A Letter from the President

Dear friends in all parts of Europe,

EFOSA had a successful meeting in Helsinki, Finland last June. We owe the Finnish colleagues a lot of credit for a most well organized meeting. The ESAS (EFOSA Self Assessment System) was demonstrated and well received by the delegates. Also available, is a postgraduate version and our hope is that every specialist training institution will use the ESAS in the near future. The report on the European Orthodontic Health Insurances was well received and discussed during the GAM. It is possible to some extent to make comparisons between the different countries.

EFOSA is an affiliated member of the WFO (World Federation of Orthodontists). The 7th International Orthodontic Congress, is being arranged by the Australian Orthodontic Society in Sydney this year. The EFOSA will share an exhibition booth together with the EOS (European Orthodontic Society) and the FEO (Federatio Europea Orthodontica). It is our intention to promote the ESAS and also give information about various conditions of practicing orthodontics in different parts of Europe. This is based on a recent questionnaire answered by the officers of the member countries of the EFOSA.

In 2009, the WFO published its “Guidelines for Postgraduate Orthodontic Education”. The Council of EFOSA has commented upon the fact that only two years fulltime training is recommended by the WFO. As you all know the Erasmus program is at least three years fulltime. The EFOSA Council is supporting the EOS Teachers Forum and the creation of a NEBEOP (Network of Erasmus Based European Orthodontic Programs).

The EFOSA has discussed with hesitation the development of a so-called “Masters in Orthodontics Program” offered by some universities in Europe. We have concerns that this may give a wrong impression to the public and be misinterpreted for a specialist training program.

The next Annual Meeting will take place in Portoroz, Slovenia the 15th of June 2010. It is my hope that the remaining EU-countries will join the EFOSA creating a powerful body to represent our profession in Europe.

I look forward to seeing you in Portoroz!

Lars Medin
EFOSA President

The 40th General Assembly Meeting

EFOSA President Lars Medin (Sweden) opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. There were 46 participants from 29 countries present, each whom introduced themselves.

Special Guest

Right after the opening David Turpin, AJOD&DO editor in chief, gave a very interesting lecture on orthodontic journalism and the changes which will occur in the near future, especially because of the internet revolution. A lively discussion followed on getting the orthodontists involved in the scientific and social developments of orthodontics. The President thanked David Turpin for his contribution to this GAM and presented to him a gift from EFOSA.

Julien O’Neill (UK) read their reports which were unanimously accepted by the General Assembly.

The Committees

The president explained that at this moment there are no initiatives from the “Orthodontic Training Programs and Examinations Committee”. Communication with the EOS Teachers Forum and the residents society EPSOS is on the way.

The chairman of the “Quality Working Group Committee”, Frank de Winter (The Netherlands) informed the General Assembly that there is now available a postgraduate students version of ESAS (i.e. separate database). A preview of the 5-minutes ESAS promotion for the
The EFOSA Council:
Lars Medin, President
Alexandros Kokkas, Vice-President
Frank de Winter, Secretary
Claude Boudiliat-Mikol, Treasurer
Milan Kaminek, Member
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EOS congress was shown. Julian O’Neill (UK) then gave a very nice and informative presentation of ESAS from a user’s perspective. The delegates were asked to help develop at least 1 study club in their country willing to start using ESAS and thus helping build up a useful database. The Quality Newsletter issue No 3 was also presented.

The chairman of the “European Health Insurances Committee”, Alexandros Kokkas (Greece) presented the updated guide of the European Orthodontic Health Insurances for the year. He said that all country members had received their previous year’s report so that revisions could be made. The new information, as well as, a comparison chart were added to the guide. It was prepared by a member of the Committee - Kristin Heimisdottir (Iceland). She explained how the chart was made and asked the delegates to let her know if any modifications were needed. Alexandros Kokkas also presented the new EFOSA Headlines issue No 5.

The EFOSA Website: www.efosa.eu

Voting
Jonathan Sandler (UK) Chair, Bart Vande Vannet (Belgium) and Eva Czochrowska (Poland) were elected to serve the new Nomination Committee for the next two years.

Lutgart de Ridder (Belgium) and Abraham Kyriakides (Cyprus) were elected auditors for the years 2009-2011.

The President specially thanked Wolfgang Schmiedel (Germany) who had stepped down from his last official task (NC member) in EFOSA after having served EFOSA for many years.

European Postgraduate Students Orthodontic Society (EPSOS)

EPSOS President Olga Annoussaki (Greece) gave a power point presentation on EPSOS, what it stands for, what was the Helsinki program, and about the initiative through questionnaires getting postgraduate curriculum details from all European postgraduate training institutions.

During the meeting Christian Scherer (Germany) addressed the assembly about the Master’s in Orthodontics programs that exist in Austria and Germany stressing that these programs do not meet any orthodontic specialty programs standards. Also, Gery Mazeland (The Netherlands) described the situation the Dutch orthodontists are facing.

Finally, the president thanked all for their presence and their participation and closed the meeting at 4.30 p.m.

The 2010 “Get-Together”

On June 9th, the Finnish Orthodontists and their President Kirsti Hurmerinta, hosted the ‘Get-together’ for all the EFOSA delegates at Villa Alkala in Helsinki. The EFOSA delegates had the chance to meet, discuss and exchange ideas in a friendly atmosphere, thus strengthening the European orthodontic ties.

David Turpin from the United States was also present at the gathering.