

Report from “The Forum of National Orthodontic Societies”

Tuesday, June 10th, 2003, 09.00 – 10.45 hours at the Congress Centre,

Prague, Czech Republic

1. Welcome

The President of the EOS, Milan Kaminek, chaired the meeting of the “Forum” and welcomed the participants. The Honorary Secretary of EOS, Luc Dermaut, and the President of the EFOSA, Wolfgang Schmiedel, were also on the podium. The Secretary of the EFOSA, Lars Medin, took the minutes of the meeting.

Attendance: Thirty one people attended the meeting from 21 countries. Also representatives from the FEO were present. An attendance list was signed.

Agenda: There was an addition to the agenda called “Report from the EFOSA General Assembly Meeting, June 9th, 2003”. It was also decided to discuss the point “Postgraduate accreditation” as the last point on the agenda.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2002 “Forum Meeting” were read by the EOS Secretary.

Wolfgang Schmiedel commented upon point 6. It is said that the conditions in Germany are in contrary to the EU policy. The statement is wrong. Unfortunately the EU Directives from 1978 allow the training authorities of the University faculties or Health Centers approved by the relevant authorities to train Orthodontic Specialists.

The minutes were then agreed as a correct record of last meeting.

3. Cooperation between the EOS, EFOSA and FEO

EOS Secretary, Luc Dermaut reported that the three organizations had met in London in February 2003 in connection with the EOS Council Meeting. They had agreed upon a common responsibility for the “Forum” and accepted to vary the chairing of the meeting.

When the cooperation between EOS and EFOSA started in 1997 tasks and responsibilities of the two organizations were listed in 1997. A similar clarifying of the role of FEO will be done.

4. Report from the EFOSA General Assembly Meeting, June 9th, 2003

The EFOSA President Wolfgang Schmiedel gave a short review of yesterday's meeting of the EFOSA General Assembly.

- All member countries except Ireland were present
- Austria has got a new Minister of Health which maybe can help in getting Orthodontics as a recognized specialty.
- An article about "European Orthodontic Specialists in 2002" will be published in the European Journal of Orthodontics in a near future
- Some changes in the EFOSA Constitution and Bylaws have been done
- The EFOSA web-site has undergone a facelift and all reports from meetings since the start 1977 are available at www.efosa.org
- The Czech Orthodontic Society" has been elected as Affiliate Member. EFOSA has now 20 member countries. EU has decided upon 10 new countries mainly from Eastern Europe. It will be a great challenge to incorporate these countries into the EFOSA organisation.
- Belgium will probably apply for active membership 2004. A new common organization called "Belgium Union of Registered Orthodontics (BURO) will be established.
- Portugal will form "A group of orthodontic specialists" inside their organization and accordingly qualify for Active Membership, maybe next year, 2004.
- A subcommittee on "Ethics" has provided a written report on ethical rules in the professional contacts. The member organizations will now discuss this and report back to the EFOSA.
- Three more subcommittees have been installed. "Training programs and examination", "Quality Control and development" and "Insurance programs in different countries"
- Spain will be Provisional Member for another two year until the specialty will be officially recognized.
- Luxembourg and Austria are also Provisional Members

Wolfgang Schmiedel commented that the Dental Associations in the countries that don't recognize Orthodontics don't want to see Orthodontics as a specialty. He also told about the conditions in his home town, Berlin where today about 30 % of orthodontics is carried out by general practitioners.

Frazer McDonald, England, commented that it is normal that dentists practice what they are trained for.

Stefan Affolter, Switzerland informed about German professors giving courses in Orthodontics for general practitioners

Johanna Kotilainen, Finland reported that in Finland GP:s carry out Orthodontics under supervision of orthodontic specialists.

Milan Kaminek, Czech Republic, commented that it is difficult to get money for specialist training. In the Czech Republic and Norway only specialists can get refunded payment from authorities.

Allan Thom, England, claimed that undergraduates are not well trained.

Odile Hutereau, Luxembourg, advised to ask the patients. Probably the patients wants to be treated by a registered specialist.

5. Postgraduate accreditation

EOS Secretary, Luc Dermaut, referred to the decision last year that the Presidents of the EFOSA, EOS and FEO should arrange a meeting and draw up a document in this issue which could be discussed of the “Forum” this year. This has not been done yet.

Postgraduate accreditation is a sensitive and difficult topic and has been on the agenda for some years at the “Forum” meetings.

Athanasios Athanasio, Greece commented that training according to the “Erasmus program” is a minimum. He also informed about “Eurodent” which aim it is to reach a minimum standard of dental training.

Afonso Pinhao Ferreira, Portugal, reported from Portugal with six faculties and two training centers in Orthodontics. The accreditation/official approval/certification is important also for internal control.

Olivier Mauchamp, France, commented that the European Board of Orthodontics (EBO), the French Board and the Italian Board are important tools for quality control in Europe. This was agreed by the participants.

6. Any other business

Luc Dermaut asked for topics to be discussed at future meetings. The next “Forum” meeting will be announced in the EOS Newsletter.

There was a formal invitation to the FEO President, Allan Thom, to join the responsibilities of the “Forum of National Orthodontic Societies”.

The minutes from the “Forum Meeting” will be published on the EOS and the EFOSA web-sites respectively.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The the next “Forum Meeting” is scheduled to be held in Aarhus, Denmark Monday, June 7th, 2004.

The EOS President, Milan Kaminek thanked everybody for coming and for the contributions to the meeting.

The EFOSA President, Wolfgang Schmiedel wished Milan Kaminek a successful Congress