

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the
European Society of Contraception
Paris, Saturday 31 March 2001 (11:00 - 19:00)

Present:

S.O. Skouby (President)
E. Aubeny (Vice-President)
M. Short (Secretary General)
B. Pinter (Assistant Secretary)
D. Cibula (Treasurer)
A. Verougstraete (Assistant Treasurer)
M. van Santen (Germany)
G. Creatsas (Greece)
G. Bartfai (Hungary)
A. Yeshaya (Israel)
M. Orlean (Latvia)
M. Lech (Poland)
D.M. Rebelo (Portugal)
A. Pretnar-Darovec (Slovenia)
R. Beerthuisen (The Netherlands)
O.E. Loeber (The Netherlands)
A. Webb (United Kingdom)

Apologies:

V. Bruni (Italy)
C. Coll (Spain)
S. Jones (Ireland)
V. Prilepskaya (Russia)
D. Serfaty (France)
V. Unzeitig (Czech Rep.)
S. Özalp (Turkey)
A. Bigrigg (UK)
P. Martinez (Spain)

In attendance: P. Erard (Secretariat)

1. Welcome and apologies

S. Skouby welcomed the Board members to the Meeting and apologized those who were unable to attend.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last Meeting (Limelette (Brussels), 18 - 19 Nov 2000) were agreed without amendments.

3. Matters arising

3.1. Translation (E. Aubény)

E. Aubény introduced the issue by stating that the General Assembly decided in Ljubljana (2000) to have simultaneous translation during the ESC activities in three different languages. She said that the Society should respect this principle at least for the seminar in Coimbra and the congress in Genoa.

S. Skouby replied that, on condition that the local organising committee accepts to have only two languages, the Executive Committee advised (after voting) that this amendment could be accepted. He asked for the suggestions of the Board.

R. Beerthuisen suggested to decide one month prior to the meeting based upon the number of participants of a given country.

D. Cibula added that the language is never a problem if one attends an international congress.

E. Aubény replied that this was not the case for French speaking participants and for non-medicals.

S. Skouby wanted to conclude on the number of languages and which language. An extensive discussion followed and ended in the following decision:

- Three languages (English, french and Portuguese) during the 6th Seminar in Coimbra
- Two languages (English and Italian) during the 7th Congress in Genoa

3.2. US press statement on the effects of oestrogens (A. Yeshaya)

A. Yeshaya stated that there was a panic reaction in the US related to the publication on the negative carcinogenic effects of oral contraceptives. The same negative media attention was observed in Israel as well. In this context, A. Yeshaya strongly suggested to prepare a statement from the ESC.

S. Skouby said that this issue was not something new. However, he proposed A. Yeshaya to prepare an article for the ESC Newsletter.

G. Creatsas asked for the agreement of the Board to react in the mass media on behalf of the Society in case other similar publications are presented in other countries.

A. Verougstraete focussed on the danger of publishing personal opinions on behalf of the Society.

A. Webb replied that the website might be the good alternative by way of a forum.

4. Correspondence

A letter from D. Serfaty reported that Organon France decided to stop supporting the French translation of the Journal.

Other incoming and outgoing correspondence will be mentioned during the other items of the agenda.

5. Membership report

M. Short reported as follows:

535 members in 2000

Situation in 2001:

- renewal forms were sent out late due to the need to wait for a VAT advise
- 60 members were not longer estimated as member (1999 and 2000, no payment received)
- 475 members did receive the renewal form
- 150/475 paid their contribution for 2001

Affiliations, not included in the above :

- Irish Association of FP centres (+17 members)
- Spanish Contraception Society (+186 members)

Interest from Portuguese and Turkish Society to affiliate.

6. Ongoing activities

6.1. Meetings

6.1.1. 6th Seminar, Coimbra – Portugal

D. Rebelo and P. Erard reported on the Seminar organisation as follows:

1. Timing

- Saturday 6 October, arrival Ex Com - Board
- Sunday 7 October
 - 08:30 - 11:00 Executive Committee
 - 11:00 - 19:00 Board meeting
- Monday 8 October, ESC part
- Tuesday 9 October, Portuguese part

2. Scientific affairs

- Programme is finalized
 - Adolescent - Pregnancy - Parenting - Prevention (Why are teenagers still getting pregnant?)
- Speakers, chairmen and moderators are invited
- Abstract book will be foreseen (modest edition)
- Evaluation form: O. Loeber
- Adolescent forum (A. Verougstraete - O. Loeber)

It was said that the evaluation form should be available in Portuguese as well and that the certificate of attendance would only be given on return of the evaluation form.

3. Promotional aspects

- a - mailing list
 - International: Central office
 - Portuguese: in bulk to Portugal from Brussels
 - to combine with 7th Congress
- b - first and only announcement
- c - no posters
- d - adverts in Newsletters and Journals, congress calendar websites
- e - ESC website

4. Financial - legal affairs

- a - contracts
 - Orga-Med (available)
 - seminar venue

b – budget is prepared but should be completed with info D. Rebelo

5. Sponsors

- * Organon: major sponsor at 10,000 euro
- * Sponsor recruitment via Prospect
 - international list: Central Office
 - local list: D. Rebelo

Suggested price for a stand of 6 sq.m.: 1,750 euro

6. Venue aspects, catering and translations

To be organised by D. Rebelo and Organizing Committee

7. Registrations

Via central office (participants become ESC members)

8. Social programme: dinner on Sunday night

9. Hotels – travel: Via local agency.

6.1.2. 7th Congress, Genoa – Italy

10 - 13 April 2001 (Wednesday to Saturday)

General Title: Changing attitudes to contraception and reproductive health

S. Skouby reminded the Board that a meeting of the Organising and Scientific Committee of the 7th Congress will be held during this same Paris week-end, with the following agenda:

Congress Committees

Scientific Programme

- topics, to finalize
- speakers, to suggest
- script to follow

Organising aspects

- promotion, first announcement
- financial and legal aspects
- sponsors and exhibitors
- venue, hotels, travel, social programme

S. Skouby invited the Board members to make suggestions for the scientific programme.

6.1.3. 8th Congress, Birmingham – United Kingdom

S. Skouby reported that some problems needed to be solved related to the acceptance of the ESC Congress contract by the hosting organisers.

He continued saying that the organisational procedure was decided during the General Assembly in Ljubljana and that it is known that the Central Office takes care of a major part of the congress organisations.

Correspondence from and with J. Newton highlighted the point of views of both sides, but did not end till now in a final agreement. S. Skouby underlined that the ESC will not and cannot deviate from the content of the ESC congress contract.

It was concluded that S. Skouby would meet J. Newton on a short term with the aim of solving the problem.

6.1.4. Meeting on progestins

S. Skouby reported that Schering is open for the idea of having such a meeting in Berlin in autumn or maybe in December, but in co-operation with other companies.

If in Berlin, we would have practical support from Schering. It was said that S. Skouby will explore the possibilities in dialogue with Schering. The involvement of the Population Council might be considered.

6.1.5. Consensus meeting

The previous versions of the EMAS consensus meetings were organised in 1998 and 1995. The next edition is foreseen for November or December 2001 and might involve the ESC in its organisation. The title would be "On the route to combining the evidence from OC and HRT/ART".

6.2. Journal/Newsletter

6.2.1. Journal

The Editor-in-Chief, G. Creatsas, reported with an overview on the following subjects:

- contributing countries 1996 - 2000
- reviewers 1996 - 2000
- contributing senior authors 1996 - 2000
- cumulative publications per kind of article 1996 - 2000
- number of published and rejected papers 1999 - 2000
- standing manuscripts - expecting author's final revision 2000 – 2001
- standing manuscripts - expecting reviewer's comments 2000 – 2001
- articles sent to Parthenon for publication 2001

G. Creatsas invited the Board members to contribute by submitting editorials, case reports, letters to the Editor etc.

He reported that Organon France is no longer willing to support the French translation of the Journal. There is no interest to do so from Schering. D. Serfaty is negotiating with Wyeth and if this company refuses, the French edition needs to stop.

G. Creatsas mentioned that he received a request from a Russian publication agency to produce reprints in Russian.

S. Skouby said that the contract with Parthenon needed to be renewed in July of this year. He added that this gives the opportunity to the ESC to negotiate on the contract. A meeting will be organised with Parthenon and ESC representatives.

6.2.2. Newsletter

S. Skouby suggested that the coming issue would include:

- editorial with statement on US plans
- article on Statistical analysis on contraception
- full scientific programme 6th Seminar

6.3. Website

S. Skouby introduced the item by saying that the ESC is looking since a long time now for a high quality website in terms of technicity and content. In this context, he asked the Central Office to prepare a proposal.

P. Erard presented this proposal as follows:

Vanden broele group (Bruges, Belgium) www.vandenbroele.be

Can take care of

- Domain name registration
- Structure of the website
- Design
- Programming
- Hosting (own server)
- Maintenance
- Search engines (1500)

Maintenance of the website, options:

by Vanden Broele

by the ESC (unless fundamental changes)

Budget needed

- once only cost 10,575 euro
- hosting, per month 200 euro

S. Skouby proposed to appoint a Board member as webmaster, taking care of and supervising the content of the website. R. Beerhuizen agreed to do so.

7. Legal and financial affairs, report of the Treasurer

D. Cibula reported as follows:

1. Analytical report period 1 Jan - 28 Feb (expressed in euro)

Expenditures	40.444,95
Committee costs	8.797,83
Financial cost	67,46
Memberships (bank costs)	13,02
Working costs ESC officials	6.243,34
Secretary costs	4.791,46
Publications	2.135,80
Website	147,38
Research programme	17.017,00
7th Congress	1.067,84
6th Congress	163,82

2. Overview

Income	944,58
Memberships	680,46
Interests & other	264,12

On working account (23 March)	95.520,36
On saving account	231.717,40
On USD account	47.789,51

3. Deloitte and Touche, advises

- Allowance for Board members is acceptable
- ESC file has been submitted to VAT authorities
- Request on VAT exemption has been submitted to the Italian authorities.

8. Any other business

The statement of A. Yeshaya was accepted and will be used on local level in Israel.
Publication in the Newsletter might be considered.

9. Date of next meeting

Coimbra, Portugal, Sunday, October 7, 2001