

E.A.N.A.

EUROPÄISCHE ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DER NIEDERGELASSENEN ÄRZTE
EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP OF PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS IN FREE PRACTICE
GROUPEMENT EUROPÉEN DES MÉDICINS EN PRATIQUE LIBRE

Minutes of the E.A.N.A. meeting held in Halle/Saale from 18-19 November 2011

present:

President	Dr. Jörg Pruckner	Switzerland	Dr. Yves Guisan
Belgium	absent with excuse	Slovakia	Dr. Ladislav Pasztor Dr. Lujza Hanová
Germany	Dr. Maximilian Zollner Dr. Kerstin Jäger Dr. Regina Biesenecker	Slovenia	Dr. Gordana Kalan Zivcec
France	absent with excuse	Spain	Dr. André Bolliger Dr. Olga Garcia Gómez Dr. Nelly Albesa-Caro Aranzazu Albesa
Ireland	Dr. William J. Lynch Claire Camilleri	Czech Republic	Dr. Pavel Tautermann Dr. Ivan Julis
Luxemburg	Dr. Claude Schummer	Hungary	absent with excuse
Austria	Dr. Josef Lohninger	Guests	Dr. Holger Grüning Dr. Dirk Heinrich
Portugal	absent with excuse	Reporter	Mag. Nathalie Holzer
Romania	absent with excuse		
Sweden	Dr. Staffan Henriksson		

E.A.N.A. President Dr. Pruckner welcomes all participants at the autumn meeting and thanks Dr. Kerstin Jäger for the invitation and the organisation.

The participants are informed that the representatives of Belgium, France and Hungary are prevented from attending the meeting. What Romania is concerned, the decision about the membership is due in 2012.

Dr. Frank Ulrich Montgomery, President of the German Medical Association and Mr. Ulrich Weigeldt, the Federal Chairman of the German Association of General Practitioners (Hausärzteverband), too, are prevented from participating.

Dr. Zollner announces the recent death of Prof. Jörg-Dietrich Hoppe.

As for the representation of Sweden, Dr. Staffan Henriksson participates in the meeting in place of Dr. Ilona Barnard. Dr. Staffan Henriksson is Chairman of the Swedish Association of Private Doctors.

Dr. Jäger gives a short overview of the two days' programme, respectively the social programme and announces the visit of two guests: Dr. Holger Grüning and Dr. Dirk Heinrich.

The minutes of the last meeting held in Gibraltar are unanimously accepted and Dr. Yves Guisan is once again thanked for the outstanding organization. The present agenda is discussed and unanimously accepted. With regard to the votes to be held the delegations are asked whether there will be any premature departures.

President's report

In his report, Dr. Pruckner gives a customary review of the events and objectives of the individual international organizations (AEMH, CPME, UEMS, FEMS, PWG, EFMA/WHO, WMA).

Dr. Claude Schummer reports on the UEMO meeting held in Turin which mainly focused on a common statement of all EMOs on the Qualification Directive. It would be desirable if the E.A.N.A., too, would support this document.

Statement of EMOs on the Qualification Directive

Agreement is reached that the E.A.N.A., too, will support this document. However, it is proposed to add a preamble in which the strict implementation at national level is pointed out. Dr. Lynch is asked to formulate such a preamble. The motion of the President to accept the present wording of the text is unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's report

The President reports on the present financial situation of the E.A.N.A., as Dr. Lemye is unable to participate in the meeting.

He points out that the revenue from membership fees, this year too, allows only to cover the costs of meetings, but not to build reserves.

All countries, with the exception of Hungary, have paid their membership fee, and the Hungarian delegation assures to meet this obligation by the end of this year.

Dr. Pruckner reads out a letter of Dr. Lemye in which he regrets to announce that he will retire from his position of a treasurer.

He also proposes 3 options regarding the financial situation:

- raising membership fees
- admission of new members

- no changes at all

It is decided that the membership fees, at present, will not be raised.

In principle, there is the possibility of sponsoring, however, this will need to be subject to discussion and requires the approval of all Member countries.

It is regarded as important to make a participation in EMO meetings possible sometimes.

It is proposed to start to consider external financing and to transfer the point "Budget" into "Objectives and responsibilities".

Dr. Schummer reports that he attended a meeting of the "Hartmannbund" and that there was interest about his further participation; he therefore suggests that the E.A.N.A. keeps him updated and provides him with information.

Dr. Schummer is asked to obtain information about the registration with a non-profit status under Luxembourg law.

Homepage

The E.A.N.A. homepage is being re-designed, the results of which will be presented in one of the next meetings.

Task shifting – Dr. Schummer (see enclosure)

Dr. Schummer presented a comprehensive address about this subject. This is followed by a discussion and Dr. Schummer presents an E.A.N.A. draft document. Dr. Schummer will elaborate this draft during the forthcoming weeks and will forward it to the secretariat. An appropriate statement shall be drafted until the next meeting.

Presentation of Dr. Grüning on medical demography (see enclosure)

E.A.N.A. reform document – presentation Dr. Bolliger (see enclosure)

Dr. Bolliger reads out his position document which outlines his view of how the position of the E.A.N.A. could be strengthened.

The suggestion of building local E.A.N.A. groups in the individual countries, however, is rejected because of the argumentation that this would lead to a weakening of E.A.N.A.'s impact. Another repercussion would be that the E.A.N.A. would lose its EMO position and local E.A.N.A. groups would be considered as competitors by the individual Medical Organizations.

Setting up an internet platform is conceivable in principle, however it is not feasible for the secretariat for which, at present, the Austrian Medical Chamber is in charge.

It is decided to draft an ethical document which includes all E.A.N.A. statements, in order to serve as preamble for further measures. This draft statement will be forwarded to all member countries before the forthcoming meeting with a view to draft a common document.

Working group – presentation Dr. Bolliger

The research project of Dr. Bolliger is presented (see presentation enclosed).

After the discussion it is decided to find out the actual percentage of mental ill health in the individual member countries until the forthcoming meeting.

Presentation “Medical statistics in Europe” – Dr. Lohninger

Dr. Lohninger has launched a survey on the number of doctors in Europe, with a view to receive figures which are not available by Eurostat.

The survey was forwarded to 27 countries and contained the following questions:

- number of general practitioners working exclusively in the area of family medicine
- number of doctors in training
- number of qualified doctors

Six replies were received and the figures of only three were exploitable.

The European average of the ratio between inhabitants and general practitioners is 100.000:188. It can therefore be concluded that there is no shortage of doctors, but on the other hand, that the doctors lack:

- financial resources
- prestige (progressive loss)

going hand in hand with

- information monopoly status threatened by the internet, social networks, etc.
- fear of potential liability issues
- decreasing attractiveness of the profession “family physician”

The poor input received does not allow to conclude general tendencies.

Dr. Lohninger will provide his presentation later.

HTA presentation - Dr. Bolliger (see enclosure)

In his presentation, Dr. Bolliger gives an overview of the history and development of HTA (health technology assessment), the different international projects, their objectives and benefits.

The next EUNetHta conference will take place in Danzig/Gdansk, Poland. Until the next E.A.N.A. meeting it shall be decided whether the E.A.N.A. will get involved, and if yes, to which extent. In any case, the cost issue needs to be resolved, as the meeting will extend over several days.

In principle, H(health) T(echnology) A(ssessment) is considered as an important issue. Therefore, President Dr. Pruckner asks all members to establish the facts in their country: are there any projects and institutes, which are their missions; have there already been contacts with the relevant persons and organizations?

The setting up of a permanent working group, as suggested by Dr. Bolliger, is not considered as goal-oriented, as the E.A.N.A. itself has working group status.

Board elections

1) Election of the President:

Dr. Jörg Pruckner is unanimously elected President for the term until 2013. He accepts the vote. Dr. Claude Schummer is unanimously elected President for the term until 2015. He accepts the vote.

2) Election of the Vice-President:

Dr. Claude Schummer is unanimously elected Vice-President for the term until 2013. He accepts the vote. Dr. Jörg Pruckner is unanimously elected Vice-President for the term until 2015. He accepts the vote.

3) Election of the Treasurer:

Dr. Andre Bolliger and Dr. Liam Lynch have indicated their readiness to assume the office of the treasurer for the term until 2015.

It is decided that Dr. Lynch will stand for the office. He is unanimously elected treasurer and accepts the vote. Dr. Andre Bolliger will be the deputy treasurer.

In this context, the President thanks Dr. Maximilian Zollner for his longstanding commitment to the E.A.N.A.. This is the last E.A.N.A. meeting for Dr. Zollner in his capacity of acting Vice-President, however, he is always welcome to take part in a meeting.

Short national reports from:

Austria	Ireland
Sweden	Germany
Spain	Czech Republic
Switzerland	Slovakia
Luxembourg	

In response to the situation in Ireland, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic it is planned to prepare statements, resp. to put these issues on the agenda of the next meetings:

**Statement on the liberal profession and against the establishment of chains;
“Antipenta resolution”**

This statement shall stress how much the E.A.N.A. supports the combining of practices of self-employed doctors, for the purpose of concluding insurance contracts together.

Resolution on vaccination

Immunizing is to be reserved exclusively to doctors.

Statement Objectives and responsibilities

The proposal made by Dr. Yves Guisan regarding the cooperation with the CPME will not be included yet into the statement. The statement which is in the process of being decided, will be re-sent out and put on the agenda of the next meeting.

Spring meeting in Bratislava (presentation see enclosure)

The meeting is scheduled for 11-12 May 2012

Dr. Pruckner thanks all participants for the preparation and the successful meeting.

Nh reporting for the president.