# European Committee for Homeopathy

## MEETING MINUTES

## COUNCIL

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| **Meeting name** | **Council** | | |
| **Date** | 14 September 2023 | **Time** | 18.30 – 20.30 CET |
| **Attendees** | Jean Pierre Jansen (JPJ)<br>Natalia Tzima (NT)<br>Ileana Rîndașu (IR)<br>Tiziana Di Giampietro (TDG)<br>Susann Buchheim (SB)<br>Dora Pachova (DP)<br>Cristal Skaling-Klopstock (CSK)<br>Margaret Wyllie (MW)<br>Edward De Beukelaer (EB)<br>Joan Vidal (JV) | **Apologies** | Neli Oleh (NO) |
| **Minutes** | Miranda Ruchtie | **Moderator** | Cristal Skaling-Klopstock |
| **Next meeting** | 15 October 2023 | **Venue** | Vienna |

## DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

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| **1** | *18:30* | *Welcome, amendments to the Agenda* | *Cristal* |
| **Discussion summary** | - Before the meeting, it was announced that Jaume Costa is willing to be IR's successor as General-Secretary.<br>- Education text must be adjusted and provided with the ECH logo before October.<br>- To complete the necessary documents for Belfius Bank, GA minutes confirming the election of some members of the Council are required.<br>It is proposed that the following be nominated at the GA: IR as coordinator SC AgroHomeopathy DH & MW as joint coordinators of SC Documentation and TDG and JV as joint coordinators of SC Research. Jaume Costa will be nominated as a member of the Council and appointed as G-S during the Council meeting.<br>Extra Item in the AOB:<br>- EPHA | | |
| **Conclusions** | All agreed to the proposed nominations and to have them all on the Council. | | |
| **Action items** | | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |

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| Editing the education text | DP/JPJ | 01/10 |
| Preparing the nominations list | JPJ | |
| Voting on the election list during the GA on 15 October. | JPJ | |

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| **2** | *18:35* | *Approval of previous Minutes* | *Cristal* |
| **Discussion summary** | | Item 5. The second paragraph must be '2013' instead of '2020'. Minutes approved after correction. | |

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| **3** | *18:40* | *Finance – papers tabled* | *Margaret* |
| **Discussion summary** | The financial report for the GA is almost complete, including the budget and final account statements. An interesting fact is that ECH has the same number of associations, but their memberships have halved since 2013, so our income has subsequently halved. In 2013, it was over € 100,000 per year, and now it's just over € 50,000 per year.<br>It was asked if all invoices had been sent. MW will check.<br>At the Presidents meeting, there will be a request for ideas on how to increase our income, e.g. an increase in the membership fee will not be proposed. | | |
| **Conclusions** | It is suggested that an administration fee should be added to the invoice if payment is not received by a certain date. | | |
| **Action items** | | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
| Check if all the invoices have been sent to the members (and paid) | | MW | ASAP |

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| **4** | *18:50* | *Belfius Bank -update* | *Jean Pierre* |
| **Discussion summary** | JPJ has sent a timeline of all communications with Belfius to the lawyer in Brussels. The first step will be an official legal letter to the bank requesting access to our accounts. If this isn't possible, they will be asked what is expected of us to gain access to the funds held with Belfius. | | |
| **Conclusions** | If Belfius' response is unsatisfying, the second step will be to go to court, which involves costs. | | |
| **Action items** | | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
| JPJ will contact the lawyer about our chances. | | JPJ | asap |

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| **5** | *18:55* | *ECH Profile – papers tabled* | *Jean Pierre* |
| **Discussion summary** | Vision: the term' systems view of life' isn't commonly used. A more general text should be used.<br>It is suggested to use Integrative Medicine and One Health, but will most people understand this? It is mentioned that the wording of the latest definition of One Health can be used: https://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/article?id=10.1371/journal.ppat.1010537 Pubmed was used as a source for the current version of the document. However, many felt there should be no reference to external theories or thinking and keep it simple and focussed on homeopathy.<br>A short description of the stakeholders, including a link list, wassuggested, but for this type of document an extensive link list could be considered unnecessary.<br>The above information could be used in the objectives. | | |

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| | More reflection is needed, and all comments need to be considered. The document must be ready for Vienna. |
| **Conclusions** | An updated document, with the comments mentioned above, will be used for discussion in the Presidents meeting. Everyone is asked to add suggestions and comments in a shared document on Proton Drive (or similar) which MR will share. |

| **Action items** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
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| JPJ will revise the document and send it to NT and MR to add it to Proton Drive | JPJ | 15/09 |
| Add the document to Proton Drive (or similar) | MR | 15/09 |
| Add input to the document | All | 01/10 |

| **6** | 19:15 | *Regulation Commercial partners – papers tabled* | *Jean Pierre* |
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| **Discussion summary** | | A notary is asked to set up a second foundation, especially for funding. The tabled document will be used as a briefing for the notary.<br>Point 5 was explained: External functioning of ECH: external parties' contribution should not exceed 25% of our own to avoid becoming dependent on the funder.<br>Point 6: The word' external' projects will be added. | |
| **Conclusions** | | After adding the word 'external' at point 6, everybody agreed. The paper will be reviewed before being sent to the notary.<br>The notary will be asked to draft an English version, and after everyone agrees, a Dutch translation will be made. | |

| **Action items** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
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| Point 6: 'external' will be added, and the document will be sent to CK | JP | 25/9 |
| Reviewing the document before sending it to the notary | CSK | Once JP sends updated version |

| **7** | *19:40* | *Strategy ECH - WHO – papers tabled* | *Jean Pierre* |
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| **Discussion summary** | | The first draft of the strategy is presented. The main objective of this document is to provide a basic, consistent, and well-thought-out guideline for the future.<br>The draft will be presented at the upcoming Presidents' meeting.<br>Homeopathy is the only CAM modality without benchmarks. The sub-committee on research is asked to work on the strategy, including what constitutes and should constitute the evidence.<br>The round table, planned for Sunday, 15 October, will be used to discuss the WHO with members and hear their opinions. A good strategy is essential for getting more support. | |

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| | TEM (Homeopathy, Phyto, Anthroposophy, Springbaths, hypnosis, etc.) as a valuable European heritage is discussed.<br>Looking beyond the European zone and focusing on the different WHO regions is important.<br>The 3rd Homeopathy Vijnana Sammelan webinar on 24 September may be of interest. The link for registration https://www.townscript.com/e/HVS3 |
| **Conclusions** | The Research Committee, including EB, will work on the strategy and the 'evidence'' definition.<br>We are not promoters of WHO, but we want to connect with other Non-state actors. We need to be at WHO to stay in dialogue and to ensure homeopathy is well represented.<br>Everybody agreed that this paper would go on as a living document. It will be presented at the Presidents meeting and during the Autumn meeting in Vienna. |

| **Action items** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
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| The Research Committee, including EB, will work on the strategy and the 'evidence-based' definition | JV, TDG, EB | Vienna |
| At the meeting of the Presidents, this draft paper will be presented as a living document | JPJ, NT | 1/10 |

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| **8** | 20:00 | *Vienna: New proposal for a speaker on Saturday (instead of Prof Schubert) followed by a communication training – papers tabled* | *Jean Pierre* |
| **Discussion summary** | | It is agreed that Prof. Schubert will be invited to the Spring Meeting 2024 in Bergamo.<br>Baumgartner and Tournier received an email inviting one of them to speak about the Bern website (Avogadro project) at the Autumn meeting in Vienna. In case they are unavailable, they will be asked for permission to use the recording of Baumgartner's presentation during the HRI conference in London.<br>The purpose of Saturday morning is to present the first version of the Avogadro training and learn about the essential fundamental knowledge needed for external communications.<br>It may also be discussed how national members can approach their accreditation centres to request accreditation for allopathic doctors who have attended this course.<br>This project could start by asking the members for the criteria to be accredited nationally. All these criteria will be collected and worked through.<br>An intermediate step in the project is Identifying academic people who are in favour of homeopathy and setting up a-disciplinary platform with Baumgartner and Tournier.<br>Pharmacists can also be included in this project; SB is working with Baumgartner. | |
| **Conclusions** | | It is agreed that Prof. Schubert will be invited to the Spring meeting in Bergamo.<br>CSK agreed to moderate the work process session after the video presentation. The achievements of the ECH should be presented at the Presidents' meeting; more national | |

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| | feedback is needed.<br>An elevator pitch about the ECH Academy for spreading during different congresses will be created. |

| Action items | Person responsible | Deadline |
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| Presidents will be asked to contact academia to attend the ECH meetings. | all | 16/09 |
| Presidents will be asked to work closer on this topic | NT | 16/09 |
| An elevator pitch will be developed for the Rome Conference and other conferences and meetings. | DP | 16/09 |

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| **9** | 20:15 | *Vienna: Confirmation of the election of MW and DH as joint coordinators of SC Documentation - papers tabled* | *Jean Pierre* |
| **Discussion summary** | The development of this document is a result of the conclusion at the Spring Meeting 2023 in Mainz that an increase in fees and non-doctors as officers as members of the Council would not be acceptable. For this reason, members were invited to submit proposals for qualified candidates who could fulfil different positions in the Council and Working Committees. No candidates were proposed.<br>A round table conversation in Vienna will be organised on Sunday morning. This will be a non-statutory part of the GA. It's a free invitation to talk about how to overcome the challenges.<br>The proposed programme is as follows: start with a short introduction followed by inviting members to react.<br>CSK is asked to moderate this session.<br>Key lines about the topics are needed to make the round table successful. Suggested is to send a document with topics to registrants. First, it will be discussed in the upcoming presidents meeting, and after any adjustments are made, it will be sent.<br>For the plenary on Saturday afternoon, all coordinators will receive an email with several questions: What was the plan a year ago, what is accomplished or is on its way, what were the obstacles, and how have you changed the strategy based on this experience?<br>In total, there will be seven presentations with a limited time and have a presentation three PPT sheets. | | |
| **Conclusions** | Everyone agreed. | | |

| Action items | Person responsible | Deadline |
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| Discussing the document in the Presidents meeting | JPJ/NT | 16/9 |
| Email with questions about 'overcoming challenges' to all coordinators. | JPJ | 01/10 |

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| Every Working Group must provide a short presentation. | Coordinators | 01/10 |

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| **10** | | *AOB* | *all* |
| **Discussion summary** | | - **Speaker suggestion:** EB suggested inviting Elizabeth Thompson to Bergamo spring meeting to discuss experiences with homeopathy in an IM context. The Council decided is that it's too early to decide as the programme for Bergamo is not yet finalised. It also depends on whether Prof Schubert is available for that weekend. It will be too expensive to invite a speaker only for a sub-committee. Elizabeth can be told that we are very interested but that we will have to finalise the programme for the spring meeting after the autumn meeting in Vienna.<br>- **EPHA**: After an EPHA AMR meeting, the EUROCAM AMR Working Committee emailed EPHA's AMR Coordinator to arrange an appointment to explain the TCIM narrative. The email was forwarded to Milka Sokolović, Director General of EPHA. EUROCAM received a long, critical reply from her. EB will prepare a response to Milka Sokolović explaining our narrative.<br>- Jaume Costa will be attending the Capra course. | |
| **Conclusions** | | EB will prepare a reaction for Milka and send this to NT and JPJ. | |

| **Action items** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
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| Preparing a reaction to EPHA's mail. Before sending this, the draft will be sent to NT and JPJ | EB | 01/10 |
| Email Capra about JC's participation. | JPJ | 16/09 |

The meeting ended at 20:38 CET.