European Committee for Homeopathy

Meeting	**General Assembly**		
Venue	**Hotel Mitland, Utrecht, The Netherlands**		
Date	19 November 2022	**Time**	10.00 – 13.00 CET
Attendees	61 members registered to attend in person 26 members registered to attend online 17 out of 23 Member Associations were represented, making the meeting quorate (50%) for ordinary decisions and also quorate (66.7%) for decisions regarding changes to statutes.	**Apologies**	n/a

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

1	*10.10*	*Opening of the GA*	*Cristal Skaling-Klopstock*
		Items 7, 8 and 12 of the Agenda will be omitted.	

2	*10.15*	*Approval of Minutes of Extraordinary GA, Nov 2021*	*Ileana Rîndasu*
Summary		The Minutes were approved	
Vote		yes - 153, no - 0, abstentions - 0; 100%	

3	*10.20*	*President's Report 2021-2022*	*Jean Pierre Jansen*
Summary		**1 Where is homeopathy?** Under pressure concerning climate change, environmental issues, diversity etc, society is shifting towards more holistic concepts such as One Health and Integrative Medicine, which are already important in homeopathic thinking. Recent laboratory research demonstrates unequivocally that the argument, *there's nothing in it,* can no longer be stated and the next phase must be to study how the globule affects the organism. Clinical research is largely positive and ECH intends to support increased case collection. Non-western countries are actively planning healthcare policies around natural methods, and ECH can represent this trend in Europe, with particular reference to AMR, pain, allergies, and longevity.	

	2 Where is ECH? Despite our efforts there is still much criticism of homeopathy in Europe and we must address this. There is an increased vitality within ECH but only a small fraction of all our members' skills and expertise is used for our advantage. Our internal organisation is not robust enough to take our plans forward and we must hire external expertise to cover the gaps. We will increase our efficiency over the next two years, developing structures and intensifying collaboration with other stakeholders. **3 Important actions in 2022:** • CEN extended with ISO normalisation projects • publication of ECH European Guidelines for the Training of Homeopathic Pharmacists and the ECH European Diploma in Homeopathic Pharmacy, v 2 • beginning of our 7-strand strategic programme • increase in internal robustness and professionalism • increased collaboration with LMHI, HRI, GIRI, IJHDR • collaborative reactions to suppression of positive publications about homeopathy • increase in social media presence and extension of audience to new groups • online agrohomeopathy symposium, with over 200 registrations • Eurocam – involvement, led by Joan Vidal, in MEP's IM group • WHO Europe – representation at Tel Aviv conference **4 Support staff:** • Richard Burt: computer security – back-up, anti-virus, password management • Martin Pepeldzhiyski: website support and maintenance • Astrid Dedrie and Fien Christaens, Medicongress: secretariat • Rebecca De Beukelaer: social media, newsletter production, website input. Rebecca introduced herself and presented the latest social media statistics to the members (see Appendix 1). All were pleased to hear of the increased interest generated. Rebecca explained she would be interviewing some members during the weekend. • Miranda Ruchtie: Project Manager. Miranda then introduced herself and spoke of her background working with Eurocam and with MEP Interest Groups and in setting up social media. **5. Council work:** Four experienced members stepped down in 2020 and 2021 and it has been a steep learning curve for the new Council. All have worked together to support each other and develop the strategies. As President, Jean Pierre has dealt with more that 4,000 emails, 400 zoom meetings, and between 800-1,000 hours of work collecting information, thinking, and formulating plans. He thanked everyone for their collaboration, which had brought the Council closer together. **6 Professionalisation of ECH in 2023:** To support the strategic programme, we seek Council candidates with secretarial and financial expertise to give ECH a stronger base. We will hire personnel where there are gaps in our own abilities/time availability. ECH Academy can help with appropriate training, eg political lobbying, systems thinking, skills gaps, etc. We are professionals – ECH will be more efficient when that is carried over into the way we operate as an organisation to promote homeopathy. **With thanks to all in ECH – in the past, present and future.**

4	*10.40*	*Financial Statements*	*Tiziana Di Giampietro*
Summary		See Appendix 2. Cristal Skaling-Klopstock then presented the draft budget, put forward for the members' vote.	
Vote		yes - 153, no - 0, abstentions - 0; 100%	

4	*10.55*	*(a) Presentation of Council members, previously elected online* *(b) Retiral of Ilse Muchitsch* *(c) Thanks to Hetty Buitelaar*	*Jean Pierre Jansen*
Summary		(a) Ileana Rîndasu (General Secretary), Natalia Tzima (Vice-President), Edward De Beukelaer, Joan Vidal and Susann Buchheim introduced themselves to members. (b) Ilse Muchistsch was thanked for her work as Coordinator of SC Pharmacy and a small presentation was made. (c) As Hetty Buitelaar was also present, there was an opportunity to thank her warmly for her past service as Vice-President and Coordinator of SC Politics.	

5	*11.05*	*Re-election of Tiziana Di Giampietro, Coordinator SC Research*	*Jean Pierre Jansen*
Vote		yes - 140, no - 0; abstentions - 13; 92%	

6	*11.10*	*Election of Susann Buchheim, Coordinator SC Pharmacy*	*Jean Pierre Jansen*
Vote		yes - 148, no - 0, abstentions - 5; 97%	

COFFEE BREAK – 30 minutes

7	*11.45*	*Adoption of ECH Strategy*	*Jean Pierre Jansen*
Summary		Members were asked to commit to the 7-strand strategic programme and to accept a preliminary budget for this of €30,000 for the first year.	
Vote		yes - 153, no - 0, abstentions – 0; 100%	

8	*11.55*	*Change of Statutes:* *1 Temporary mandate for President to act on behalf of ECH at bank*	*Jean Pierre Jansen*
Summary		It has proved impossible to access the bank accounts; restrictions imposed by rules to prevent criminal activities such as money-laundering require 2 mandated people to be identified in person at the bank. Therefore, there has to be a change in the statutes to allow the President a temporary mandate to appoint a second person, Mrs M Ruchtie. This must be published in the Belgian Gazette and the bank will then accept the change of personnel and we will finally be able to access our accounts. This requires a two-thirds majority of the GA and is a one-time only temporary mandate to gain access to the accounts. During the discussion and before the voting the President answered concerns expressed by Belgian colleagues and further clarified certain points regarding the change of Statutes.	
Vote		yes - 129, no - 24, abstentions - 0; 84%	

9	*12.05*	*Change of Statutes:* *2 ECH move to The Netherlands*	*Jean Pierre Jansen*
Summary		Jean Pierre had taken advice on keeping the bank accounts in a Belgian bank. He stressed ECH's respect for, and gratitude to, the Belgian founders of ECH and to Unio Homeopathica Belgica. The difficulty, which is specific to Belgium, is the strict demand for new appointees to present themselves in person at the bank. For a move to The Netherlands, the statutes must be translated into Dutch. A Dutch notary has begun to do this, keeping the contents identical to the Belgian statutes while adopting Dutch legal terminology. Appropriate corrections continue to be made – this is not yet the final version. The only change is to allow the GA to reconvene to vote online. The statute changes will be presented for approval once they have been finalised. The statutes can then be presented to the Dutch Chamber of Commerce and bank accounts opened. The statute regarding length of Council members' appointments has not changed. ('Election' and 'appointment' have the same meaning in Dutch.) The current vote is only to move the ECH seat to The Netherlands. This does not mean that ECH will move every time there is a new President; the move is simply to facilitate international banking access and also allows cost-effective flexibility for any future changes. Jean Pierre Jensen stressed that the information required by Belfius bank had been published in the Belgian Gazette and the bank had acknowledged his Presidency.	
Vote		yes - 129, no - 12, abstentions - 12; 84%	

BREAK FOR VOTE COUNTING – 15 minutes

10	*12.45*	*Close of meeting*	*Cristal Skaling-Klopstock*
Summary		The votes having been counted, General Secretary Ileana Rîndasu announced the results and the meeting closed.	

Appendix 1 – Rebecca De Beukelaer, Social Media Report

My role:
1) Manage the social media pages & create post and content for them
2) Deliver the monthly newsletter monthly (which Margaret creates)
3) involved in the input of the new ECH website

Joined in January this year

Background is in business operations and marketing

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I'm helping to achieve ECH's goal which is:
"To achieve full integration of homeopathy in the EU"

Our target audience is:
1) Health professionals of all disciplines and sectors
2) Students interested in a career in healthcare
3) Policy influencers

By working with the strategy & comms group I am working to achieve the following:

** Social media: **
1) Create a clearer brand and be consistent in our message
2) Post relevant content to our audience
3) Experiment with different types of content (such as videos / articles / blogs / scientific papers/ podcasts) to see what our audience finds most engaging.
3) Create reports monthly and analyse what worked and what didn't over the month, and suggest how to improve and grow the socials moving forward

Newsletter
1) To create a newsletter which is engaging to our members

Website
1) Working on creating a better & clearer website with a purpose, for our members as well as our target audience

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Numbers from our socials since January:

- Facebook: 6,400 followers (over 1k new since Jan)
- Twitter: 4,461 followers (over 1k new since Jan)
- LinkedIn: 850 followers (357 new since Jan)
- Instagram: 408 followers (175 since Jan)

If you haven't joined our social media, please do so!

Fun social media numbers:

Since January, we've reached people on social media over 146,000 times

And we've had over 9,000 likes, comments and shares

Appendix 2 – Tiziana Di Giampietro, Treasurer's Report

Arlette was not with us at the GA in 2021 so we are delighted to see her here today and we should begin by thanking her for her sterling work as ECH Treasurer for so many years. It is not an easy task.

We have not yet been able to access the bank accounts and can only work from the monthly statements for the current account that MediCongress forward to us. We apologise that this report is not as detailed as it should be, and the very basic draft budget is a work in progress. We do know the organisations that have paid membership fees this year.

We are pleased to report 23 Full Member Associations and 9 Associate Member organisations have paid their fees. This is higher than it has been since 2018. It is encouraging to see even a small increase in membership, and we very much hope this will continue.

However, many organisations were slow to pay, and it took many reminders – and much unnecessary time and expense – to follow this up. Next year, we plan to introduce a better system which should ensure all members pay in good time, and not waste valuable resources.

11 Full Member Associations have not responded to requests for payment.

The draft budget reflects our estimated income and expenditure for the year. Without access to our accounts, it will not be as robust an estimation as we would like. As you can see it is a budget with a loss for the year. However, from the balance sheet we can see that we have over €350k in our deposit account and current account to fund the anticipated loss and at this time next year will still have nearly €350k. More importantly, these reserves can fund additional activities that are prioritised and critical to our members and homeopathy in Europe over the coming years.

Currently, it is not possible to cover our basic costs from membership fees alone. We will also look carefully at our regular standing costs and seek to optimise these where possible. It may mean in the coming few years that the ECH will have small deficit budgets as is the case this year but in the longer term will be required to be balanced or profitable.

It is hoped that the account access problems will be resolved by early in the New Year and then we will have a much better idea of where we stand financially. We have an ambitious programme and the potential to develop ECH as a strong voice for homeopathy in Europe. Let's make sure we can do that.

ECH BALANCE SHEET

	Actual Nov 2022 €	Estimated Nov 2023 €
Assets		
Investments (as at Nov 2020)	87,933	87,933
Deposit Account (as at Nov 2020)	130,278	130,278
Current Account	1,621,655	143,309
Total assets	**379,886**	**361,520**
Current Liabilities		
Provisions (6 months' contracted fees year forward)	23,686	23,686
Total liabilities	**23,686**	**23,686**
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	**356,180**	**337,834**

ECH DRAFT BUDGET 2023

	€
Income	
Full Member fees	65,000
Associate Member fees	3,350
Diplomas/Accreditation	440
Investment dividend	252
Total Income	**69,042**
Expenditure	
Subscriptions: EuroCAM	5,420
Meeting expenses	20,000
Council/SC expenses	10,000
Donation: GIRI – IJHDR	500
IT support/website	5,472
Social media/Newsletter	8,400
MediCongress	6,000
Administrative assistant	27,500
Bank charges	96
Accountant	4,000
Total Expenditure	**87,388**
Profit/Loss for year	**– 18,346**