



European Association for Palliative Care
EAPC Onlus: Non profit-making Association
Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) recognised by the Council of Europe
Association Européenne pour les Soins Palliatifs
EAPC Onlus: Organisation à but non lucratif d'utilité publique
ONG reconnue par le Conseil de l'Europe

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Minutes from the EAPC General Assembly 2004
Miskolc, Hungary 24 April 2004

In the chair: Philip Larkin, Vice President of the EAPC

Katalin Hegedus (KH) welcomed those present and expressed her pleasure that the EAPC General Assembly is being held here in Hungary.

Philip Larkin (PL) explained the formal purpose of the General Assembly and thanked our Hungarian hosts. Of 216 members having renewed their fees the year 2004 by April 6 were present. Furthermore there were 9 observers from the Hungarian Associations Collective member. The GA was quorate with the second call.

1. Welcome message for the President

Stein Kaasa (SK) thanked our Hungarian hosts for the invitation to hold the GA here in Hungary and explained how much he had learned about hospice palliative care services in Hungary, and how impressed he had been by what he had seen.

2. Minutes of the GA held in the Hague, 2 April 2003

These had previously been published on the world wide web. SK proposed, PL seconded their acceptance. Agreed unanimously.

3. President's report

Antonella Lio, EAPC Congress Officer has left the head office in Milan. The main responsibility for the Stresa conference has been taken by Heidi Blumhuber, in Milan. For the Aachen Congress 2005, the main responsibility is being taken by Lukas Radbruch (Aachen) and Stein Kaasa (Trondheim) in collaboration with the head office. The head office remains busy and lively. The website is an important vehicle of communication and all are encouraged to make use of it. 'New and Views' is found on the website; it also appears in the official journal of EAPC, European Journal of Palliative Care. The Research Journal of EAPC is Palliative Medicine, edited by former EAPC President, Geoffrey Hanks. Close collaboration between the two journals is being developed.

Some years ago, EAPC established a number of Task Forces and number are currently operational, together with other initiatives, as follows:

Education Taskforces - *Nursing* has completed a major element of its work recently. *Medical education* in the process of developing an EAPC postgraduate curriculum and exploring work on the content of medical undergraduate curriculum.



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Council of Europe: EAPC is represented by Maurice Chausson, assisted by board members Andre Rhebergen and Lucie Hapille. EAPC has been responding to the Marty Report on euthanasia. A list of amendments has been prepared by EAPC.

EAPC East: details of this work were presented at the Miskolc conference the previous day; the work is led by Carl Johan Furst, assisted by Silvia Sauter.

Palliative for the Elderly: Initiated by EAPC in collaboration with Floriani Foundation, Open Society Institute and the World Health Organisation. Its report has now been published.

Katalin Muszbek pointed out that in Hungary a decision had been taken to focus on cancer patients, and not all patients. SK accepted the point and the 'big debate' about how to approach the clinical challenge of palliative care for non-cancer patients.

Research Network: is organising the Stresa meeting. So far 550 have registered. 800 are hoped for. The meeting will be very important for the EAPC budget as a whole. Research meetings seem to be more able to attract the sponsorship of the medical industry than the larger and more general congresses. The Research Network is also running several studies at the moment.

Taskforce on Palliative Care Development in Europe: is led by Carlos Centeno and has met in September 2003 in London, in Salamanca in February. It is undertaking a systematic literature review and an analysis of existing directories, and plans a survey of collective members and national associations.

Taskforce on Standards: led by Carl Johan Furst; a questionnaire had recently been circulated.

Taskforce on Paediatric Palliative Care: led by Richard Hain; a meeting is planned for June of 2004, working closely with ACT in the UK. SK strongly supported this work.

Aachen, April 2004: The scientific programme is now well advanced and many abstracts are expected. SK has been in collaboration with IAHP and the American Academy of Palliative Medicine, to promote further links. Contacts also being forged with African and Asia-Pacific associations. The Congress in Aachen is being organised in collaboration with the German National Association of Palliative Care.

EAPC congress for 2007: a venue for this has not yet been decided, though the board believe it should be in Eastern Europe. Official bids and detailed plans are awaited. KH stated that Hungary does not wish to apply to organise the 2007 congress. Katalin Muszbek described the application made to organise the 2005 Congress and its subsequent outcome; at the moment Hungary has huge enthusiasm but limited resources to host the Congress; she took the view that the new board of the Hungarian Association should discuss this further. KH agreed to this, but took the view that Hungary should not apply. This led to a general discussion on the feasibility and costs of such a Congress. SK pointed out that instead of focusing on the budget (which must at least break even) the political and policy impact of the Congress's location should be major factors. There were many factors: organisation, fund-raising, long-term planning, suitable venues in Budapest. EAPC needs to make a decision within half a year.



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4. Treasurer's report

Andre Rhebergen, EAPC Secretary, presented the financial report for 2003 (Annexes 1a, 1b, 1c). Total income rose in the period after June and costs were contained at a lower level than expected. There were no questions about the financial report. Acceptance was proposed by PL and seconded by SK. Agreed unanimously.

The budget for 2004 was presented (Annexes 2a, 2b), showing a predicted loss of 37,000 Euros. It was expected that this would be reduced to break even, taking into account the expected proceeds from the Aachen Congress. If the budget at presented were approved, then the reserves would have to be used to balance the accounts. Proposed KH, seconded PL. Agreed unanimously.

5. Next GA of EAPC: will take place during the Aachen Congress. Dates and time will be published online and communicated to the members.

6. Any other business: there was none.

Phil Larkin again thanked the Hungarian hosts. The meeting was closed.



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