

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CONTRACEPTION
Berlin, Germany, 15 June 2002**

1. Welcome and apologies

Present

Belgium	A. Verougstraete
Czech Republic	D. Cibula
Denmark	K. Petersen
Denmark	S. Skouby
Finland	D. Apter
France	D. Serfaty
France	E. Aubény
Germany	M. van Santen
Greece	D. Lazaris
Greece	G. Creatsas
Hungary	I. Batar
Hungary	G. Bartfai
Israel	A. Yeshaya
Italy	G. Crosignani
Latvia	M. Orlean
Poland	M. Lech
Portugal	M.T. Sousa Fernandes
Portugal	D. Rebelo
Russia	I. Savelieva
Slovenia	A. Pretnar-Darovec
The Netherlands	O. Loeber
The Netherlands	R. Beerthuisen
Turkey	S. Özalp
UK	A. Bigrigg

Apologies

Czech Republic	V. Unzeitig
Germany	T. Rabe
Ireland	S. Jones
Ireland	C. McNicolas
Italy	V. Bruni
Lithuania	V. Sadauskas
Russia	V. Prilepskaya
Slovenia	B. Pinter
Spain	C. Coll Capdevila
Spain	P. Martinez
Turkey	H. Satiroglu
UK	A. Webb

In attendance

R. Maes and A. Wattez (ESC Central Office)

S. Skouby welcomed all Board members and congratulated all new members who joined the Board of Directors since the last General Assembly (Genua, 12 April 2002). He underlined the success of the 7th Congress held in Genua, a significant increase in new members being one of the results.

S. Skouby informed all present Board members that an Executive Committee took place in Berlin on 14 and 15 June 2002 and that the purpose of this Committee was to prepare the current Board meeting.

After this S. Skouby said a few words about the last General Assembly.

He explained that 2 countries still had to vote for a new Board member, namely Belgium and Ireland. Two days before the start of this Board meeting a new Belgian Board member was elected: J.J. Amy from the University of Brussels, department of Gynecology and Obstetrics. 14 members voted, 10 votes were in favour of J.J. Amy, 4 were in favour of S. Weyers (Ghent). In the first weeks after the General Assembly, the second board member of Ireland, C. McNicholas was elected

Both new board members were invited to this meeting.

The Board now consists of 37 directors. The list presented by S. Skouby is copied here under:

Amy J.J.	Belgium	Ozalp S.	Turkey
Apter D.	Finland	Petersen K.	Denmark
Aubény E.	France	Pinter B.	Slovenia
Bartfai G.	Hungary	Pretnar-Darovec A.	Slovenia
Batar I.	Hungary	Prilepskaya V.	Russia
Beerthuizen R.	The Netherlands	Rabe T.	Germany
Bigrigg A.	United Kingdom	Rebelo D.	Portugal
Bruni V.	Italy	Sadauskas V.	Lithuania
Cibula D.	Czech Republic	Satiroglu H.	Turkey
Coll C.	Spain	Savelieva I.	Russia
Creatsas G.	Greece	Serfaty D.	France
Crosignani P.	Italy	Skouby S.	Denmark
Jones S.	Ireland (Rep. Of)	Sousa Fernandes M.T.	Portugal
Lazaris D.	Greece	Unzeitig V.	Czech Republic
Lech M.	Poland	van Santen M.	Germany
Loeber O.	The Netherlands	Verougstraete A.	Belgium
Martinez P.	Spain	Webb A.	United Kingdom
McNicholas C.	Ireland (Rep. Of)	Yeshaya A.	Israel
Orlean M.	Latvia		

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last Board meeting (the elections of the Executive Committee - Genua, 12 April 2002) were approved by all Board members present.

S. Skouby again presented the new Executive Committee:

- S. Skouby, President
- A. Webb, Vice-President
- O. Loeber, General Secretary
- G. Bartfai, Assistant Secretary
- D. Cibula, Treasurer
- A. Verougstraete, Assistant Treasurer

(In contradiction with what A. Verougstraete firstly announced, she confirmed her desire to stay Assistant Treasurer, just before the start of this Board meeting.)

3. Matters arising

S. Skouby spoke about the composition of the new Board of Directors, and more specifically about the number of members. He emphasised that the number of Board members now being high has the advantage that the Board is composed of very qualified persons, on the other hand the disadvantage is that attendance of all Board members to meetings is very expensive.

After this matter was discussed in Genua, A. Webb was asked to present possible solutions for this issue. She now submitted a document with practical suggestions regarding the attendance of Board members to meetings and the number of members in the Board. A fragment of this document was shown during the Board meeting and is also presented here under:

“Only one representative from each country to attend Board meetings which do not coincide with a Congress or Seminar. The only exception to this is where a Board member is also a member of the Executive Committee or holds the position of Editor in Chief or Webmaster. This can be approved by the Board.”

“Increase the number of ordinary members needed for a second member of the Board to 50 (this could be 80 or 100 if it makes more sense. It should be an achievable number). This can be approved by the Board.”

S. Skouby then informed the Board members that during the last Executive Committee all members agreed with both suggestions of A. Webb, namely to have one country representative to attend Board meetings which do not coincide with a Congress or Seminar (S. Skouby suggested this new rule would only start after the next General Assembly) and to increase the number of ordinary members needed for a second Board member to 50.

O. Loeber added that the Board members who do not attend a Board meeting can give a proxy vote to another Board member who attends the meeting. R. Beerhuizen also drew the attention of the Board members to the possibility to use the website for decision making beforehand.

Nevertheless, after discussion a lot of Board members expressed their concern related to the first suggestion to limit the amount of members to attend meetings. Many members feel it's important for all Board members to attend the meetings and would feel uncomfortable to be excluded.

The President asked the Board members first to decide if they agreed to vote for both suggestions of A. Webb. The Board members agreed.

The President asked the Board members if they accepted both suggestions of A. Webb, upon which the Executive Committee already agreed.

The first suggestion was approved by the Board meeting (13 members voted in favour and 12 members voted against – 3 proxy votes: from V. Bruni to E. Aubény, from T. Rabe to M. van Santen and from A. Webb to A. Bigrigg) as well as the second suggestion (17 votes in favour out of a total of 24 present Board members).

Both suggestions were approved by the Board meeting.

4. Report by the Secretary General

a) O. Loeber presented the general membership report:

- situation January 1, 2002:
764 membership records
- situation June 15, 2002:
1138 membership records (+ 32,9%)

b) Then O. Loeber detailed the membership report:

- 957 ordinary members (50 euro)
 - 181 affiliated members (25 euro – only the Spanish society)
- Total: 1138 members

c) O. Loeber continued her presentation by explaining the membership payment fee:

- Ordinary and affiliated members (n = 957):
- 60% paid for the year 2002
 - 40%* still due for the year 2002
- (* of which 39% still due for 2001)

O. Loeber specified that the 1st reminder for payment has been sent and that membership is cancelled after 2 years of no payment.

After this presentation O. Loeber emphasised two issues, namely the changes to the statutes and the membership fee raise.

Regarding the changes to the statutes it was announced that a voting session will be organised during the next Board meeting (November 2002) in order to approve them. All Board members will receive the proposal of changes beforehand.

Regarding the fee raise, O. Loeber informed the Board members that during the last Executive Committee all members agreed with the suggestion of G. Bartfai to raise the membership fee for ordinary members from 50 to 60 Euro and for affiliated members from 25 to 30.

A lot of Board members expressed their concern about the fee raise. Some members stated that for East-European countries a fee raise would be expensive, others thought the ESC is in a good financial position.

S. Skouby emphasised that a raise is not for economic reasons in the first place, that fees of 100 Euro are not at all extraordinary. He added that the incomes of the membership fees are used to cover all costs and that the incomes of the congresses are used to support scientific work.

The President asked the Board members first to decide if they agreed to vote for the proposal of G. Bartfai to raise the membership fee for ordinary members from 50 to 60 Euro. The Board members agreed.

The President asked the Board members if they accepted this proposal. The proposal was not approved by the Board meeting (only 5 votes in favour).

It was decided not to vote anymore for the fee raise for affiliated members.

d) O. Loeber finally presented the Top 5 membership countries (excl. affiliated members):

France	188
Italy	160
Portugal	95
UK	72
Czech Republic	55

(45 countries represented)

5. Report by the Treasurer

D. Cibula presented slides regarding the following points:

- Financial report
- Contracts (seminar, congress)
- New bank proposal
- Changes in the Rules of Procedure

a) Financial report (prepared by Deloitte & Touche)

The financial report - status of the first trimester 2002 (in Euro):

Out:	Committee costs	2.137,25
	Bank	468,27
	Memberships	183,00
	Working costs ESC Officials	5.965,00
	Secretary costs Central Office	6.694,62
	Publications (Journal)	3.553,93
	Website	186,85
	Accountancy and advise	4.604,25
	6th Seminar Coimbra	16.594,12
	7th Congress Genoa	17.505,03
		- 57.892,32
In:	Memberships	5.654,38
	Interests and other	3.042,06
	Subscription congress	238.220,37
		+ 246.916,81
Balance:		+189.024,49

The financial report - status 14 June 2002:

- in working account:	204.266,18 euro	
- in saving account:	169.356,40 euro	
- in USD account:	8.316,26 USD	(the USD account will be closed)

Additional comments from the Treasurer:

- Not all incomes of the Genua congress are yet included in the result of the first trimester of 2002 (payments and invoicing are still in process).
- D. Cibula is waiting for assistance from Deloitte & Touche (D&T) concerning the Belgian VAT number (see more detailed information under d) Changes in Statutes and Rules of Procedure of this point 5.).
- The audit of the GA financial report by the ESC members is in process.

D. Cibula added that as D&T's accounting process is different from the method formerly used by the ESC Central Office, insight into the figures has become less easy. Still the ESC Central Office keeps the responsibility for the invoicing process and archives all invoices. A solution could be that the Central Office is asked to do the accounting in the usual way, in parallel with D&T. D. Cibula proposed to meet twice a year with the Central Office in order to obtain a clear and detailed overview to be side by side with D&T's report.

Decisions regarding this point:

- *the final Genua budget has to be ready by the next Board meeting in November 2002.*
- *a detailed overview of the financial status also has to be available for the next Board meeting. In order to obtain this, D. Cibula will meet twice a year with the Central Office which will prepare a clear and detailed financial overview (complementary to the D&T report).*

b) Contracts (seminar, congress)

Ongoing contracts:

- Congress Contract
 - between ESC and Local Organisers
 - next: Birmingham, J. Newton
- Seminar Contract
 - between ESC and Local Organiser
 - next: Budapest, G. Bartfai

D. Cibula worked closely with the ESC Central Office to finetune the existing seminar and congress contracts. They will soon be put on the ESC website.

S. Skouby added that the Birmingham contract is now adapted and will be signed within the coming weeks.

c) New bank proposal

The Treasurer explained that he experienced problems with the Fortis bank in Brussels. The bank has not the appropriate professional attitude. D. Cibula asked the ESC Central Office to look for a bank which can better fulfil the following ESC needs:

- documents in English
- international character
- smooth administrative services
- electronic payment through Treasurer
- active saving advise policy

Following the Central Office's suggestion the ESC is considering working with Bank Brussels Lambert (ING group) who is able to fulfil the ESC needs. BBL works with the ISABEL software system for all electronic banking operations (view on bank statements, national and international transfers, etc).

The Treasurer asked the Board members if they agreed to vote for this proposal. The Board agreed to vote.

The Treasurer asked the Board members if they agreed with his proposal regarding the bank change.

The proposal was approved by the Board meeting (only 2 votes not in favour).

d) Changes in Statutes and Rules of Procedure

- Changes in the Statutes:
 - Changes in the Statutes approved by the GA (VAT application = address of central office)
 - procedure in France (official seat)
 - Need for publication in the Official Journal
 - procedure in Belgium
 - Application for VAT number, Ministry of Justice

D. Cibula explained the current status regarding the Belgian VAT number. The procedure to adapt the change in the statutes as well as the composition of the new Executive Committee on legal level is in full process. A file needed to be forwarded to the 'Prefecture de Police' in Paris. A copy of this file will be sent to the Ministry of Justice in Belgium.

- Old (already ratified by the Board) and new changes (to ratify):
 - in the statutes
 - in the rules of procedure

D. Cibula is working on the changes that the former Board was already working on and agreed on, as well as some new changes. The changes were not detailed during this Board but will be send by e-mail to all Board members in order to be able to organise a voting regarding the changes during the next Board meeting.

All Board members agreed to proceed in this way.

e) An additional point was added, namely rules of reimbursement for Board members.

D. Cibula again explained the standard rules and insisted to always receive the official reimbursement form accompanied by original invoices and tickets.

S. Skouby thanked the Treasurer for his financial report and welcomed the work done by D&T.

6. Activity report

a) 7th Congress Genua

S. Skouby presented the outcome of the 7th congress:

- Invited persons, related to the scientific programme: n = 63
(same number as for 6th congress)
- Abstracts
 - Number of submitted abstracts: 158 (6th: 149)
(excl. invited speakers)
 - Number of oral presentations: 26 (6th: 36)
 - Number of posters: 132 (6th: 113)

S. Skouby emphasised the increased number of poster presentations and proposed to concentrate more on poster presentations in the future. Besides publication in the Journal, the posters have to be put on the ESC website.

- Total number of registrations: 1520 (6th: 811)
 - Distribution per category:
 - 53,5 % Non-member
 - 30,6 % ESC Members
 - 2,5 % Resident in training, nurses
 - 6,1 % Free registration
 - 0,6 % Press
 - 6,7 % Company repres., individual entry
 - Distribution per origin of payment:
 - 79,1 % sponsored by companies (6th: 66,2 %)
 - 6,6 % free registrations (6th: 16,1 %)
 - 14,3 % individual payments (6th: 17,7 %)
- Top 5 countries

	7th Congress:	6th Congress:
1.	Italy (308)	UK
2.	France (166)	Slovenia
3.	UK (128)	France
4.	The Netherlands (53)	Hungary
5.	Portugal - Czech Rep. (48)	Russia

b) 8th Congress Birmingham – 23 to 26 June 2004

As A. Webb had sent her apologies S. Skouby presented the current situation regarding the organisation of the 8th congress, based upon a memo prepared by A. Webb:

- Location: Birmingham, International Convention Centre
- Proposed title of the congress: «A holistic approach to sexual health»

The Birmingham committee asked the Board members to approve this title. A lot of members expressed their concern regarding the title and more specifically regarding the word 'holistic'.

After discussion, it was decided that the Scientific Committee will be asked to rephrase the title or to eventually add a subtitle to clarify. A new title will have to be recommended to the Board.

- A decision has to be taken on the composition of the Organising Committee
 - As stated in the statutes: «The Organising Committee can have a maximum of 5 members of the organising country, not including the officials (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer).»

Following members are proposed by A. Webb:

- J. Newton (UK), President
- Sarah Randall (UK), Vice President
- ? (UK), Secretary
- M. Cox (UK), Treasurer
- D. Mansour (UK), Member
- M. Ward (UK), Member
- A. Kubba (UK), Member

- The following members of the Executive Committee of the ESC are appointed by the ESC to be in the Organising Committee:
 - O. Loeber (The Netherlands), Assistant Secretary
 - D. Cibula (Czech Republic), Assistant Treasurer

No comments or questions raised from the present Board members regarding this point.

- A decision has to be taken on the composition of the Scientific Committee
 - As stated in the statutes: «The Scientific Committee can have a maximum of 8 members, not including the officials (President, Vice President).»

Following members are proposed by A. Webb:

- S. Skouby (Denmark), President
- P. Hannaford (UK), Vice President
- A. Glasier (UK), Member

No comments or questions raised from the present Board members regarding this point.

- An on-site visit and meeting with the local organising committee is scheduled on 18 June 2002. Due to the late notification of this meeting, nor the Executive Committee nor representative of the ESC Central Office can attend. S. Skouby proposed to organise an on-site visit early August.
- As mentioned under point 5. b) of these minutes (Report from the Treasurer) the Birmingham contract is now adapted and ready to be sent for signature.

c) 7th Seminar Hungary

- a. This Seminar takes place in Budapest and has G. Bartfai as local organiser.
- b. The title of the Seminar is “Contraceptive practice in Europe: differences in availability and accessibility”.

- c. Regarding venue, G. Bartfai presented and documented multiple locations in Budapest. According to G. Bartfai's recommendation the Executive Committee chose a hotel in the heart of Budapest. More information can be requested from G. Bartfai.
- d. Regarding final dates, the first proposal is Friday 19 to Sunday 21 September 2003. However, this date still has to be checked by the ESC Central Office with the international calendar of congresses.
- e. Regarding the composition of the Scientific and Organising Committee, it was decided that G. Bartfai would present a proposal during the next Board meeting.
- f. Regarding the choice of topics, G. Bartfai suggested the following items:
 1. Emergency contraception
 2. Contraceptive service delivery systems in Europe at the beginning of the Third Millennium
 3. Non contraceptive benefits of hormonal contraception
 Remark: during the Board meeting in Coimbra a consensus was found that topic 2 should include topic 1 with extension to 'attitudes' as well.
- g. The structure of the Seminar will be: arrival on Friday night, Executive Committee meeting and Board meeting as well as the Hungarian scientific meeting on Saturday, international meeting on Sunday.

d) Journal

G. Creatsas, editor-in-chief of the Journal, presented the following points during the Board meeting:

- Cumulative publications per kind of article (1996-early 2002):
 - Editorials: 6
 - Editorial Comments: 1
 - Reviews: 31
 - Original Papers: 169
 - Case Reports: 3
 - Letters to the Editor: 9
- Rejected papers 1996 - 2002
- Review stages
 - stage 1: standing manuscripts, expecting reviewer's comments
 - stage 2: standing manuscripts, expecting author's final revision
 - stage 3: expecting reviewer's approval on author's corrections
 - stage 4: already sent to Parthenon
- Number of published and rejected papers
 - 268 manuscripts sent in
 - 238 accepted (=88,8%)
 - 30 rejected
 - 219 published

A detailed report of the presentation is available at request in the ESC Central Office.

After this G. Creatsas presented some of his initiatives:

- the letter *from* the author: he sent an example to all Board members. He reminded the members that he hardly received any feedback.
- editorial: guests are invited to write articles concerning a particular topic
- weblink: the next issue of the journal is announced

The ESC Central Office was appointed to enquire which members did not receive the letter from the editor and to send it to those members.

For the future G. Creatsas is asking:

- to have 6 issues/year instead of 4
- to raise the impact factor (more collaboration from Parthenon needed)
- to raise the visibility of the Journal in the USA

G. Creatsas also thanked D. Lazaris for his good work in the editorial office.

S.Skouby thanked G. Creatsas for his report on the Journal.

Suggestions from the Board:

- O. Loeber suggested to send the Journal in an electronic version to the Board members.
- The point of visibility in the USA was raised by some members. They mostly agreed but it was emphasised that the Journal should never lose its independency
- Regarding the impact factor it was proposed to encourage the publication of articles from the ESC Journal in other publications.

e) Website

To present the report on the ESC website, R. Beerthuisen, who is the webmaster of the site, took the Board members through a presentation of the ESC website and showed the latest changes.

He presented the statistics dated June 2002: the site has a growing number of daily visits, with a total number of visits of 4.746 from July 2001 until June 2002. One third of the June visits came from outside Europe, especially from Canada.

He explained how to create a personal ESC account (for ESC Board members to have access to the closed part of the website): username: escbm – password:b02@04.

S.Skouby thanked R. Beerthuisen for his presentation.

S. Skouby then informed the Board members about the discussion that took place during the Executive Committee regarding the content of the website. All members of the Committee agreed that the website should be added to with extra materials such as upcoming meetings, interviews, etc.

S. Skouby therefore asked:

- for 1 or 2 candidates from the Board to work closely together with R. Beerthuisen on the content of the website. K. Petersen would like to be candidate, D. Apter also proposed himself but at a later stage.
- all Board members to have a regular look at the website
- all Board members to prepare an evaluation of the website by the next Board meeting in November 2002.

Additional suggestions from S. Skouby:

- he asked for the possibility to communicate with the Board members through the website instead of using e-mail. R. Beerthuisen warned him about the problem of privacy. S. Skouby asked him to check this issue.
- he proposed to ask the ESC Central Office to e-mail all Board members on a regular basis regarding the latest website updates.
- the minutes of the ESC meetings should also be integrated on the website (in the closed part), as well the agenda of those meetings (in the open part).

Decisions regarding the website:

- *regular content updates have to be with help from other Board members is welcome.*
- *all Board members are asked to prepare an evaluation by the next Board meeting.*
- *R. Beerthuisen will check the privacy rules regarding communication through the ESC website.*
- *the ESC Central Office will e-mail all Board members about the content updates of the site.*

7. Incoming suggestions of the Board

The following items were discussed during the Board meeting:

- Donation to FIAPAC (E. Aubény)
- Donation to abortion doctors
- Report on the Congress in Riga (E. Aubény)

a) Donation to FIAPAC (E. Aubény)

E. Aubény addressed a letter to the Executive Committee requesting financial support from the ESC to FIAPAC, of which E. Aubény is president.

During the Board meeting she presented FIAPAC and explained that FIAPAC is facing serious financial problems. FIAPAC is now asking for financial support from the ESC to be able to continue to give the best care and psychological support to women in the field of abortion.

Some Board members asked if the ESC has enough financial resources to support FIAPAC. S. Skouby answered that the outcome of the Genua congress will most certainly allow a donation. D. Cibula added by saying that the ESC now has to decide what percentage of its resources can be spend on donations. S. Skouby also emphasised that it is the ESC's aim to support educational and clinical training.

S. Skouby then informed the Board members about the decision of the Executive Committee to support FIAPAC and to set up rules of procedure for supporting other societies and meetings in the future. Those rules should be ready by the next Board meeting in November 2002 so that a voting session can take place.

Regarding this point it was decided that, in principle, the ESC is prepared to support FIAPAC.

E. Aubény was asked to provide the ESC with a total dossier regarding the donation as well as a precise budget. E. Aubény was not in favour of introducing a dossier, trust should be enough. However, she will report about this matter and describe a specific matter to be subsidized to the Executive Committee of FIAPAC.

The Board members also agreed with the President's proposal to set up rules of procedure for future donations and not to support societies if detailed information about this society is missing.

b) Donation to abortion doctors

J. van den Bergh, ESC member and member of ISAD, submitted a request for donation to the ISAD, more particularly for some special ISAD projects. This request was not discussed due to the decision taken under a) of this point 7.: rules of procedure for donations first will have to be put in place.

c) Report on the Congress in Riga (E. Aubény)

E. Aubény and M. Orléan reported on the Riga Congress which E. Aubény attended as ESC representative. Abortion was the main theme on the programme. M. Orléan thanked S. Skouby for the ESC support and E. Aubény for her excellent lecture.

S. Skouby thanked E. Aubény and M. Orléan for their report and proposed to put it on the ESC website.

This proposal was agreed, E. Aubény will write a text.

8. Any other business

The following items were discussed during the Board meeting:

- The German Society
- The FIGO and Monaco Meeting

a) The German Society

S. Skouby explained the background of this matter:

It was decided by the previous Board to close down the society. Then M. van Santen proposed to transform it into a German society, without any costs to the ESC. The last General Assembly accepted M. van Santen's proposal to transform the German ESC society into a German national society. On 11 June 2002 M. van Santen sent for signature an adapted version of the "Rules of Procedure of the ESC-Germany" and of the "Statutes of the ESC-Germany". During this Board meeting the documents submitted by M. van Santen were shown on slide.

S. Skouby expressed the concerns of the Executive Committee.

- The first concern is linked to the title of the German society. M. van Santen confirmed the title will be changed to "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Contraception".

- Secondly, concern raised regarding article XII-B of "the Statutes of the ESC-Germany" which is copied here after:

"The ESC (Paris) remains the legal representative for all previous contracts, and keeps all benefits and obligations of any transaction or agreement done up to 12 the April 2002, 24.00

hours inclusive. All accounts, cash and any other property existing before that date belong and stay with the ESC (Paris) only.”

“The ESC (Paris) will except no liability for third parties for the ESC (Germany) after the foresaid day. The ESC (Germany) will not refund the ESC (PARIS) for any expense met in the past, neither for expenses in connection to these changes of the Statutes of the ESC (Germany).”

“The ESC(Paris) leaves the ESC (Germany) free to govern its society according to the wishes of its members in the future. There are no conditions to be met in the future by the ESC (Germany) in order to have these changes of the Statutes done today.”

“The ESC (Germany) is an independent society intended for members of german language speaking countries in Europe. It will raise its own funds and make contracts at his own reponsability only.”

“The ESC (Germany) is solely legal reponsable and liable for any obligation met after 12th April 2002.”

S. Skouby informed the Board members about the Executive Committee’s decision: The Executive Committee agreed that the ESC can only be responsible for the old German Society (before 12 April 2002) and for all financial costs made by this Society before 12 April 2002 if M. van Santen can present a clear and transparent financial status, including invoices. M. van Santen also has to submit a formal declaration to the ESC stating that there are no remaining financial obligations for the ESC.

M. van Santen stressed that the only expenses made were the payments to the lawyers for the contract handling and that there had never been an attempt to mix the finances of ESC with the finances of the German society. The German society has no members and no account. M. van Santen added that a formal declaration about the financial status can not be provided since the President of the German society – who would have to sign this declaration - and the President of the ESC is the same person.

- About the documents sent on 11 June, S. Skouby stated that the ESC can not approve the new statutes proposed by M. van Santen since the ESC can only be responsible for the old German Society (before 12 April 2002).

Following the discussion regarding the above mentioned issues, a lot of Board members also expressed their concerns regarding the continuation of the German society. D. Serfaty strongly recommended in suppressing all connections with the German society and asked all Board members to send letters stating they wished no participation in the German Board.

Finally, the point about closing down the German society was raised again. M. van Santen referred to two letters from German lawyers and explained that it would take 5 years before the society can be closed down.

After a long discussion, S. Skouby concluded that the ESC should be supported by a lawyer regarding this matter and that a meeting with Deloitte & Touche, D. Cibula and M. van Santen has to be organised in Germany.

All Board members agreed with this proposal.

b) FIGO and Monte Carlo meeting (in Monaco)

- a. The FIGO meeting will take place from 2 to 7 November 2003.
- b. The Monte Carlo meeting (Monaco) will take place from 7 to 9 November 2002 and is called "The third European Esbjerg Consensus Development Conference".

It will be a consensus meeting on the effects of hormones, under the auspices of the ESC and the European Menopause Society. The ESC supports the Monaco Meeting by the registration of their Board members. The results of the consensus meeting will be published in the ESC Journal and in the publication of the Menopause Society.

The program will look as follows: conference on Friday 7, session on clinical extraction and short ESC Executive Committee meeting on Saturday 8, draft of the consensus statement and ESC Board meeting on Sunday 9. All ESC Board members are invited for the Board meeting. On Thursday 6 a symposium for pharmaceutical companies is organised (Wyeth and Schering), independent from the Monaco meeting.

For the future S. Skouby proposed to look more at collaboration with other societies e.g ESHRE and EMAS instead of staying in isolation. This also a response to the Industry of trying to synchronize meeting activities and try to cluster meetings dealing with closely related topics.

The Board members agreed with the President's proposal.

It was then decided that a committee has to be put in place in order to discuss future collaborations with other societies.

S. Skouby thanked all present Board members for attending this Board meeting which gave place to good discussions and resulted in good progress.

9. Date of next meeting

The next Board meeting will take place during the Monaco meeting in Monte Carlo, on Sunday 9 November 2002.

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