



EFOSA

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ORTHODONTIC SPECIALISTS ASSOCIATIONS
FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE SPECIALISTES EN ORTHODONTIE

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EFOSA Semi-Annual Report 2004

Dear Presidents, dear members of the EFOSA,

First of all, I wish you all a happy new year! May all your hopes and dreams come true! May our federation grow and flourish, and may our joint efforts bear fruit for the benefit of all our colleagues and patients!

In the same manner as last year, I am presenting to you today the semi-annual report on the activities of the EFOSA since our General Assembly Meeting in Prague last June. While the report given in Prague included plenty of good news about the work of the EFOSA, we took back from that gathering an equal number of decisive tasks facing us in the future. The year 2004 will bring important changes in Europe, such as the accession of ten new countries which will join the European Union by the middle of the year. The EFOSA will be called upon to assist the orthodontic associations of these countries in their integration into Europe and into the EFOSA.

I will return to this issue later.

First of all, let me summarise the topics discussed and the decisions taken by the last EFOSA Council Meeting in Paris:

In November 2003, the EFOSA Council met in Paris. This meeting was attended by the President, Dr. Wolfgang Schmiedel, Germany, the Vice President, Professor Francesca Miotti, Italy, the Secretary, Lars Medin, Sweden, the Treasurer, Dr. Claude Bourdillat-Mikol, France, the Chairman of the EFOSA Nomination Committee, Professor Frans van der Linden, Holland, and the founder of the EFOSA, Professor Charles Bolender, France.

The minutes of the last Council Meeting and the most recent EFOSA General Assembly Meeting, both of which were held on 9 June 2002 in Prague, Czech Republic, were approved unanimously.

In this context, it was decided that all future minutes of the General Assembly Meetings be published on the EFOSA Website within two months, so that every delegate will have the

opportunity to read and check them in good time. The vote on the minutes will then be taken, as usual, at the next General Assembly Meeting.

New members of the EFOSA:

Regrettably, the Belgian situation has remained more or less unchanged. You are all familiar with the problem of different orthodontic specialists' associations in that country. The EFOSA hopes that a Belgian "umbrella organization" can be created in the near future, which will then be in a position to apply for EFOSA membership. Frans van der Linden has been assigned the task to review the situation in Belgium once again and to offer assistance should the need arise.

In the meantime he has found out that hopefully in September 2004 a new society will be founded that meets the EFOSA requirements.

On the other hand, it is welcome news that Portugal has now fulfilled all requirements such as the official recognition of orthodontics and an official register of orthodontists. Portugal will apply for active membership at the General Assembly Meeting 2004, and its application will then be decided upon by our members.

The orthodontic society of Serbia / Montenegro, which provided me with an opportunity to give a presentation on the work and tasks of the EFOSA during a congress, has applied to join the EFOSA as an affiliate member. This application, too, will be decided upon in June 2004.

The Israeli orthodontic society has elected a new president, Dr. Nir Shpack, Tel Aviv, who has again asked for his organisation to be accepted as a member of the EFOSA. The Council, however, was obliged to reject his request because Israel is not a member of the EU. Nevertheless, Israel will be invited, as in the past, to attend the upcoming General Assembly Meeting as an observer.

As you will recall, the last EFOSA Meeting in Prague decided to send letters to the persons responsible in Spain and Luxemburg and to demand official recognition, so that these countries do not lose their provisional, temporary EFOSA membership. These letters by the EFOSA are available on our website www.efosa.org, under the section "Correspondence". At the upcoming General Assembly Meeting, I will report on the replies and reactions to these letters.

By the end of this month, the EFOSA will address separate letters to those EU accession countries of Eastern Europe that are not represented in the EFOSA yet (Malta, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia), and will invite them to actively participate in the work of the EFOSA. These letters will include a questionnaire as well as the EFOSA Constitution and Bylaws. One of our main tasks in the coming years will be to provide these countries with all conceivable support in their struggle for the official recognition of orthodontics and for the establishment of a register.

In this context, it would be extremely helpful and is indeed essential that all current members finally submit, as agreed upon last year, their country reports to the EFOSA, so that all present and future members can get some idea about the situation of orthodontics in the various countries. Regrettably, only a few EFOSA members have complied so far; the reports of those countries are also available on our website under the section "Country Reports".

The work groups of the EFOSA created at the last Meeting in Prague have taken up their work. The work group "Orthodontic Training Programmes" has drafted a questionnaire which will shortly be sent to you.

It is extremely important for the future work of the EFOSA that these questionnaires be completed and returned to the EFOSA as quickly as possible, so that they can be analyzed and the results published in the Annual Report of April 2004. The same applies to the "Quality Working Group". The work group "European Health Insurances" will submit a written preliminary report by April 2004.

The work group "Ethics in Orthodontics" depends on the views of the different EFOSA members on this issue. I call upon you once again to submit your written remarks on the various alternatives discussed in Prague.

Regrettably, only a few members have made their opinions on this complex subject matter known to the EFOSA, which urgently requires such varying statements in order to compose a final draft which can then be decided upon in June 2004. The work group "Ethics" will also submit a written preliminary report by April 2004.

Collaboration between the EFOSA, the EOS and the FEO is to be further intensified. On 5 February, I will meet in London with Luc Dermaut, General Secretary of the EOS, and with Allan Thom, President of the FEO. At this meeting, we plan to define and decide upon the areas of responsibility covered by our three organisations. From 2004 on, the so-called "Forum-Meeting" will be jointly organised by all three organisations within the framework of the EOS congress.

As you know, three official representatives of the EFOSA – Charles Bolender, Claude Bourdillat and myself – are actively involved in the preparation of the WFO congress scheduled for September 2005 in Paris. In June, I will give an extensive report on its proposed agenda. I call upon you to attend this important world congress of orthodontists in large numbers and to organise your appointment diaries accordingly.

Our website, www.efosa.org, which is constantly updated, contains a lot of useful information and important documents which you may access at any time. A password has not been necessary so far, however, we do consider limiting access to certain sensitive areas to members only. This is yet another issue which will be discussed and decided upon at the upcoming General Assembly Meeting. Please direct the attention of your local colleagues to the EFOSA website!

Dear Presidents, dear members,

For the first time, our next General Assembly Meeting will take place on a Sunday and not, as usual, on a Monday, because this year the EOS congress will start earlier than in the years before. We will convene on Sunday, 6 June 2004, in Aarhus, Denmark. As usual, the Meeting will begin at 3 pm. and close at about 7 pm. The invitation and the documents for the General Assembly Meeting will be sent to you in good time, that is by the first week of May. You are kindly requested to send me any proposals you might have on the agenda.

The Meeting will be followed by our popular "Get Together", which will provide an opportunity for delegates to deepen their mutual contacts through personal discussions. Lars Medin and I have begun to prepare our General Assembly Meeting. If you have already decided on the two delegates to represent your country at this meeting, please let me know their names immediately. This would be of great assistance to the work of Lars and myself.

As you know, in accordance with our Constitution, I will have to resign my office after eight years of uninterrupted activity in the EFOSA Council, so that we will have to elect a new president in Aarhus, whom I would like to assure of my total support in advance. I would also like to use this occasion to extend my warmest thanks to all those who have accompanied me through all these years, who supported me with help and advice, with praise and criticism.

May the progress of the EFOSA continue, may it master the numerous challenges of the future and may EFOSA become and remain the most important partner for all matters of orthodontics in Europe!

I hope you have gained some insight into the activities of the EFOSA from this brief outline. Together with the other members of the EFOSA Council, I look forward to seeing you next June in Aarhus!

Dr. Wolfgang Schmiedel
President

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