>42.231</b>

2000	Ljubljana (I/00)	6.853
	Athens (I/00)	4.640
	Brussels (IV/00)	3.806
	Brussels (VII/00)	1.795
	Brussels (IX/00)	6.348
	Brussels (XI/00)	17.664
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41.106</b>
2001	Genova (II/01)	6.895
	Paris (III/01)	25.619
	Geneva (VI/01)	1.905
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34.419</b>

k) New expenses

	1999	2000	2001
German society	3.170	18.046	
Research projects		45.045	17.017
Web site	3.530	1.344	147
D-T		749	4.002
5% reimbursement for congresses			25.054

## 7. Ongoing activities

### 7.1. 6th Seminar, Coimbra – Portugal

D. Rebelo reported on the keylines of the Seminar as follows:

1. Scientific programme (final) related:

- keynote speakers
- workshops
- adolescent forum

- evaluation form

2. Financial matters (reported above by the Treasurer)

3. Registrations: 200

S. Skouby thanked D. Rebelo, E. Aubény and B. Pinter for their excellent work in organising this Seminar.

## **7.2. 7th and 8th Seminar**

S. Skouby stated that there might be a need for Rules of Procedure and a contract related to the future seminar organisations. He continued that there was a need to discuss the conditions to organise a seminar and that bids should demonstrate different aspects of the organisation. A budget limitation should be included in the conditions as well.

A. Coll wondered if it would not be a good idea to organise the seminar or even the congress in combination with a congress of a national society.

G. Bartfai considered three elements in the seminar as important: economical, scientific and effects on the organisation.

G. Creatsas was in favour of planning strategies during the seminar, for instance on the level of harmonisation of contraception.

A. Yeshaya proposed to change the 7th and 8th seminar in the timing schedule. The Board accepted this idea, but it should be ratified by the General Assembly.

### *7th Seminar 2003 (Hungary)*

Date: September 2003

G. Bartfai distributed the document 'offer to host the next Seminar', which is available at the Central Office.

The suggested topics were as follows:

- 1) Emergency contraception
- 2) Contraceptive service delivery systems in Europe at the beginning of the Third Millennium
- 3) Non contraceptive benefits of hormonal contraception

Discussion on the final topic followed the presentation. Key-words of the discussion were 'harmonisation', 'injectable contraception' (G. Creatsas), WHO guidelines (S. Skouby and G. Bartfai), 'harmonisation obstacles' (B. Pinter), guidelines (S. Skouby).

S. Skouby added to the latter keyword that a working draft should be prepared for later discussion and publication in the Journal. M. Short stated that guidelines and harmonisation were not really the best subjects for a seminar, since it will prevent the traditional interactivity.

The discussion ended in a consensus that topic 2 should include topic 1 with extension to 'attitudes' as well. The other above mentioned suggestions might be prepared by a working group, resulting eventually in another activity than the Seminar.

G. Creatsas asked to be included in the Scientific Committee of the next Seminar.

*8th Seminar 2005 (Israel)*

Topic: religious and attitude towards contraception

### **7.3. 7th Congress, Genoa – Italy**

P. Erard from the Central Office reported on the congress as follows:

*Dates:* 10 - 13 April 2001 (Wednesday to Saturday)

*General Title:*

Changing attitudes to contraception and reproductive health

*Committees (finalised)*

a - Executive Committee and Board of the ESC

b - International Scientific Committee

c - Organising Committee

d - Advisory Committee

*General outline including speakers,  
topics and time table*

See second announcement

Main Sessions (4)

Congress sessions (6)

Symposia

Workshops

Meet the Experts

Poster sessions

Call for abstracts: January 15, 2002

*Sponsorship*

3 confirmed 'level A' sponsors at min. 100,000 euro each

### **7.4. 8th Congress, Birmingham**

P. Erard from the Central Office reported on the congress as follows:

Wednesday 23 to Saturday 26 June 2004.

ICC Birmingham, dates are confirmed.

Congress diary is drawn.

Preliminary announcement needs to be ready for Genoa.

### **7.5. Journal**

S. Skouby informed the Board members that a new contract with Parthenon needs to be made. During a first meeting in Geneva on June 13, 2001, the following items were discussed:

1. Do we expect an increase of the number of members?
2. Who should be the go-between the supporting companies?
3. To increase the income.
4. Internet opportunities
5. The transparency of the budget.

G. Creatsas presented his report on the Journal. The report is available at the Central Office.

### **7.6. Website**

S. Skouby reported on the history of this activity since last meeting (in chronological order):

- Central Office presented a first proposal.
  - Vanden broele group (Bruges, Belgium)
  - Once only cost 10,575 euro
  - Hosting, per month 200 euro
- R. Beerthuizen was appointed as ESC webmaster (Paris)
  - Proposal from E-wise (The Netherlands)
  - Once only cost 16,000 euro
  - Hosting, per month 150 euro
- Proposal from R. Beerthuizen to extend his function as webmaster with webdesign and programming
  - Once only cost 3,500 euro
  - Hosting, per month 41 euro
  - Webmaster, per month 100 euro
- Request to Parthenon to take care of the ESC website was advised negatively
- Ob/Gyn net was considered as alternative
- Vanden broele group (Bruges, Belgium), new proposal
  - Once only cost 10,600 euro
  - Hosting, per month 100 euro

R. Beerthuizen made a presentation related to the following key-words: Definitions, my activities, how to get on the internet, history, budget proposals and conclusions. A full report is available at the Central Office.

After extensive discussion, the Board agreed to accept the proposal of R. Beerthuizen till the end of 2002.

## **8. Any other business**

### **8.1. Request from FIGO**

S. Skouby informed the Board that FIGO wants to collaborate in the discussion on the CPMP Public Assessment Report (3rd generation pills) with the ESC and that this should be estimated as a kind of recognition.

#### 8.2. Barcelona declaration

S. Skouby reported that the ESC undersigned the declaration.

C. Coll briefed the Board again on the content of the declaration. The main objectives of the DECLARATION OF BARCELONA are: informing the public opinion, raising awareness, calling the attention of health professionals and obtaining effective responses from Governments and International Institutions. The declaration will be referred to supranational political and health organisations, to the governments of all the countries in the world, to the legislators of Democratic parliaments and to all private and public institutions whose purpose is the assistance to Reproductive Health. The goal is to have all these institutions join, respect, promote and make reality the 'Rights of Mother and Newborn'.

8.3. G. Creatsas asked if the Board agreed to organise his 5th Athens Congress under the auspices of the ESC. The Board agreed.

#### **9. Date of next meeting**

The next Board Meeting will be held at the occasion of the 7th ESC Congress in Genoa. Date and time to be decided.