European Committee for Homeopathy

INVITATION TO MEETING

COUNCIL

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING

Meeting name/purpose	**Council meeting**		
Date	22 July 2021	**Time**	19-21h
Location/Login	Zoom		
Attendees	Hélène Renoux Ileana Rîndaşu Hetty Buitelaar Natalia Tzima Dora Pachova Ilse Muchitsch Tiziana Di Giampietro Cristal Skaling-Klopstock Margaret Wyllie Jean Pierre Jansen	**Apologies**	Daniela Hacke Arlette Blanchy
Minutes written by	Ileana Rîndaşu	**Moderator**	Hetty Buitelaar
Distribution	ECH Council	**Enclosures**	5
Next meeting date	30-9-2021	**Version**	Draft version 1

PREPARATION FOR THIS MEETING

Please read	
Council minutes of 13-6-2021[1] and 22-6-2021 [2] Magnetti project documents [3] Project research congress [4]. SC pharmacy: Letter to the council - *Mercury containing homeopathic medicinal products [5]*	

AGENDA

Item*	Agenda item, subject	Presenter	Time allocated
• 1	Welcome, amendments to the agenda [01]†, quorum	Moderator	5’
• 2	Approval of previous 2 meetings minutes [02]	Hetty	10’
• 3	ECH priorities for next years – discussions, working groups	Hetty	30’
• 4	Communication network/narrative work feedback and updates	Cristal	20’
• 5	IT and browser issues updates	Margaret	10’
• 6	Statement regarding mercury-containing homeopathic medicinal products	Ilse	10’
• 7	Fees and taxes of independent pharmacy schools	Dora	10’
• 8	Research issues: - November council meeting and Magnetti project - A possible Congress on Research 2022	Tiziana	20’
• 9	Mediation meeting – search for a new date	Cristal	5’
• 10	Other issues and closing of meeting	Hélène	5’

MINUTES ‡

1	**Subject**	***Welcome, amendments to the agenda, quorum***	***Moderator***
Discussion summary			
Conclusions			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**

* Click the item number preceding the agenda item to navigate to the minutes about that agenda item. To navigate back to the agenda, click the *word* ‘Subject’.

† Numbers between [ ] refer to enclosures.

‡ Please use the ‘track changes’ function for amendments etc.

2	Subject	*Approval of previous 2 meetings minutes*	*Secretary*

Discussion summary	

Ilse's comments about the February minutes discussed on 13 June meeting: Will be dealt with during the mediation, on 23-9-2021. A modification about point 6 in minutes from 22 June is proposed: instead of "nothing was made", to write "some proposals have failed". The change was accepted.

The agenda for today mentioned Hélène as moderator, but normally the vice-president is moderator. This is accepted. Hetty is moderator.

Conclusions	

ECH will pay a recent Word version for the general secretary (Ileana).

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**

3	Subject	**ECH priorities for next years – discussions, working groups**	*Hetty*

Discussion summary	

Hetty had no opportunity to prepare for this topic about priorities. It must be postponed.

There are some new items:

a. Lex Rutten agreed to be an adviser of the AMR working group.

b. New MEP workshop on pain management: it is in a working document. Hetty has no sufficient information about it.

c. The workload for Hetty is too much, too much e-mails. There were more specific reasons mentioned. She announces to step down.

d. Hélène expressed her reasons to step back. The reasons are a lack of strategic output of the council, and about behaviours of some, but not all, council members. Various regrets were expressed.

e. Arlette will step down too.

For this reasons, this point is further ended.

Conclusions	

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**

4	Subject	Communication network/narrative work feedback and updates	*Cristal*
Discussion summary			
Cristal is happy to announce that a small but growing group has reacted to her call. Regarding an affair concerning the retraction request of a publication by Michael Frass, where ECH was requested to send letters of adherence to Frass to the editors of the journal before the publications actually published: Tiziana and Petra Weiermayer decided to not act until the journal has made the dispute public.			
Conclusions			
Cristal is happy to carry further the communications group. We wait until the publication is out to react as ECH (concerning the paper of M. Frass).			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Come up with a name for the group		Cristal	

5	Subject	IT and browser issues updates	*Margaret*
Discussion summary			
Hélène and Martin have sorted out recently the locked-in problem with the French provider. The migration of the website to a better place is almost ready now. IT group has discussed with Rienk to prepare a proposal to the council to improve the total of all IT needs of ECH. Safe communication and storage are topmost priority. Cost savings are possible (Wordpress). A brief questionnaire was prepared that will be sent to all council members, which will ask each person to describe the IT needs of each member/SC coordinator/SC members.			
Conclusions			
Next council meeting, a proposal is expected			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Prepare proposal		Margaret, Rienk, Jean Pierre	30-9-2021

6	Subject	Statement regarding mercury-containing homeopathic medicinal products	*Ilse*
Discussion summary		The EU committee stated that mercury can be replaced.	

Ilse informed the council about a current discussion in SC pharmacy and introduced a letter to the council [5], signed by members of SC Pharmacy, working on regulatory topics:
Susann Buchheim-Schmidt , Séverine Schilder, Ralf Schwarzbach (Chemist), Marcus Polzin

European Commission's letter regarding "Prepare information for submission to the two Minimata Convention Registries under Article 4(4) and 5(4)-consultation of the mercury-added products information sheets" in advance to the ECH council meeting including all relevant documents.

The exact order of coordination and correspondence between ECH, ECHAMP and the EU committee on Mercury is not entirely clear. The citation in the EU response on our letter from 2019 is wrong, writing that Mercury HMP can be replaced and there are no references mentioned to underpin this.

ECHAMP did not react on the citation issue till now. They may assume we do not want awaken sleeping dogs. But the dogs are already awake. We need to discuss with ECHAMP, as they asked to stay into contact. Hetty will sort this out and come back.

The EU document's consequences, though justified for material doses of mercury, are irrelevant for homeopathy interests:

- The officials of the EU committee state that mercury can be replaced. But there is no documentation that supports this statement.

- The problem is about starting materials, that the EU wants to ban completely. However, the concern at the base is safety, so we should extend their focus to the fact that homeopathic mercury preparations have an excellent safety record.

A questionnaire is in preparation by that EU committee. It is not certain if ECH will be involved with the questionnaire, but ECHAMP will receive it.

We need different types of documentation to support the requests of EU to keep homeopathic mercury preparations available. These are:

- Therapist statements: e.g.

a) Hetty example, that mercury remnants are in many people, that could be detoxified, or the consequences be treated.

b) Well monitored pharmacopoeias did never warn for side effect above a certain dilution for decades. What do pharmacovigilance projects say?

c) Case reports, probably needed for the questionnaire.

d) Toxicology information (this is already available to SC Pharmacy)

We have some time to collect these items, but the term when the questionnaire will be out is unknown. The term to reply is also unknown.

There was no planning to collect therapist statements and conduct a case collection, but we have to prepare our answers as soon as possible.

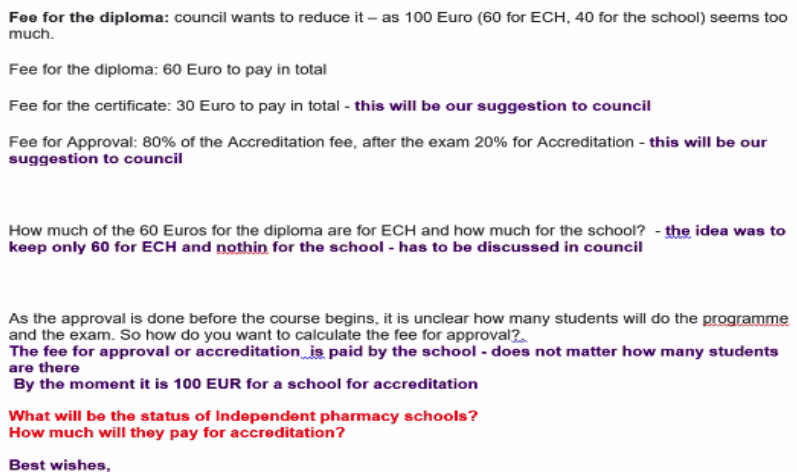
Conclusions	

Ilse and SC Pharma prepare a rejection that the citation is wrong with regard to the ECH letter of 2019. The information from the link quoted in the letter should be analysed by the SC Pharmacy and used for the answer.

The same authors of the ECH 2019 letter should sign this letter.

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**

Prepare a letter of rejection to be presented to the Council	Ilse	till next Council meeting

7	Subject	Fees and taxes of independent pharmacy schools	*Dora*
Discussion summary	There was a good meeting between SC Edu and SC Pharma. See screenshot with proposals:  **Fee for the diploma:** council wants to reduce it – as 100 Euro (60 for ECH, 40 for the school) seems too much. Fee for the diploma: 60 Euro to pay in total Fee for the certificate: 30 Euro to pay in total - **this will be our suggestion to council** Fee for Approval: 80% of the Accreditation fee, after the exam 20% for Accreditation - **this will be our suggestion to council** How much of the 60 Euros for the diploma are for ECH and how much for the school? - **the idea was to keep only 60 for ECH and nothin for the school - has to be discussed in council** As the approval is done before the course begins, it is unclear how many students will do the programme and the exam. So how do you want to calculate the fee for approval? **The fee for approval or accreditation is paid by the school - does not matter how many students are there** **By the moment it is 100 EUR for a school for accreditation** **What will be the status of Independent pharmacy schools?** **How much will they pay for accreditation?** **Best wishes,** The fees must be harmonised, everyone must feel equally treated. The price must not be prohibitive which would distance doctors. We want to attract as much as possible. To lower the price is reasonable. It would also increase ECH credibility. To ask 30 euro for all diplomas would lead to many more diplomates. The diploma is more about prestige. The German diplomas are not displayed on the website. Also in the Excel of Arlette these diploma's are never presented. This problem has not been addressed for too long, and could be solved as well. In the past there was a separate agreement to reduce costs with Germany, because they have so many members. Accredited independent homeopathic teaching centers were paying 350 euro as associated members. During last GA it was decided to pay 50 euro annually. There will be an approval procedure for homeopathic teaching centers who need that in advance before they could be accredited by Accreditation Team SC Edu. Therefore, the schools should pay 80% of the accreditation fee in the beginning of the procedure, non-refundable and the rest after the exams and accreditation. The fee is the same as for accreditation – 100 EUR. Agreed by council. Should we ask a fee for the pharmacy certificate? This question was not answered for the moment and a proposal will be made to be presented to the GA. Independent pharmacy teaching centres will have the statute of Associated members with 350 EUR membership fee until they get	

7	Subject	Fees and taxes of independent pharmacy schools	*Dora*
		full accreditation =-=-=-

8	Subject	Research issues: 2 proposals	Tiziana

November and B.Galeazzi, G. Santini, F. Macri will speak about different topics regarding the organization and the opportunities of network .

The CAM commision inside the Medical Orders in Italy it is made up of 4-5 doctors representing the three lists of reconized CAM (Homeopathy /Homotoxicology, Acupuncture, Phytotherapy). Their rule is to verify the titles of new doctors to accept in the lists (important to ensure the professionalism and preparation of the experience in a CAM) and to organize events to spread , to update the CAM culture, to protect the rights of CAM doctors. Organizing a similar network in each European state, with the connection to ECH, would allow the institutions to contact each other and the possibility for ECH to receive information and quickly spread messages (strategic narrative or responses to attacks). Now the contact is linked to homeopathic societies to which not all professionals are registered.
This way, common, better and stronger actions can be deployed. This network of CAM doctors has the role of protecting CAM doctors and patients who have lists of registered professionals only if they have qualifications acquired in recognized schools.

The connection to EuroCAM or similar organizations is not foreseen directly for now. However, the network allows information from European groups to be disseminated among members. In fact we are now thinking of organizing study groups in various topics and one could be directed to provide information on European or international events concerning homeopathy or the other two CAMs.

There are several possible overlaps:

- How is the role of SC Politcs? Natalia wants to see more first. She will look into it if it is mature enough.

- EuroCAM: This Italian organisation cannot become a member of EuroCAM, because only EU-umbrella organisations in the field of CAM are accepted by EuroCAM. EUROCAM can be informed to also help spreading the idea of such projects. In The Netherlands there is a similar forum for doctors member of AVIG, it is not the official national medical association. In other countries as well.

- There is also the communications group led by Cristal. This seems more reasonable.

ACTIONS:

Tiziana to make the proposal more clear to all, and integrate that with what is already going on. The main goal is to connect.

Natalia asks SC Politics if other members know of similar groups in their resp. countries.

A final decision to organise this for the workshop in November 2021 can be taken during the council session of September. According to Tiziana this is in time.

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8	Subject	*Research issues: 2 proposals*	*Tiziana*

-News on clinical research:
Lex Rutten would present about his mini- repertory work, which would be a valuable addition in education to learn.
The Clificol project and its possibilities in the study of other pathologies with homeopathic treatment.
To present the teaching module how to write a research paper. *(Robbert Van Haselen)*

Hélène advised (based on her AMR Paris 2019 experience) to connect to local colleagues in the hosting country, who can organise everything. In Corona times this is even more complicated. Tiziana acknowledges that this practical planning has to go first. She can give her time and effort, with cooperation of others *if it's possible to organize an in person event*.

The planning of this congress could be in 2022 or 2023. Nov. 2022 in Spain.

Ilse added 4 possible topics:

1. Integrative medicine and pharmacy - from phytotherapy to homeopathic medicines – examples
2. New provings – new monographs - new homeopathic medicines – challenges?
    - Those topics our new member Neli-Kinga Olah from Romania wants to present for ECH workshops, events…

- New provings, important other remedies (SC pharma and provings together)

3. Recommendation for guidelines to investigate for effect of homeopathic dilutions. (proposal Alex Torunier, HRI, Stephan Baumgartner, Scientific societies in the field: GIRI [REF], WissHom [REF] and Societe Savante Francaise [REF]

4. Guidelines for high quality of homeopathic research- ***CATHIS - Critical Appraisal Tool for Homeopathic Intervention Studies***

4. COMMENTS ON THESE PROPOSALS

Tiziana sees possibilities for cooperation in these proposals.

Comment: The proposed programme is too much for the intended one day.

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8	Subject	*Research issues: 2 proposals*	*Tiziana*
Conclusions			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
To consult the SC Politics about Magnetti project and get a feedback	Natalia	till next Council meeting
To ask SC research and pharmacy for their feedback, making a list of items for the proposed online research seminars	Tiziana/Ilse	till next Council meeting

9	Subject	Mediation meeting – search for a new date	***Cristal***
Discussion summary			
Conclusions			
Session with Beccie will be 23 -9-2021. One member may be excused.			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Inform Beccie	Cristal	ASAP

10	Subject	**Other issues and closing of meeting**	***Hélène***
Discussion summary			
The next newsletter will contain issues about Francesco di Lorenzo's work and Ileana's PhD research.			
Conclusions			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Newsletter will be sent to all by Andrea	Hélène /Ileana	in a few days

11	Subject	ADDITIONAL UNRELATED POINTS MADE	*Hélène*
Discussion summary			
In a subordinate clause during the agenda item, Hélène mentioned that a G.A. and elections were to be planned because she steps back, as well as the treasurer and the vice-president. No council decision was taken.			
Conclusions			
An extraordinary GA is to be planned in November to settle elections for president, vice-president and treasurer, it could be the opportunity to vote also for fees proposed by Edu SC. No formal decision is made yet			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**