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Draft Minutes
51st AEMH-Board meeting
1 May 2008

9:00 – 12:00

Venue: Domus Medica, Šubićeva 9, 10000 Zagreb

1. Approval of the Agenda AEMH 08-015 REV1
The agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 50th Board Meeting in Brussels 2 February 2008.
   Document AEMH 08-008 was approved without changes.

3. President’s Report  AEMH 08-007
The President recalled the problems of the last meeting with PricewaterhouseCoopers and expressed his confidence that all misunderstandings will be solved and the cooperation model AEMH 08-018 will be approved. Wim Oosterom will be a speaker at the conference and the evening reception, thus there will be opportunities to discuss with him.

  ➢ Prof. Nolte confirmed his willingness to provide information, provided that PwC is not using the name of the AEMH as complying with their views.
  ➢ Dr. Zilling questioned whether this year was a one shot contribution or whether there is a long-term plan.
  ➢ The President informed that PwC wait for proposals, we have to find a topic where both parties are concerned. Where PwC looks only at the financial aspects, considers healthcare as an industry and thus the productivity the AEMH has to take the opportunity to defend the medical side.
  ➢ Dr. Zilling mentioned McKinsey which are more active in Sweden than PwC.
  ➢ Dr Sobat advocated that working with PwC does not mean that we have to close up to other possibilities.
  ➢ The President confirmed that there is no exclusivity clause in the collaboration agreement.
  ➢ Dr Zilling fears that PwC uses the name of AEMH on official documents.
  ➢ Dr De Deus does not see any risk, he considers that PwC only wants our know-how in different areas.
  ➢ Dr Sobat shares this view, the AEMH should not be afraid to be mentioned and even should take a more active approach and role.

Concerning the internal AEMH affairs, all agreed that too much time is spent on budget and translation, this valuable time has to be spent on working topics. If we quit translation and the once-off we can meet the recommendations of the external auditors.

  ➢ Prof Nolte declared that he will vote for the once-off contribution, but his organisation is reluctant, so there should be no more extra contributions. Germany has also a problem with the annual increase of 5 %.
Dr Sobat reminded that the once-off contribution is only covering last year’s deficit.

Dr Zilling informed that the Nordic delegations have no problem with the once-off contribution, but this should also help to spend less time in the plenary on finances.

The President furthermore reminded the importance to attend meetings, such as recently in Gorizia where he had been invited by a Citizens network for the celebrating of the Patients’ Rights Day. The Health commissioner Mrs Vassiliou send a message to this forum informing that Patients’ rights will be incorporated in the new health services directive. At this meeting Dr Lies was the only one to advocate that patients have also obligations, not only rights.

Dr Sobat agreed that formalizing too many patients’ rights will diminish the rights of doctors. He informed on an event, which will take place 8-13th August 2010 in Zagreb: The World Congress on Medical Law. He proposed that the AEMH could request to make a presentation. For the preparation, a working group should be launched in order to have a position paper beforehand.


Dr Sobat quoted the last sentence “For instance in Denmark, this is important, if we should convince our members that a membership of the AEMH is a platform which can promote our interests in the EU in a professional way.” And asked how this should be understood.

Dr Zilling explained the critical position of the Danish delegations in the past, but that there is a positive change in process.

The working group will elaborate a final document which will hopefully be adopted by the plenary.

5. Future of the AEMH European Secretariat

Brigitte Jencik, who exposed her ideas on a reorganisation of the AEMH Secretariat in a document, which she handed out to the members of board. She recalled the different changes, which the secretariat underwent in the past 7 years, date of establishment in Brussels and informed on her personal wish to back out from the job in a near future. This would most probably coincide with the change of presidency, with a risk of loss of competence. She therefore reflected on a possible transition period for her own position, which could also be a start for review of the position of Secretary General within the AEMH. In brief, B Jencik would intensify the Secretary General tasks and convey the secretarial tasks to a young self starter, who she would train and guide.

The President thanked B. Jencik for her concerns about the future.

Dr Sobat questioned on the financial impact.

B Jencik admitted that the auditors did not work out a projection in time, but that, knowing the difficult financial situation of the AEMH, she would only make a proposal for a break
even compared to the current situation. This could be achieved if only the secretary would be salaried, the secretary general being remunerated by a yearly allowance, without implication of social fees.

- The members of the Board approved the principal in big lines, but a final text should be provided for the next board meeting, and a mandate asked from the plenary.

6. **Finances**
   a) Prevision 2008 based on the Budget 2008 AEMH 07-008
   b) Draft Budget 2009 AEMH 08-010
   Interpretation costs AEMH 08-029

- Dr Sobat reminded the decision of the plenary in Madrid to abandon interpretation as from the 2009 plenary meeting, but that he expected some reluctance.
- Dr Zilling advocated the position of the Scandinavian country for English only.
- Prof Nolte affiliated to this and insisted that the budget does not allow interpretation.

7. **Working Groups - Preparation and future strategy**
   a) Training (Dr Thomas Zilling) AEMH 08-014
   Position paper on the Bologna Process AEMH 08-037

- Dr Zilling explained that it is time to act on the implementation of the Bologna Process and that the AEMH should take a stand, especially concerning the internship. His working group will finalize a position paper.

b) Accreditation (Dr Joao de Deus): AEMH 07-042
   European Hospital evolving into Centres of Excellence AEMH 08-023

- Dr de Deus presented the statement, which he drafted in the follow-up of last year’s conference and in the succession of the statement on accreditation. Both documents are meant to be incorporated in a global statement.

c) Healthcare across Borders and the consequences on Risk Management and Patient Safety (Dr Hrvoje Sobat):

- Dr Sobat explained that he inherited the chair of the working group from the former Board, but that he was glad to take the lead. He reminded the conference on Patients Safety and the Luxembourg declaration of 2005, when journalists became interested in scandals and medical mistakes. One of the consequences are the rules on patients right. This year’s conference will inspire the work of the group and he committed to draft a consistent document for the next board meeting.

d) The Core Values, targets and action plan AEMH (Dr Raymond Lies)

- Dr Lies expected a vivid debate on the distributed document, which nevertheless needs to be completed by a time table concerning the action plan.
8. **61st AEMH Plenary Meeting**  
   **Draft Agenda**  
Elections of three members of the Board  
- Prof Nolte informed that he could not and did not intend to stand for another term of 1st Vice-president.  
- Dr de Deus announced that he will candidate for the post of 1st Vice-President.  
- Dr Zilling informed that he will apply for another term as 2nd Vice-President and that Dr Kirschner, former AEMH treasurer, intends to run for the office of 1st Vice-President.  
- Dr de Deus stated that in this case he revises his former announcement and would apply for re-election as 3rd Vice-President.

9. **Next Board Meeting – 15 November 2008, venue tbc**  
- Prof Nolte expressed his wish to organise this Board meeting, which will be the last he will attend as Vice-President, in Hamburg or Pinneberg, his home town. The members of the board were invited to reflect on this proposal.

10. **Miscellaneous**  
No other topic were brought forward and the President closed the session.