European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL

Meeting name	**Council, by Zoom**		
Date	12 January 2023	**Time**	16.30 -18.30 CET
Attendees	Jean Pierre Jansen (JPJ) Natalia Tzima (NT) Ileana Rîndașu (IR) Tiziana Di Giampietro (TDG) Edward De Beukelaer (EB) Susann Buchheim (SB) Dora Pachova (DP) Cristal Skaling-Klopstock (CSK) Joan Vidal (JV) Margaret Wyllie (MW)	**Absent**	Neli Olah (NO)
Minutes	Margaret Wyllie	**Moderator**	Cristal Skaling-Klopstock
Next meeting	**9 March 2023, 18.30-20.30 CET**	**Version**	

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DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

1	*16.33*	*Welcome, amendments to Agenda*	*Cristal*
Discussion summary		There were no amendments.	

2	*16.34*	*Approval of previous Minutes*	*Cristal*
Discussion summary		The Minutes of 18 and 20.11.22 were approved.	

3	*16.35*	*Short announcements and requests*	*Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary		1. General Assembly: the purpose of the online GA on 28 January is simply to approve the Dutch equivalence of the Belgian text; however, the French, Austrian and Slovenian national associations have repeated their opinion that only MDs should be ECH office-bearers. (The existing statutes allow Council to elect any Council member to these positions.) JPJ asked if some Council members could attend the GA – NT and IR offered to do so. It should be stressed that the current discussion concerns only the translated text, and further changes will be part of the ongoing long-term process of the review of the statutes. 2 Australia Report: it has been agreed that Amandine Oset, ECHAMP, will coordinate the general response, including ECH's homeopathic point of view. In order to ensure compliance with English charity law, HRI will respond separately. It is important not to reveal any planned response before the Report is published but all will follow generally similar lines. CSK has agreed to facilitate PR training in Mainz to enable people to interact with the media and to identify key messages, ahead of more specific points regarding the content of the Report. The goal is to enable national associations to deal with the media, through providing PR training for ECH members. 3 Stakeholder Meetings: it had previously been proposed that ECH should hold regular stakeholder meetings. It has been suggested that it might be possible to organise the first of these to take place in London on the day before the HRI Conference, ie Thurs 15 June (to be confirmed). 4. Mainz meeting, 12-13 May: draft programme – Thurs afternoon: Council brainstorming session (see item 5) Fri morning: guided tour of Botanic Gardens afternoon: SCs or WGs evening: dinner (student restaurant, university, €30-40 per head) Sat morning: PR Workshop afternoon: SCs or WGs Sun morning: Council meeting	

Conclusions	1 GA – IR and NT to attend to support JPJ. The only item for approval is the Dutch translation of the Belgian statutes. Any discussion about other changes to be deferred for future review of statutes. 2 Response coordinated by ECHAMP; PR training to be provided by CSK at ECH Spring meeting in Mainz. 3 Stakeholder meeting, possibly in London prior to HRI Conference. 4 Mainz meeting – draft programme agreed.

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
4 State preference to JPJ for Fri or Sat for SCs/WGs.	All	Asap

4	*15.57*	*Belfius bank situation*	*Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary	All the necessary documents have been signed to allow access to our accounts. There has been no response from the bank to our requests (over 20 emails or phone calls since 16 Dec) for a meeting. A final attempt will be made to contact the person dealing with the issue, then it is planned to contact the branch manager, then, if necessary, make a formal complaint to the central office and, if that fails, to then go to the Belgian Ombudsman. This may be costly and JPJ asked for members' agreement for this plan.		
Conclusions	All agreed that the priority has to be to access the accounts, even if this incurs costs. Once we can open an account with a Dutch bank, Margaret will inform Astrid that all incoming payments should be directed there.		

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Instigate plan of action.	JPJ	Asap
Tell Astrid to delay collecting membership fees, until Dutch account is available.	MW	Asap

5	*17.11*	*Extra day in Mainz for brainstorm and vision*	*Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary	Now that the strategic plans are in place and actions in hand to revise the databases and improve general administration, it is time to work out any problems and brainstorm ideas and exchange thoughts about our vision of the future of ECH. Members discussed when this should take place.		
Conclusions	The vision meeting will be in the afternoon of Thursday 11 May. members should submit their ideas for an agenda. The usual preparatory Council meeting will therefore be held earlier by Zoom.		

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Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Submit ideas for Agenda.	All	1 May
Arrive at Intercity Hotel, Mainz, by midday on Thurs 11 May.	All	11 May

7	*17.24*	*Plans for 2023*	*Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary	See attached ppt The goal is to look at priorities for 2023 and to keep track of where we are generally as a Council. Members should think about this and send JPJ their feedback; he will summarise the ideas and, at the next Council meeting on 9 March, present the final plans for the year ahead with decisions, approvals or items noted for necessary further exploration. 2023 is the year to: • Consolidate the 7 strategies already underway – Strategy coordinators should contact IR and JPJ about any support required; JPJ will organise a briefing meeting with each of them during February or March. • Make ECH's organisation and infrastructure more robust and efficient – The contacts database is in hand and NT's suggestions for further information about potential sources of support from individuals and organisations can be added. We also need to compile an information folder of regular organisational procedures. This will allow better continuity when new members join the Council. We should also collect ideas for the future professionalisation of ECH • Work out the various policies required – – Sponsorship, eg Boiron – Profile of ECH – Network: our main strength is our network, which must be expanded and reinforced to strengthen contact with our members; 2 more Presidents' meetings to be added to the existing weekends – Offer useful services to members, eg PR, CEN implementation, etc – Represent ECH at at least one Integrative Medicine Congress annually – Stakeholders: organise meetings with LMHI, ECCH, ECHAMP, etc – Strategies: network policies implied in the strategies to be coordinated Members should add any further policies they would like to see developed in 2023. Projects currently in development: Agrohomeopathy – IR has this in hand EUROCAM – ECH is providing a more effective voice for homeopathy Website – MW, CSK and Rebecca are working on this; it would be good to have an attractive, fully functioning website by the end of the year. PR training – CSK has this in hand Etc – please let IR know of any further categories		

	White papers: We have several subjects where we know what we know but we need to consolidate this knowledge into a white paper. These will be useful to let members know ECH's position on various topics and will form the basis for us to speak with one voice throughout Europe. These documents should contain all the necessary information and relevant text can then be extracted as appropriate for journalists, patients, scientists, etc as required. The goal of the strategies is to bring people together, eg a white paper about the place of IM in general practice could bring in external open-minded people or bring together people with different views. This can also be done through ECH Academy. Possible subjects for this year (please add others) include: • Scientific evidence – to give confidence to all our members that clinical research shows that homeopathy is effective for many conditions; lab research mainly concludes that homeopathic water is different. 20 to 30 years ago this was not defensible but scientific evidence has now moved on. • The legal reasons to accept homeopathy – an EU citizen has the right to access homeopathic treatment. How can we arrive at a common language for all regulatory methods? This could also bring us closer to our allies in CAM. • Likelihood ration, using Bayesian statistics – Lex Rutten would like ECH to work on this. 50,000 cases are needed to create a large practice-relevant repertory. A white paper would attract funding. • Homeopathy and the economic burden – western healthcare is almost bankrupt; we can create a document to show the economic advantages of homeopathy – this is already attractive for our network. *(Post-meeting – Ton Nicolai's letter to the WHO Europe director could be used as an example.)*

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Send comments and ideas to JPJ.	All	20 Feb

6	*17.45*	*Accreditation for Austrian pharmacy programme*	*Dora*
Discussion summary	The programme submitted is acceptable for the levels being presented for the Certificate (viz the Introduction and Modules 1 and 2 of the Guidelines). DP advised that the accreditation be approved and certificates awarded to the successful students. DP has prepared a folder of information for Astrid.		
Conclusions	All agreed to approve the accreditation.		

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8	*17.50*	*ECHAMP meeting in Sofia, April 2023*	*Dora*
Discussion summary		Details are still to be confirmed but ECHAMP's annual meeting has been arranged for 24 April; the Bulgarian Association is organising some homeopathic events around this on 22 and 23 April, one for general practitioners and one for the national association. A Press Conference has been proposed where DP will make a presentation on the role of Bulgaria in the European context, speaking about ECH and EUROCAM and cooperation with allopathic doctors and pharmaceutical companies; other presentations will include one on the future healthcare landscape by Machteld Huber, Institute for Positive Health, and another by Ton Nicolai, former General Secretary of EUROCAM. Other speakers invited include Michael Frass and Menachem Oberbaum. Dora will also address the ECHAMP conference on Bulgarian research with good data demonstrating both patient and doctor satisfaction from homeopathic practice. DP hopes to invite students to attend and will ask NO and SB to encourage them to do so and a meeting could be organised for pharmacy students. This offers a real opportunity to promote ECH; we need to decide on our key messages for the Conference (22 and 23 April) and the Press Conference (on 20 April). The Bulgarian association will publicise the meeting as an extension of Homeopathy Awareness Week. It may be possible for the relevant more general lectures to be made available to the ECH Academy.	
Conclusions		This provides a great opportunity to promote ECH; it should be widely publicised.	

9	*18.01*	*AOB*	*Dora / Edward*
Discussion summary		1 Capra: DP is working on a text with information about the course. CSK and MW will edit this for use for grant applications. 2 One Health: EB's text on Homeopathy and OneHealth is almost complete. 3 EPHA: are establishing an AMR strategic network and have circulated a OneHealth survey; EB will send his survey to members when he has completed it. There is now a more positive attitude to linking different therapies. 4 EUROCAM: Jaume Costa has unfortunately stepped back from taking on a leadership role; however, there is now a small executive team (including EB) in place.	
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
1 Edit text.		CSK /MW	When prepared

10	*18.06*	*Close of meeting*	*Cristal*