European Society of Hypnosis
Council of Representatives (CoR) Meeting
23rd October, 2014 - Sorrento, Italy
Hilton Sorrento Palace Hotel - 19:00 to 21:40

MINUTES

Present: 36 CoR Members
Non-Voting Board Members
Non-Voting Nominees
Observers

Proxies: 19 Proxy Votes had been received

Apologies: AFHYP, DI, ISOREC, OEGWH and Borys Ivnyev (UAPP)

Absences: Gunter R Clausen, Thomas Loew (DGAHAT), Peter Hain (GHYPS), Gertrude Piribauer, Ernst Vitek (MEGA), Miran Mozina, Lea Sugman (SIP), Tsira Abdryakhimova (UAPP) and Zdzislaw Sybilski

Minute takers: Christine Henderson (CH) and Kathleen Long (KL)

1) Presidential Welcome

Nicole Ruysschaert (NR), the ESH President, warmly welcomed those present.

2) Welcome to New CS (CS)

Members noted that since the last CoR Meeting in Istanbul in 2011, four new CS had joined ESH:

DI: Dáleiðslufélag Íslands (The Icelandic Society of Hypnosis)
ICHRPA: Institute of Clinical Hypnosis of Russian Psychotherapeutic Association (Russia)
SIP: Slovenian Institute for Psychotherapy
SPPIE: Scuola Di Psicoterapia Psicosintetica Ed Ipnosi Ericksoniana H. Bernheim (Italy)

and that **Mr Zdzislaw Sybilski** of Poland had joined ESH as an Independent Member.

3) Approval of the Revised 2011 CoR Minutes - Istanbul

Following circulation of the Revised 2011 CoR Minutes, Members were asked for their comments. As there were none, NR asked that the Minutes be approved Mhairi McKenna (MLM) seconded the motion.

4) President's Report (ESH Board of Directors Activity and Committee Reports)

It was noted that this document had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting. No queries were raised. **See 4a) next page**

5) Treasurer's Report

Gaby Golan (GG) presented his PowerPoint Presentation showing the financial status of the Society over the previous three years – highlighting income and expenditure – and showing an overall loss of just 150 Euros over the three-year period.

Denis Vesvard (DV) asked GG where the Income from the 2011 Istanbul Congress was shown in the Accounts. GG explained that THD had not broken-even and therefore they were unable to contribute the (contracted) 15% profit margin to ESH.
GG went on to explain that the large balance on the Euro Account was due to the enormous generosity of Marianne Martin and Henriette Walter (ISOREC & OEGWH) who had organised the 2008 Vienna Congress. After being persuaded to take their meagre expenses, they had donated the remaining profit to ESH. This generosity had enabled ESH to repay its loans to those CS who had helped fund the 2005 Congress in Gozo.

GG hoped that when the Accounts from the 2014 Congress were available, it would show a healthy profit for both SII and ESH.

DV asked whether financial support was offered to those Societies bidding for the Congress; historically no funding was offered.

MLM observed that Central Office costs were decreasing over the years and that, in view of the excellent service provided, the Society could look at increasing Central Office funding.

MLM also observed Board of Director 'face-to-face' Meeting expenses. GG explained that as no Constituent Society had come forward to host the 2014 Board Meeting, a decision had been taken to visit Timisoara (Romania) but hoped that our CS would host all future Meetings.

GG informed Members that the Board of Directors had been investigating the legal and financial position of ESH. As there appeared to be no documentation, enquiries had been made with past Presidents and Board Members but this had failed to substantiate in which Country – if any – ESH was registered. In view of this, GG had sought legal advice. As a Non-Profit (Not for Profit) Organisation it was suggested that there were three alternatives:

i) Not to make waves and carry on, as in the past.
ii) To register ESH in the UK (as the Bank Accounts are already established there).
iii) To ask CS to make enquiries (within their particular Country) to ascertain registration details, costs etc.

Members were informed that the new Board of Directors would continue to investigate the situation and that they would be kept informed of developments.

Following an enquiry by one of the Members present, it was explained that the UK Bank Accounts had three registered signatories: Gaby Golan, Martin Wall (MW) and Christine Henderson (Central Office) and that two signatures were always required for each action i.e. to manage payments etc. This system was deemed to be safe and secure.

MW advised Members that the Accounts were required to be audited to safeguard the Finance Committee and Board of Directors.

4a) President's Report (continued from page one)

NR returned to her Report and continued by reading out the letter that had been received from Borys Ivnyev of the UAPP.

The structure of each Committee was detailed, which included co-opted Members. NR asked Members for their comments or feedback but there was none.

6) Constitutional Amendments

Kathleen Long presented the proposed Constitutional Amendments, which had been circulated to all Members in advance of the Meeting.

Amendment 1): Article IV: Objectives of ESH: Clause 1) e):
Delete "provide" and substitute "encourage" – this was carried unanimously.

Amendment 2): Article IV: Objective of ESH: Clause 3):
To insert: "ESH shall hold periodically a congress. ESH Constituent Society will be invited to submit proposals to host. These will be introduced to the ESH CoR who will designate the Society organising the next ESH Congress. If, in exceptional circumstances, the chosen Society finds it is unable to complete its commitment, or to meet the standards expected of it, then the ESH Board of Directors can appoint another Society to hold the Congress without further recourse to the CoR."

To delete: "The ESH shall hold periodically a Congress at a time and place to be designated by the Council of Representatives (CoR)."

To substitute: "encourage" for "and sponsor".

These amendments were carried unanimously.

Amendment 3): Article VII: Council of Representatives (CoR)

To add: "Each delegate can hold a maximum of one proxy vote."

This amendment was debated with Members expressing their views:

i) MLM proposed that those CS not having delegates at Congress should be given the opportunity of electronic voting, two weeks in advance thereby using the Proxy vote in emergency situations only. Peter Naish seconded the motion.

ii) Eva Banyai suggested that the original amendment was too rigid.

KL asked for other motions?

iii) Joost Mertens proposed a maximum of two proxy votes, which was seconded by Claude Beguelin.

Members were asked to vote on the three motions:

i) "Each delegate can hold a maximum of one proxy vote."
ii) "Each delegate can hold a maximum of one proxy vote. Electronic votes would be available to delegates unable to attend CoR Meeting; in the event of an emergency situation a second proxy vote may be allowed at the discretion of the CoR."
iii) "Each delegate can hold a maximum of two proxy votes."

Using a show of hands, the third motion was carried with 31 in favour.

The final amendment put to the CoR was the insertion of "ESH" before "President"; this was approved.

KL thanked Members for their patience and was thanked in return.

7) Elections

NR advised Members that all Nominees would be allowed three minutes for an oral presentation, which began with the post of President-Elect. On conclusion of his presentation, MW was duly elected.

Gaby Golan was duly elected as Treasurer.

Twelve candidates gave their oral presentation for the five Board Member posts. Ballot papers were circulated, collected and were taken from the room for counting by DV and CH

There were two nominations for posts of Fiscal Controllers. Shaul Navon and Guido Aerts identified themselves to the Members and were duly elected.

8) Proposal for 2017 ESH Congress

Members were advised that a proposal had been received from AMISI to hold the 2017 ESH Congress in Milan and that there were also other proposals in the process of being put together, however, these were not yet available to present to the CoR.

Silvia Giacosa (who would Chair the Congress) and Lara Bellardita from AMISI gave their presentation and informed Members that the theme of the proposed ESH Milan Congress would be “Building Bridges between Hypnosis and Hypnotic Psychotherapy”. They explained that Milan would be hosting the 2015 EXPO, which would improve the infrastructure and make it a good choice for the 2017 ESH Congress. The multicultural city was a popular tourist and business destination with good transport links to the rest of the World.

With its’ historical centre, ancient architecture and a modern, thriving business centre, Milan represented ‘a bridge between the past and the future’.

AMISI repeated that they had a fully committed team, who would ensure that the Congress was successful and well run, should they be given the opportunity to organise the Congress.

NR asked Members if they had questions for AMISI delegation.

Bernard Trenkle (BT) asked how much experience AMISI had in running an International Congress. Lara responded that AMISI had been organising their National Congress for many years on a three yearly basis and stressed that she felt they also had the necessary international connections and support to run the next ESH Congress.

BT asked how many members there were in AMISI’s faculty and how many people normally attended their three yearly Congress. Lara responded that there were 15 Faculty members and around 200 people attended their Congresses

Eva Banyai asked if AMISI had people who had international experience in running a Congress. Lara responded that they would have the support of their faculty, ESH Board Members and they were currently in the process of building links with international colleagues. This was still a work in progress.

MLM asked for further information on the proposals in the pipeline (that had been mentioned previously). She wanted to know how many there were and if any of them were concrete proposals. She also wanted to know when the proposals were likely to be ready to be circulated to the COR.

NR responded that it was the ESH Board’s intention to ask Members to delay the decision on where the 2017 ESH Congress would be held until the other proposals were ready (within a few weeks). AMISI had been in a position to put their proposal to the COR and the delay would allow them the opportunity to address more fully some of the questions that had been put to Silvia and Lara at the meeting.

NR thanked Silvia and Lara for their presentation.

NR formally requested that the decision on where to hold the 2017 ESH Congress be delayed until the other proposals were ready to be submitted to the COR. She agreed that the proposals would be submitted to the COR by 31st December 2014.

Members agreed to NR's proposal with no dissenters.

9) Farewells

Matthias Mende (MM)

NR presented MM with an engraved plaque for his 15 years of service and hard work on behalf of the ESH Board and ESH. MM thanked NR saying that he had enjoyed working for the ESH over the past 15 years and was very encouraged by the excellent progress that ESH had made in integrating hypnotherapy as a modality throughout the Europe. MM wished MW well in his post as President-Elect and in his future presidency of ESH.

Co-Opted Members

Mhairi McKenna (MLM)

NR presented MLM with a gift in recognition of her continued service and support to ESH Central Office particularly when Christine Henderson had been unwell. MLM thanked NR for her gift.

Bernard Trenkle (BT)

NR thanked BT for his input to the Strategic Committee and he kindly accepted the presentation. BT thanked NR for her gift.

Christine Henderson (CH)

CH was counting votes and would receive her presentation on her return.

Exiting ESH Board Members

NR thanked all the Board Members for the courage they had shown in standing for the ESH Board. She acknowledged that it was an often an onerous commitment, as well as hopefully an enjoyable one. She informed Members that Denis Vesvard was leaving the ESH Board of Directors and that as he was counting the votes, his presentation would be made on his return.

Martin Wall confirmed that he would be again chairing CEPE (the Committee for Educational Programmes in Europe) for the next three years.

10) Election Results

DV informed the meeting that there had been 51 votes cast with a further two spoiled votes, which had been excluded from the final count.

A names of those elected to the ESH Board of Directors was read by NR:

Re-elected Board Member:	**Retiring Members:**
Kathleen Long (BSMDH-Scotland)	Matthias Mende and Denis Vesvard

Newly Elected Members of the Board (alphabetical first name order):

Andras Kolto (HAH)
Asa Fe Kockum (SSCH)
Flavio Di Leone (SII)
Stefanie Schramm (MEG)

NR thanked DV and CH for managing the election and congratulated the newly elected ESH Board Members. She also thanked CH for agreeing to stay on at Central Office for a further three years.
NR introduced Consuelo Casula (CC), the new President of ESH to Members, and handed her the gavel.

CC thanked all CoR Members and made a special reference to Vienna, which is where she was originally voted onto the ESH Board. She thanked Matthias for being a 'bridge over troubled waters' and the delegates in Istanbul who had voted for her to become the next ESH President.

CC told Members that she had dreams that she would like to fulfil as ESH President:

- Her first dream was to increase research, networking with all CS Presidents as well as a network of wise people for wise people (for example ESH past Presidents).
- Her second dream was to see a new and more involved role for CS.
- Her third dream was to see a new alliance between ESH and ISH.
- Her fourth dream was to have a Congress on a cruise ship, where those attending could enjoy a holiday with their families, as well as attending a Congress.

CC said she had another dream, which she would share with the new Board of ESH.

CC then presented NR with an engraved plaque in recognition of her Presidency of the ESH Board.

NR presented Certificates commemorating three years service to the ESH Board to: Wilma Sponti and Ali Ozden Ozturk and to Denis Vesvard, who was standing down. She thanked them warmly for their contributions to the Board and to the Committees.

Matthias Mende was presented with a Certificate to commemorate the fact that he had been the longest serving ESH Board Member (having served for fifteen years).

Finally NR thanked all the non-elected candidates for their Nominations with an expressed hope that they could be incorporated as extra Committee Members.

NR then called upon CC to introduce her new ESH Board of Directors to Members.

The Meeting closed at 21:40

Draft Minutes approved: CC / NR / MW / KL 14/11/2014