European Committee for Homeopathy

ECH COUNCIL MEETINGS VILNIUS APRIL 2016

Location:

Grata Hotel, Vytenio g. 9, Naujamiestis, LT-03113 Vilnius

Friday 15.04.2016 – 9h/12h30 – 14h/16h

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

Excused: Jean Pierre Jansen

Moderator: Sara Eames

Minutes: Hélène Renoux

Agenda points:

- Financial situation
  Membership fees 2017 - 2018
- Communication workshop, last preparation
- Next General Assembly preparation
  Elections/candidacies
  Congress
- WHD in New Delhi - report and outcomes
- CEN state of affairs
- ERASMUS +
- EUROCAM and lobbying
  International Congress for Integrative Health & Medicine
  EPHA: GA, annual conference and working group on AMR
- LMHI Congress 2016
- Homeopathy in the Baltic countries Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia
- ECH spring meeting 2017: location and possible topic for a workshop

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European Committee for Homeopathy

Preamble: Approval of the last minutes unanimously

Financial situation

Attached is the last financial report available. We ask the treasurer to have this document available beforehand in order to have time to go through and have a global appreciation of our financial situation.

Arlette agrees and promises to do so now.

For example we wonder if we can we afford to cover the council expenses for travel and accommodation during the congress, because we'll all need to stay at the hotel for 6 nights and the rooms are expensive

- Regarding the 25th anniversary book:

Until now we have sold 5600€ of books. Thomas states that we remain within the frame but we have used the total authorised deficit.

Beginning of 2016 we had to pick up 12000€ in the savings account to pay the remaining invoices from Rubicom and Arlette hopes to be able to put this money back in the savings account before the end of the year.

The library Narayana is willing to sell the book and asks for a discount (45% for 10 books). We decide not to offer them any discount but they are free to sell it at a higher price than we do.

- Membership fees 2017/2018

We need a comparison of the membership fees before and after the self-assessment. It seems we increased our income, having new members. Before the next GA we would need a table of the last 5 years, full and associated members to have an overview of the evolution.

We as council have to send a proposal to the members at least 2 or 3 months before the GA.

We have to prepare this proposal mid-June, before holidays (and officers' meeting in Stuttgart) to have it on the national associations' agenda in September.

General Assembly in Vienna preparation

-<u>Agenda:</u>

This current council will have its last meeting just before the congress, all the participants are asked to send the needed documents (reports etc) beforehand to let the people get acquainted with it in time.

The schedule for the GA is OK

- Registration for GA

People can attend the GA without taking part in the congress, so it is necessary to have a separate registration for the GA.

The congress' organisers wonder how to check whether a person is member of ECH or not. They will have to contact the national associations to get their membership lists. Eastern European countries benefit from a lower rate that doesn't appear in the website. The council members won't pay, they'll be asked to do some tasks, review, scientific task and chairing sessions.

SC members will have to register twice, once to the SC meetings, and once to the congress. ECH must prepare a standard letter to the SC members explaining this. Once the registration system is set up, we'll write to the SC members first and also to the national organisations asking them to check their members or to give their membership list. Will it be Charlotte or the PCO to take care of this (if Charlotte does it will induce additional costs)? This has to be clarified with the PCO.

It is not allowed to promote the social programme for regulatory reasons, if we want to set an internal event for our members it will be included in the internal registration. In the case we have a « partner » for the social event it has to be indicated.

- Expenses remaining for ECH:

Charlotte's participation will cost around 3000€. We just need to make sure about the costs, if we pay extra expenses for her additional presence.

(Sato noted that Medicongress' mandate has not been openly decided within the council. Even if we all agree that Charlotte's work gives all satisfaction).

We can also foresee 10000€ for hotel expenses and 3000€ for the flights.

- Elections

Hélène agrees to apply as president if the council supports this. She explains she needs the support of all council members for effective and shared leadership work. She wants to ask Jaume Costa the representative of the Catalan association AMBH in the political SC to be the general secretary, she will ask him this week-end. The council members give their agreement in principle.

Leopold explains that to replace him Dora Pachova (representative of the Bulgarian school EDICTA within the Education SC) accepted and Leopold will initially help her. She would like to be present in the council meeting before the GA and the elections. We decide to wait for the elections, it is more democratic, and to ask the former coordinators to be present for the last council meeting to ensure a good transition.

Cristal Sumner (current CEO of the British Homeopathic Association) has accepted to take over the position of patients' coordinator, if there are no further nominations for the position.

Hetty wants to discuss with the members of the political SC before renewing her mandate, in case someone would like to take over the position.

Jean Pierre will apply for a third turn as coordinator of the provings SC. The rule for the 2 mandates ~~is not yet established. This~~ has to be discussed within the political SC and the national organisations, voted at the GA in 2018 and added possibly in the by-laws, before being implemented.

Congress Vienna

Caroline addresses the schedule for her invited speaker, scheduled at lunch time.

We notice that there is no lunch break planned on Thursday. The lunch will be a buffet that people can attend gradually. Caroline also has concerns with the size of the rooms for some interesting lectures, such as the Documentation session, some participants won't be able to attend because the room will be full. Thomas explains that he already faced the same situation and the solution could be that sessions are recorded and available for free afterward for interested people (question is it budgeted?)

The letter to Liberty has not been done, we have missed the date. It is an issue we may face further on, there would have been a need for a plan B.

Discussion is about the wording «Keynote speakers», could be replaced as «invited experts» by related subcommittees.

We ask the congress organisers to send us each month or every 6 weeks, an overview of the financial situation, sponsorship, and registration.

Communication workshop

OK with the project prepared, we do hope to reach a plan for the future

CEN and ERASMUS +

Today starts the last public consultation regarding the final voting, all national standardisation bodies will have to vote again. It will take 2 months. The last draft of the CEN document includes the last technical and editorial comments of the Paris' meeting (translated into French and German). We must inform all those organisations which were not present in Paris, ask them to get in contact with their standardisation body and make sure they'll vote yes. Things can change in certain countries, like in Poland. In some countries there was no voting, especially in Baltic

countries, we should try to involve them to promote the process. Baltic countries and Portugal did not vote and should now.

UK should at least abstain. Sato explains the situation and that she will speak with the mirror committee about the ECH request to give an abstention rather than the no vote.

Hetty explains that the ECCH should not block the process, because once the process will be accepted for the MDs the non-medical can use a cheaper shortcut to get their own standard using our draft slightly modified.

Anyway the national laws won't be changed by the standards, they'll only apply when the law in regards is lacking.

In certain countries the ministries and medical chambers intervened against the standardisation for esthetical surgery.

Some countries are not in the political SC and it could be useful to send a letter from the ECH email to all national associations making sure they'll vote and take care of the event.

Hetty: In September when the final standard will be published, it could be presented to the European parliament, together with the Osteopaths. In an ideal situation we would prefer to stand only for homeopaths, but in reality we have a little more chance to get the opportunity if we join the osteopaths. Thomas states that joining also the chiropractors would make it even easier. Hetty states this could be the first falling of the Berlin wall against CAM, using the WHO's wish to see integrative medicine training harmonised and standardised. Sato proposes to ask the WHO to present its strategic work and join them on behalf of homeopathy, together with osteopathy and chiropractors. In June in Stuttgart the WHO will be present in the congress for integrative medicine, Thomas says we should evaluate the possibility to have this meeting, we should ask Ton Nicolai and the representative of the osteopaths.

Erasmus+

Last month Claudia Garn had a meeting with Mrs Schlosswohl (our appointed technical support for the application process), she said that we should take the opportunity to have more time now to share with national representatives on how to get more influence. The second application will be regarding the certification process. We need additional partners, institutional partners. There is a WHO collaborating centre in Italy, we could suggest them to become members for the next application for us to get more political weight.

The application will be in March 2017, the homeopathic veterinarians intend to apply too with their own programme. This time the Education SC should be more involved, and the second application should be done from Belgium. Arlette will get in contact purposely with the Belgian authorities. Hélène remembers that it is

important to state in the application, clearly, how the money would be shared within the recipients. Arlette suggests including Bert Lambert in the process too.

Thomas had a meeting with Xavier Prats-Monné (head of DG santé) who won't be helpful. The only thing that interested him was when the osteopaths presented their standards, the official paper!

WHD in New Delhi

Thomas explains that he realised there that LMHI is not interested in cooperating with ECH, but the Indians are, CCRH and LMHI India are willing to get closer and have regular contact. New Delhi's convention meeting was indeed more important than Buenos Aires' LMHI congress will be.

All the presentations are on line on the Indian government website

http://webcast.gov.in/whd/hahnemann-hall/hahn-s6.html

It is available for only 2 or 3 weeks, maybe we should ask Chris to download the more relevant presentations and put them on the ECH website. They signed a so-called memorandum of understanding with some institutions, Canadian faculty, Belgian aculty, English and Catalan one and they are looking for some more. They look for cooperation in the field of research, and education, to strengthen their position within the ministry. Another big topic for them is pharmacopeia. They are also interested to participate in our SCs.

Cooperation with LMHI

Sara remind us that we must stay aware an not to step on LMHI' s place. An informal, occasional connection is fine, but not more. When external guests attend our SC meetings, they are welcome but the minutes aren't to be sent to them.

Topics of research and provings are more open to people outside of Europe, but for Education and Politics it is more Europe focused and the members are only representatives of the national associations/schools. Pharmacy is also very Euro centred.

AYUSH signed also a memorandum with Armenia, they strive to establish a chair at the University of Erevan. Armenia has already been offered to join, Thomas had a long chat with their dean, who proposed to invite Thomas to his University.

Turkey has a new law, homeopathy is to be learnt at the University, and they accept e-learning.

Leopold had a talk with Gustavo Cataldi (Education in the LMHI) about the diplomas, they agreed that when someone has a European diploma, he will just need to pay the fee and get the LMHI diploma, on the other way round he has to go through the accreditation process to get his European diploma

LMHI congress 2016

Who to represent ECH? Hetty asks not to go. We don't know anything about their agenda. Arlette plans to go with Jean-Louis Smout. Thomas will check out the agenda, and on Sunday we'll discuss it again.

EUROCAM/CAMDOC

Sara attended the EUROCAM and CAMDOC meetings on behalf of ECH even though most of them are not really relevant for ECH. It is nevertheless important to be there. Steven Gordon is an important voice and if we're not there he will put out the medical homeopathy.

CAMDOC usually has a phone meeting just before EUROCAM to go through all that has to do with MDs. There must be a questionnaire sent around to doctors on what they think about the relevance of CAMDOC, it has not been discussed beforehand nor what use will be made of this questionnaire.

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EPHA used to have a complementary medicine working group, but doesn't have any more. Steven Gordon is now a council member of EPHA. He sends around email with upcoming topics. We will support participation in their working groups, Lex Rutten will be part of the AMR group. And beginning of September they have their GA and a conference. Peter Fisher agreed to participate in the production of the document about musculo-skeletal treatments.

CEOM: is the topic of CAMDOC. Thomas will take over the job to explore the possibility to cooperate with the German delegate.

Next spring meeting

Proposal to organise it in the Netherland: Hetty agrees to see this with her association. The patients' organisation could take over the organisation of the meeting?

We could move it end of April (to avoid overlapping with International Homeopathy Day) and combine with a visit to Remedy Bank. We must inform our members without waiting that we'll move the date to the end of April. 21st and 22nd of April 2017

Homeopathic in the Baltic countries

We had yesterday more information from Simonas Stankunas our Lithuanian host. We need to collect them more accurately member associations, presidents, schools, names, addresses, number of members, of homeopaths, pharmacists, industry, and to identify the main problems.

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Sunday 17 – 04 – 2016 , 9.00 – 12.00 am

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Excused: Jean Pierre Jansen

Moderator: Sara Eames

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Agenda points:

- SC reports
- Outcome of the Communication workshop
- Next workshop April 2017
- ECH congress 2018

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SC reports

- **Leopold/Education**

✓ Additions requested for the workshop. The Lithuanian member present wants to add a video of an autism treatment, he has all signatures but wonders however if he is allowed to publish it (public or only MDs?). Edit Katona and Dora Pachova propose a working group, with PR professionals, they don't want to lead it. They also propose a common meeting with ECHAMP

✓ Leopold proposes a tactic like Mao « never attack unless 100 percent you know you'll win». It means be prepared, make sure you'll win. Identify the weak points of your opponent. Brigitte Jauch-Wimmer proposes the data cases collection of WissHom

✓ E-STECHOS group will be: Claudia Garn as head, Arlette Blanchy, Jean-Louis Smout and Antonella Ronchi

✓ Email list: Cristal Sumner who was its coordinator stepped down and now Brigitte Jauch-Wimmer will take it over.

✓ Accreditation, always same issue with some members who want to wait for the exam to be checked before stating. New schools get a provisional accreditation waiting for the first exam, translated in English and checked by the accreditation team. The final decision should come only from the subcom, but to avoid any discussion the council needs to state. There must be a document somewhere in the archives, if we could find it would solve the

point. Anna will look for it, and Arlette, maybe Ton. Caroline reminds us that we all are in charge of sending our minutes to the Archives, once a year, as pdf. Contact person is sandra.doelker@igm-bosch.deLeopold will contact Ton Nicolai and Ulrich Fischer for this purpose.

- ✓ Next coordinator? Dora Pachova is the only candidate. An official application has to be sent then forwarded to the national associations. (Hélène will inform the applicants)
- ✓ How to attract new MDs? Suggestion is to prepare an introductory course, in Lithuania they have one of 8 hours, another one of a week-end. In Berlin they have dialogues with conventional MDs, 3 times a year. Just the advice to take care of the wording used, not too esoteric, unusual for the conventional world. Thomas suggests thinking of this as topic for the next workshop, communication on education.
- ✓ Voting of the minutes there was 1 vote against (1 country) and 10 in favour. Claudia Garn asked if she was still in charge of drafting the minutes, same result (1 abstention). One vote by country and names are not to be mentioned.
- ✓ Vote about the diplomas, people having an ECH diplomas can pay and get a LMHI diploma, but not the other way round, the full application is to be run. It has been voted and adapted. What about the special German situation, they pay a reduced fee of 10€ but don't get a personal diploma. We as ECH would need to know how many ECH diplomas have been released that way. We need now to inform the German association that they don't have any longer the right to release the reduced priced diplomas. Now only 60€ a diploma, sending the names as the other associations.
- ✓ The 3rd session dedicated to the Edu SC in the congress will be used by Claudia for a workshop on e-learning.

- **Ilse/Pharmacy**

- ✓ New coordinator? no application, so Ilse agrees to carry on the job
- ✓ Presentation of the discussion (guidelines education to continue the work of Steven Kayne and Fruzsina)
- ✓ **Guideline education**
- ✓ To ask different members of different countries about education
- ✓ **SWOT-SC Pharmacy** - Pharmacists are in used in general to give answers
- ✓ **Update:** HMPWG – RASH - ECHAMP - concerns
- ✓ **"Availability report"** - most of the topics for homeopathy congress 2016
- ✓ **Pharmacopoeia- Comparison of homeopathic preparation methods in pharmacopoeias**
- ✓
- ✓ **ECH Homepage - pharmacy**
- ✓ Update

- ✓ To point out answers to pharmaceutical questions
- ✓ Easy to read
- ✓ French part

- ✓ Thomas addresses the difficulties of Estonia, not allowed to sell HMPs in her country. This will be dealt with in the political SC that should send a letter to the EU parliament

- **Hetty/Politics**

- ✓ Proposed by-law is adopted (text attached), the council agrees to make this proposal official for the next GA
- ✓ For the congress, representatives from Greece and Bulgaria propose to get in contact with their national MEP.
- ✓ Proposal to stick to the rule of 2 maximum mandates within the council for renewal of the persons. Is a new by-law necessary? Could we fear a loss of experience? To be discussed further.
- ✓ Use students' thesis as promotional documents.
- ✓ Emails policy: Important to mention in the heading the topic of the emails and only address one topic by email.
- ✓ Some national members may be willing to hand over a special task without having a special position.
- ✓ Connie Bajic sent around a template for the members to inform about their own attacks by detractors of Homeopathy. Afterward it will be available in the ECH political folder.
- ✓ Update of the document «Who is who in the EU», to put also in the internal website
- ✓ Next possible congress, Bulgaria wants to consider having it in 2018, as they will chair the EU at this moment.
- ✓ Fees: all national organisations have to look at the self-assessment of the fees. The comparison will be sent over by Arlette. The countries paying the maximum amount may think of going on the same or not. Any proposal must be submitted to the council end of the summer.

- **Anna/research**

- ✓ Data platforms was a topic: Vithoulkas compass, CliFiCol. Anna asked them to collaborate to share the data information. Vithoulkas compass agrees to open the possibilities to all persons, not only the user, but uncertainty remains regarding the copyright of the data
  CliFiCol has many more users, for practical reasons Anna wants to begin in Barcelona with CliFiCol and a pilot project. She would also like to get to know the WissHom proposal of Martien Brands.
- ✓ In Vienna a 2 hours meeting is enough for the SC with email work in between.

- ✓ Gaylen Ives from Ireland is back in the SC. He made a questionnaire for students and wants to widen the audience of it.
- ✓ Who is allowed to take place in the Research SC meeting? This SC involves people from research a large way, not only MDs, but also all persons involved in research. This time there was a commercial person present. Anna should have been informed of this, and should have given a green light. Charlotte needs an updated list of the possible attendants to be able to refer to the coordinators when registrations take place. Automatic tool would make it sure.
- ✓ Topic of the joint Edu/Research Scs was from Robbert Von Haselen on critical thinking and to implement these new criteria on the assessment of published cases.
- ✓ Vithoulkas compass offers ECH members to use the platform for free. Thomas wants to check it before to see how it is regarding the intellectual property of the cases uploaded there.
- ✓ Hélène addresses the requests of Frederik Schroyens. In the upcoming new version of CliFiCol they will implement a new tool to secure the intake of the cases (and avoid people modifying them afterward) this tool is called HIPAA. Frederik asks ECH's support for the acceptance of this system (somewhat constraining). Thomas suggests that this is the role of the research SC to decide on all the points about cases collection, with cc to Lex Rutten.

- **Sato/ Patients**

  Thank you to Jennifer for taking over the task for the last 6 months – she request that her name now be removed from the email circulation list. EFHPA's next meeting is for next week-end. Nominations to the board are being sought, but so far only Cristal Sumner accepts to replace Sato.

- **Hélène/Provings**

- ✓ Provings SC was chaired by Frederik Schroyens substituting for Jean Pierre. The planned topics about guidelines for provings coordinators have been postponed accordingly.
- ✓ Idem for the database on provings
- ✓ The group has mainly worked on the preparation of the proving lectures for the congress, especially Frederik's lecture on repertorising a proving.
- ✓ The election point has not been addressed.

- **Topics and locations for future workshops and meetings**

For the next spring meeting, if it is in Holland, Hetty thinks that the workshop, nearby Remedy bank, should be linked with it. There is a hotel nearby, Jack Hendrickx has an arrangement with, it has a bus to the nearest station.

Other suggestion: people want to have another workshop on media, they ask for practical advice, but Sara has concerns on the different languages

- ✓ Ilse asks for a topic on Education She suggests to ask different members of different countries about education, to have a "collection" and would like the support of the Documentaiton SC for this purpose.

And the location for next autumn could be Greece to reach the associations that are not yet linked enough with us. This will be on the agenda of the next council.

- **Outcome of the communication workshop**

Hélène will draft a summary of the additional points suggested by the participants, to have a project to implement further on.

We already noticed a strong demand of an ECH coordination in front of attacks, and all media topics. A new SC leaded by Edit Katona could be an idea. Or a working group. It will be on the agenda for next time.

- **Additional point about congress 2016**

We notice that the hotels' nights are cheaper via the online bookings than via Liberty! We are free to book the way we want if we can find it cheaper, and will be further on reimbursed by ECH.

What about the council meeting on Wednesday morning. Or Tuesday evening? But it means the whole council has to stay in the same hotel (Imperial Riding). 5pm with a supper break at 6.30. Leopold proposes to book a restaurant, Thomas to ask Liberty to provide a buffet within the meeting room.

- **Congress 2018?**

According to the outcome in Vienna, the decision will be made next meeting. Thomas stresses the importance of the cooperation with the vets, and the sharing of tasks for the lobbying process in the EU.

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Summary

Decisions:

- Applications proposed until now for the next council are Hélène Renoux as President, Jaume Costa as General Secretary, Dora Pachova as Education coordinator and Cristal Sumner as Patients coordinator. They are all supported by the council

- The current council will meet for the last time before ECH congress in Vienna, the new one will take place after the congress, former members are requested to attend with the new ones to ensure a smooth transition
- The PCO Liberty is requested to send regularly to the council an overview of the financial situation of the congress' organisation: number of registrations, sponsors asked and agreed, and their amounts
- Spring meeting 2017 will take place 21st and 22nd of April, location is to be confirmed, it could be in the Netherlands
- The German association is no longer allowed to deliver reduced price diplomas

To do:

- Prepare a financial table of the last 5 years, to see the evolution of the fees – *Arlette*
- Calculate the costs for Charlotte's attendance to the congress in Vienna - *Arlette*
- To send a letter to the national associations explaining the registration system for the congress – *Hélène/Charlotte*
- To discuss in the political SC: the rule of the 2 mandates maximum within the council – *Hetty*
- To draft a letter to all member associations about the CEN vote – *Thomas*
- To ask the representatives of the osteopaths, during the upcoming congress in Stuttgart, to organise a coordinated communication on CEN standards at the EU Parliament. *Thomas/Sara/Hélène/Arlette*
- To address the Belgian authorities about the ERASMUS + project – *Arlette*
- To upload the WHAW convention videos in New Delhi, and select the more relevant ones for the ECH website – *Hélène*
- To inform the German association that they now follow the common rules and prices for their diplomas – *Leopold/Charlotte*
- To prepare a letter to the EU Parliament regarding the Estonian situation about availability of Homeopathic medicinal products – *Hetty and the political SC*
- To add the proposed by-law about membership to the Agenda of the next GA – *Hélène*
- Send to Chris (the webmaster) the text «Who's who in the EU» - *Hetty*
- Prepare an automatic tool to check membership when registering for an ECH SC meeting – *Hélène /Charlotte*
- Check the issue of intellectual property of uploaded cases in the Vithoulkas compass platform before making it available for free to ECH members - *Thomas*


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