European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL

Meeting name	**Council, by Zoom**		
Date	13 October 2022	**Time**	18.30 -20.30 CET
Attendees	Jean Pierre Jansen (JPJ) Natalia Tzima (NT) Ileana Rîndașu (IR) Tiziana Di Giampietro (TDG) Edward De Beukelaer (EB) Susann Buchheim (SB) Ilse Muchitsch (IM) Dora Pachova (DP) Cristal Skaling-Klopstock (CSK) Joan Vidal (JV) Margaret Wyllie (MW)	**Absent**	Neli Olah
Minutes	Margaret Wyllie	**Moderator**	Cristal Skaling-Klopstock
Next meeting	**18 November 2022, 12.00-14.00 CET, Utrecht**	**Version**	

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

1	*18.34*	*Welcome and Amendments to Agenda*	*Cristal*
Add Strategic Plan, an Accreditation point and ISO (briefly) under AOB.			

2	*18.36*	*Approval of Minutes of 08.09.22*	*Cristal*
Discussion summary		The Minutes were approved.	

3/4/5	*18.37*	*Statute changes – Presidents' feedback*	*Natalia*
Discussion summary		**1 Moving ECH address to the Netherlands:** only two had responded to this point – the Belgian representative did not want any change; Austria and Germany had suggested moving to any (non-specified) to European country, providing there was always a Council member from that country. **2. Having the capability for a non-doctor as General Secretary and Treasurer: ,** this was more controversial – written responses indicated that Slovenia and SNMHF (France) felt all Council members should be MDs; and the reply from SSH (France) was not clear. (However, the French organisations had not yet paid their membership fees and were not entitled to vote at present.) Some organisations had replied verbally and the 3 Greek groups did not approve and NT thought the 2 Spanish organisations would not agree (only 1 of these latter 5 had currently paid their fees.) She also thought that SIOMI and FIAMO (Italy) were against and they also wanted each Council member to have only one role. Of the remaining associations, written replies were received from AVIG (Netherlands) who only required that 2 of the Board be MDs; ÄKH (Austria) and DZVhÄ (Germany) approved (though in another communication they had commented that member associations should be MDs, vets, dentists and pharmacists); verbal approval was expressed by Czech and Poland, and at the meeting by Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and the UK. Much of the above were NT's assumptions, based previous interactions and contributions of these groups in SC Politics, and she will provide a written summary for Council. **3. Pre GA Presidents' meeting:** only Slovenia and France had replied and stated it was not important to discuss such points before the General Assembly. This feedback was followed by a full and frank discussion, particularly regarding 2 above. NT felt that, if the proposal was explained clearly, the Greek organisations would also approve. However, she also felt it was important to be attuned to all our members to function well, that this required more discussion with the Presidents, who had no experience of Council, and should not therefore be on the table until perhaps 2 years hence. JPJ pointed out that ECH had been in a deep crisis and much work is being done to move the organisation to a better place. For the roles of General Secretary and Treasurer being a doctor is not relevant; what is important is organisational skills. If the proposal is not supported, this will block ECH's potential to act efficiently and manage ECH as we develop ideas and move forward and, additionally, some people will step down. He added that it was important that we move out of Belgium and this had been endorsed by a retired banker who worked with other European CAM and homeopathy organisations (see 5 below for continuation of this discussion). His view about point 2 was endorsed by several of those present who stressed that, as long as the President and Vice-President were MDs, the	

	other two roles should be filled by people who possessed the necessary skills. It has previously proved extremely difficult to find people able or willing to take on any of the positions, or even to stand for Council. It was suggested that, as we become a more professional organisation, we should employ more professional management outside the Council and do not need these particular skills within it. Council should be representative of the organisation. However, this is not possible without a substantial increase in the number of associations paying their fees. A strategy meeting had been arranged with JPJ and the Presidents for 5 November and he will also then be able to explain more fully the work being undertaken and the skills required to carry it out. He reminded Council members that a two-thirds majority is required to change the statutes.
Conclusions	1 Likely to be approved. 2 Not likely to be approved, in NT's view.

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Summarise views for point 2	NT	asap
Explain rationale behind proposal to Presidents	JPJ	5 Nov

Natalia became ill and left the meeting.

	19.00	*Strategy Plans*	*Cristal*
Discussion summary	CSK offered to add the extra information and clean up the document. JPJ explained that the main part of the document concerns the items to be voted on, ie the direction of the strategy and the budget required. This part is ready. Further details of each WG do not require a vote and therefore do not need to be distributed by the regulatory 6 weeks ahead of the GA. MW has edited the first part and CSK will fold in the recently submitted WG information and updated budget. DP suggested sending a shorter version, ie the introduction and budget which contain the key points to be voted on, and inform members that more details will follow.		
Conclusions	Future deadlines should be alerted in email subject lines. The introduction and budget will be sent out on Mon 17 Oct, with further details to follow.		

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Put deadlines in email subject lines	All	From now on
Edit voting sections of strategy document.	CSK	Sat 15 Oct
Send strategy doc to members	IR	Mon 17 Oct

Edit rest of document	CSK	When time permits

	19.30	*BREAK*	

6	*19.42*	*Temporary Administrative Assistant*	*Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary	JPJ proposed that Angelique den Broek (his wife's daughter), a skilled administrator, could be temporarily contracted to clean up the ECH database, at a rate of €35 per hour. This work would be managed by MW. There is probably a maximum of 100 hours' work and she can begin at the end of November and continue perhaps until April. MW had begun the work and will liaise with her.		
Conclusions	All agreed and the proposal was accepted.		
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Liaise with Angelique about the database		MW	From end Nov.

5 (cont)	*19.48*	*Move ECH Address to Netherlands*	*Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary	JPJ requested approval from the Council to move to the Netherlands., as there will be some costs involved. ECH can have an address and use a notary in the same building in Amsterdam as the Dutch patient's association (KVHN). The Belgian statutes can easily be converted to comply with Dutch legal requirements. Once the new statutes have been accepted by the Presidents, we should have a short online GA in February and can then open a new bank account within 2-3 weeks.		
Conclusions	All approved.		

7	*19.50*	*Adoption of Accreditation Documents*	*Susanne / Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary	JPJ explained all was satisfactory, barring some small spelling corrections required. SB said all involved were now satisfied with the Accreditation documents and proposed their official adoption. All approved. Christian Thoma had sought accreditation for his school and asked how long this would take. He had earlier been advised to resubmit his application when the documents had been approved. Accreditation will normally be granted within 6 weeks of an application being received. A further question concerned the question on the application regarding the meaning of 'Legal Status of the School'. DP explained that this was simply a requirement for basic information about the School's official registration in their country.		
Conclusions	Accreditation documents adopted.		

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Correct documents uploaded to website	MW	asap
Astrid to be instructed about the Legal Status requirement.	DP	asap

Joan left the meeting.

8	*20.00*	*ISO in AYUSH*	*Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary		India, through AYUSH (which includes homeopathy), is developing a long-term project to export their national medical message as a global model. An institute has been established to set the benchmark standards for complementary medicine, and other initiatives are also planned and coordinated. How should ECH position itself in this process? We do not have all the information so 3 steps are planned: 1 National ISO institutions are involved but homeopathy is a very small part of the process and many of our member associations were not given information or invited to comment. (The deadline for comments is 9 November). JPJ and IR will write requesting members to contact their local institution about this and also ask for the name of a contact person. In most countries the ISO institutions involve the same people as for CEN. 2 This must be coordinated with LMHI. Once JPJ has prepared a summary of today's ISO meeting, he will contact LMHI to arrange a meeting before the end of October. 3 AYUSH can then be asked to involve ECH and LMHI in the process. References and information have been collected which should be added to the existing paper, eg all the pharmacopoeias and CEN are not currently listed. In addition, the ISO definition of homeopathy needs to be changed. ECH's aim, in collaboration with LMHI, to maintain the quality standards already defined in the EU, thereby protecting the quality of homeopathic practice. We hope to build a stable relationship with the national contact people and with AYUSH. CSK added that the UK homeopathic sector would be responding there were concerns about how people access homeopathy. Through ECHAMP, she knew that Ton Nicolai intended to speak to his Indian contact. IM will email Council, summarising the definitions, links and her viewpoint. DP asked for a copy of the UK's response as it could be used as a model by other countries. CSK will share the results of the forthcoming UK meeting.	
Conclusions			

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Send letter to member associations	JPJ / IR	asap
Share results of UK meeting	CSK	By 21 Oct.
Arrange meeting with LMHI	JP	asap

9	*20.10*	*Capra: Systems View*	*Dora*
Discussion summary	(TDG would like to include Capra, or a similar expert, in her Terms and Concepts WG, but DP knew he personally would not be able to do this. TDG had received a lot of interest in the Clinical Registry WG and expects this will stimulate interest in ECH.) Capra organises 2 courses, an introductory one based on his book and another based on the systems view for governing organisations, and which also includes the basic course. The organisation of ECH should be in harmony with the philosophy of homeopathy which is, as termed by Capra, a systems view of life. It might therefore be useful for at least some members to undertake this course; it runs for 5 consecutive weeks and costs €15,000 for 12 attendees, plus a further €1,000 for extra people. As this is expensive, we could invite people from HRI, GIRI, LMHI, WissHom to join in order to spread the cost. The systems view could serve as an ideological approach to homeopathy and one of the best candidates for a theoretical basis to harmonise homeopathy with the theory of medicine, climate change activities, diversity proponents etc and help to embed homeopathy in a much larger space in the world. Organisationally it would help us to improve our focus on our strategies and facilitate others to make use of these. Students are stimulated to criticise and ask questions about anything and everything; Capra has done this in many educational contexts, and believes it would work well for health literacy, and the systems view of life would enable our audience to better understand homeopathy. He stated that homeopathy is one of the few systemic sciences. This would be especially useful for members of the Terms and Concepts, ECH Academy and Integrative Medicine WGS.		
Conclusions	Members to read and consider JPJ's document.		

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Contact HRI, LMHI, GIRI and WissHom	JPJ, DP, JPJ, EDB respectively	Asap
Send Capra's LMHI presentation to Council	JPJ	Asap
Members respond to document	All	21 Oct.

12	*20.29*	*Meeting close*	*Cristal*