European Committee for Homeopathy

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING BRUGES NOVEMBER 2015

Friday 13 November: 9.00am – 1.00pm

Location

NH Hotel Brugge - Boeveriestraat 2

Present: Thomas Peinbauer, Sara Eames, Hélène Renoux, Arlette Blanchy, Hetty Buitelaar, Jean Pierre Jansen, Leopold Drexler, Ilse Muchitsch, Caroline Vandeschoor, Anna Pla.

Excused: Sato Liu

Moderator : Sara Eames.

Minutes : Hélène Renoux

Agenda points :

1- Approval of the Lisbon minutes
2- Finances
3- CEN
4- ECH new website, presentation Chris Connolly
5- Spring meeting Lithuania
   - Location
   - Schedule
   - Workshop on PR organisation
6- ERASMUS+
7- ECH congress Vienna
8- Definition of a full member
9- Remedies' availability

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- **Presentation of the website by Chris Connolly**

Some key points :

- Need for pictures : portraits of each council member, photos of the places where we have been (hospitals, universities)
- Each coordinator agrees to be in charge of feeding his own area, directly or via Chris . Jean Pierre asks for a short manual
- Hélène asks everyone to feel involved and to send relevant information they're aware of
- Currently there is a gap in the website, it should be solved shortly, it is linked to the change of provider.

- **Minutes Lisbon meeting**

Amendments are agreed on

- **Jean Pierre announces the sabbatical leave he wants to make.**

Subsequently he won't attend the upcoming council meeting on Sunday, nor the ones in Vilnius. He will organise with his SC members the follow up of their ongoing work.

- **Finances**

The current financial figures are attached to this document.

Currently we have 51266€ in the account before paying Brugge. The costs for the Brugge meeting is around 9000€

Update about Rubicom : in December 1677 ? € were paid, and from January to November 2015. 48562€

So until now we paid more than what was planned initially, and we still have to pay.

- **Extra point about the book needed**

Thomas reminds that in August he agreed with Rubicom about additional costs of 7000€. We wonder how was made this decision to exceed the budget without any council voting ? We would have needed a transparent calculation

Afterward we decided to go to the lawyer and stop paying additional costs, except that in October we paid 682€ for the photos (fortunately Robert Müntz offered many photos).

Thomas says that this is his own responsibility. He was between the authors and the publisher, no deadline has been met. Rubicom did the job well but in their contract they were bound to send regularly financial statements. Thomas had a

contact with his lawyer, who said that Rubicom is not allowed to charge more than what was in the contract. The lawyer also said we should be given back the VAT, this is to be checked with Arlette.

To avoid the critical situation that would have been if Rubicom would have retained the book, Thomas kept quiet until the books were sent to us.

Sara thinks we must stay aware of our limits (time and money).

Jean Pierre and Caroline remind that they said before that this was too risky and complaint not being heard.

Thomas stresses this is a disaster, according to our rules we should have gone to the GA.

We decide to offer a free book to all authors and interview partners

Thomas proposes that at the next call for fees we offer a book for each member association. A PR expert will make a short presentation at the symposium Saturday about the use of the book. He stresses this book is to be used and sent quickly, to be felt as « fresh ».

We decide to sell the book during the symposium with the help of Charlotte according to the prices decided before. Associations missing available money can be given an invoice.

- **Definition of a full member**

Leopold says that they come to an agreement within their 2 SCs (politics and Education), thanks to the comments from the different SC members

Definition : *If a country, school or society asks for a full membership they have to fulfil the following criterion: they are entitled to work in their country as homeopathic doctor. So all members fulfilling the criteria of their national organisations can be full members.*
If an individual member asks for full membership, we propose the following rule: he /she should ask the Education SC. He / she should send the Education SC a short homeopathic vita including the education where he / she learned homeopathy and her /his experience (practical work) in homeopathy.

Regarding individual members veterinarians : it is OK if they are IAVH members.

We only accept individual members from the countries where there is no national association member. Their fees must be paid for 5 years in advance and will be applied the full price according the ABC category. This decision is to be added in the by-laws. Unanimous vote.

Hetty and Leopold both agree to draft the by-law to be submitted at the next GA.

- **Next spring meeting in Vilnius**

We agree for the proposed schedule (Friday morning and Sunday morning council meetings, Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon SC meetings, Saturday morning common workshop) and we'll ask for more details about Vilnius (hotel/rooms/prices).

This means we'll accept to pay for the room rental anyway. This is an opportunity to reach the eastern European countries and to prepare the ECH congress in eastern Europe.

We'll ask the Lithuanians if there are important people to meet there before the beginning of the meetings.

Proposal for a workshop on PR, with the faculty staff working on the website, with a practical showing session on how to maximise our contacts.

The coordinators will ask in the SCs if there is anyone who would like to be involved and/or to show experience on PR.

- **ECH congress Vienna**

We stress that Mrs Oegg from the PCO Liberty urged too much sending already the newsletter about the congress without waiting for the council decision and so close to the previous emailing.

Thomas sent to the council members the documents prepared by the local team, he asks for feedbacks especially about the tree topic to be sent before the 24th of November.

Several questions arise about the expenses linked to the invited speakers. The council members wonder what are the costs for the planned invited speakers. As example : Prof Döpfler asks for 300 € for his lecture along with the travel expenses reimbursed.

Jean Pierre explains that he feels paralysed to invite Harald Walach to the provings expert meeting because it is unclear for him if it is included in the budget.

Caroline asks again if her SC can invite an external expert or if they organise the workshop on searching tools with one of their own members.

Thomas explains that Liberty will support the additional speaker in Documentation if the income is sufficient. If we are to invite A level speakers the organising committee will make a decision in regards. We need to ask which time frame is applicable.

Time is over. We postpone the other points on Sunday.

European Committee for Homeopathy

Sunday 15 November- 09.00 am – 1.00pm

Present : Thomas Peinbauer, Sara Eames, Hélène Renoux, Arlette Blanchy, Hetty Buitelaar, Anna Pla, Ilse Muchitsch, Leopold Drexler, Caroline Vandeschoor

Excused : Jean Pierre Jansen, Sato Liu

Moderator : Sara Eames

Minutes : Hélène Renoux

Agenda points :

1- Subcommittees' reports

2- Croatian associated member HUKOM

3- Belgian request about the price of the ECH book

4- Financial issues with the congress

5- Congress programme

6- E-STECHOS

7- Availability of homeopathic remedies

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Preamble :

Thomas addresses his concerns about the connection between us. He wonders if we would need a counsellor to lead us again for communicating together.

There is a discussion if we need, can afford - in time and money- to solve the current difficulties even though we notice that things didn't improve since the last council retreat.

We decide to have an email discussion about this. Thomas proposes to have a systemic approach within the council. Sara proposes to launch the email exchange.

- **HUKOM associated membership misused**

1- Hélène's proposal : to give them one year to change things, cancelling the membership and assessing after one year with the support of our Croatian full member. She had a discussion with Jelka Milic and they both agreed on this option.
2- Thomas' proposal : to ask HUKOM to create a separate doctors' association that we would be glad to include. This has been applied with the Greek association of Vithoulkas successfully.

Thomas' proposal is chosen by the council.

HUKOM will be informed of our decision to cancel their membership, and asked to remove the ECH logo in their communication channels. In the case they go on misusing ECH's logo they'll be applied a financial consequence.

- **Book : Belgian offer**

The Belgian UNIO plans to buy 100 books and therefore ask to pay 15€ per copy. Their aim is to offer it to their members at their next GA. We agree, because they won't sell the books but give them, if they would have sold the books with an extra benefit it would not have been possible. The books should be sold until the next GA in Vienna anyway. The decision for Belgium should be communicated in the next ECH newsletter as an example but without mentioning the prices in the newsletter.

- **Vienna congress and finances**

Arlette addresses her concerns, about the contract with Liberty (she has concerns about the reliability of Liberty) :

➔ risky for us if Liberty cancels at the last moment because they consider that the congress isn't profitable enough.

Thomas replies that the possibility to cancel at the last moment is a usual clause in such situation , if the congress was cancelled we would then have to organise the GA.

We must make clear what are the expenses left for the GA that won't be covered by the PCO.

Anna notices that the early bird fees finish 2 months and a half before the congress which means that 3 months before as mentioned in the contract Liberty is far from knowing the exact amount of expected participants.

Caroline notices that we can have a difference in opinion on the necessary number of participants to run the congress. For us even only 200 participants can be considered enough, but it seems that for Liberty 300 is a minimum.

Arlette suggests to add an additional point in the contract : if cancellation up to January 2016 100 000€ are due, up to August 2016 200 000€.

Thomas explains that this would be too risky for us if we decide to cancel the congress for any reason.

Actually the signed contract is not available for the council members, it should have been added in the council dropbox with all relevant information

Thomas will send the signed contract in the next days. He will also send the other official documents he forgot to send (sponsorship of Vienna officials).

Arlette says that according to the Belgian law, that is applicable in this case, 2 signatures are necessary to make the contract valid. It seems the contract has only been signed by Thomas until now.

- ➔ Liberty doesn't mention the budget for the printing
- ➔ Liberty charges 4000€ or so for advertising in Paris but it hasn't been done except for a flyer
- ➔ The coffee breaks are much too expensive.

Caroline states that Arlette's remarks point out that the transfer of duties and responsibilities from the old to the new council member (in this case the treasurer) hasn't been done properly. When someone from the council steps down he(she) is in charge of taking care of a good handing over. However, it is a shared responsibility: the new council member has to do his/her homework as well. The council is also responsible of checking this. Arlette explains that one year was just enough to get informed of all the ongoing financial issues.

Sara thinks that the ECH treasurer should be part of the congress organising committee. But would she fly to Vienna each 2 month ?

Hélène complaints that her proposals regarding the congress programme are not taken into account, and Thomas answers that this must be addressed in a council meeting, at least a phone meeting.

Each council member has the right to make agenda points for council meetings.

Sara concludes that we cannot decide things now on the contract. The signed contract must be in the dropbox together with Arlette's concerns. We'll have an additional council phone meeting on Wednesday 2 December morning 8h. The missing documents are to be uploaded in advance. (and Sato and Jean Pierre need to be informed)

- **Content of the congress** :

We regret that ECH members are not very much involved, mostly external participants, conventional doctors, veterinarians are visible and not enough ECH.

Hélène : There is a lack of visibility for ECH, external speakers are pushed forward as if ECH was lacking valuable lecturers and her requests as such have never been addressed. The different countries are not equally represented in the programme, it is mostly a German/Austrian programme

Arlette : for financial and diplomatic reasons we should restrict the number of invited speakers and in the call for abstracts try to include people coming from all the countries.

We decide to actively attract contributions from a wide range of countries and stick to only one invited speaker for a half day.

Anna : We need to propose lecturers coming from a wider range of countries, even in the research area.

Caroline : in the afternoon there are no closed sessions, but how can we avoid having too many interesting lectures at the same moment ?

For the closed sessions can external attendees come ? Actually it cannot be opened at least because of the limited space.

Since the documentation SC is only attending their SC meeting there is no reason for them to pay the congress fees even to the public sessions they organise and offer to the participants (to be checked with Liberty). Thomas explains that the same figure applies for the patients' group and a special agreement has to be set for both. Defining which package they need.

Caroline asks for the policy about translations, she is surprised that only German/English is proposed.

In the website is stated (according to a decision made by the local organising committee) that German/English translations will be provided only in the main room for plenary sessions. There is the offer in case of a certain amount of members of another country that a translation for their language should be offered.

Thomas answers that to finance the project we need a marketing plan, and we expect to have mainly German speaking attendees.

Proposal to have **only English lectures**, and translation to German for local attendees.

We'll have a council meeting in Vienna on Thursday evening and possibly a telephone conference before.

- **E-STECHOS**

Thomas proposes a new application at Erasmus+, with a slightly different frame, for certification, this would cost around 4000€

Vote : 7 in favour and 2 abstentions

- **Miscellaneous**

Leopold informs that a small change has been requested by his subcommittee on a decision made on Friday : in case of individual membership the national association is to be asked first. the individual homeopath has to ask the national association or one of them if there are more societies existing . He is also allowed to ask or join a society in another country, in that case He can not become individual member of ECH.

Homeopaths of countries without any association can become individual members of ECH. They have to send their homeopathic vita to the ECH-Education subcommittee. After a positiv decision they have to pay the fee five years in advance.

Ilse Muchitsch informed about the fruitful work and some new cooperation of SC pharmacy according to

- "Availability report", which was forwarded to SC pharmacy at Spring meeting Lisbon
- much of requested topics concerning "Availability report" are scheduled as highlighted topics for homeopathy congress 2016 Vienna
- HMPWG - information Michel van Wassenhoven about news
- and further aspects

o Following topics should be discussed and decided at the next telecon conference on 2nd December 2015

- Availability Report – most of the topics will be scheduled as topics for congress

<u>There are three topics, which have to be voted by council:</u>

A Strategic view on Safeguarding the Availability of Homeopathic Medicines within Europe – page 13

(IM will give an overview about the ongoing discussion, comments and her impressions in general)

1. point 2.2 Definition of "availability of homeopathic remedies"
2. point 2.3. Important other remedies (IOR)
3. Questionnaire: Question

a. What to try to achieve?

b. Avoid a too simple way to get answers!

Two council members intend to step down in November 2016 : Thomas and Leopold.

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Unaddressed agenda points :

- Subcommittees' reports
- Availability of homeopathic remedies
- CEN
- H2020 follow up

Decisions made :

- New by-law with the definition of a full member
- A book will be offered at each member association beginning of 2016
- A council telephone conference will set the final council position regarding the contract with Liberty, 2 December 8am CET.

To do :

- Website : check the new website, send photos, feed the folders (all the council members)
- Draft the by-law with the definition of a full member (Hetty + Leopold)
- Prepare the workshop on PR in Vilnius (Hélène + Sara)
- Organise an email exchange on communication among the council members (Sara)
- Inform HUKOM of the withdrawal of their membership (Hélène)
- Add in the dropbox the missing information about the Vienna congress : the signed contract and the sponsorship contracts signed by Thomas.

- Send feedback on the tree-topic for the congress (all)
- New application at Erasmus+ (Thomas)

Attachments :

- Subcommittees' reports
- Financial reports
- Letter from Vangelis Zafiriou to ECH council