



**EUROPEAN CENTRAL COUNCIL
OF HOMEOPATHS**

School House, Market Place, Kenning hall
Norfolk NR16 2AH United Kingdom
Tel/Fax: 0044 1953 888163
Email: ecch@gn.apc.org
Web: www.homeopathy-ecch.org

Minutes

The 26th ECCH AGM and 61st ECCH General Meeting

June 2017 Athens, Greece

Venue: BOMO CLUB PALACE HOTEL, 4, Poseidonos Av., 16675 Glyfada Athens

Phone: [+30 210 8948361](tel:+302108948361) Email: info@palacehotel.gr

Date and Times: Friday 2nd June 14.00 to 12.00 Sunday 4th June 2017

Friday 2nd June		
14.00	1	<p>Welcome to, the 26th ECCH AGM and 61st General Meeting</p> <p>Attending</p> <p>Dagmar Ferencziova, SHA, Slovakia</p> <p>Dariusz Zojac, PSHP, Poland</p> <p>Felix Morgenthaler, HVS, Switzerland</p> <p>Gergana Angelova, HSB, Bulgaria</p> <p>Gerry Murphy, ISH, Ireland</p> <p>Gregor Kindelmann, SHZ, Germany (Observer status)</p> <p>Irene Jebava, CACH, Czech Republic</p> <p>Janet Westling, SAKH, Sweden</p> <p>Karin Mont, ARH, UK</p> <p>Lidia Turo, ACHH, Serbia</p> <p>Miranda Ruchtie, ECCH Policy Officer, NVKH Netherlands</p> <p>Ralf Dissemond, VKHD, Germany</p>

		<p>RistoTapani Raihala, AEHU,Spain Sabine Ebert-Krnjak, CAH, Croatia Sieglinde Oliviers, LCH, Belgium Tore Fosse, NHL, Norway Vally Kalozoumi, HAG, Greece Zofia Dymitr, SOH, UK</p> <p>Additional Guests Theano Rentzi, HAG Chairwoman Kostas Tsalikis, HAG Secretary</p> <p>Officers Present Michael Smith: ECCH Chair, Ireland Zofia Dymitr: ECCH Vice Chair, UK Lidia Turo: ECCH Treasurer, Serbia</p> <p>MS welcomed everyone to the meeting and Association Representatives introduced themselves round the table. MS acknowledged the work and commitment shown by Stephen Gordon over the years for ECCH. Stephen has been central to ECCH from the start and its ongoing success. MS acknowledged the difficult time Stephen is facing now. Representatives were invited to sit in silence and send positive thoughts for Stephen in whatever way they felt comfortable. This silence was repeated at the start of the meeting every day.</p> <p>The HAG association was thanked for their hospitality and for hosting the ECCH AGM for a 3rd time and also for the work they did preparing for the successful one day conference in Athens “Success and Safety on homeopathy.”</p>
14.20	2	Agenda and timetable. Agreed
14.25	3	<p>Apologies: APH Portugal, HD Turkey, SH Finland, MAH Malta. Not present: HMA, UK. DKSH, Denmark. AHAM, Macedonia MS clarified that PSHP has no vote at this AGM as their 2017 fees had not been paid yet.</p>

14.30	4	<p>Minutes of last meeting.</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.</p>
14.35	5	<p>Matters arising: anything from the Minutes not already on the agenda.</p> <p>No matters arising were raised.</p>
14.40	6	<p>Chair, Vice Chair and General Secretary report</p> <p>MS & ZD reported that all ECCH operational practicalities are secured; noting that because of the exceptional circumstances regarding SG, there had been an extra workload on the Executive leading up to the AGM.</p> <p>Interim Acting Secretary: MS and ZD outlined the Executive's proposal to appoint an Interim Acting Secretary. Christine Liebing-Gabel, a previous chair of ECCH and with detailed knowledge of how ECCH works was been approached and is willing to take up this position. To be discussed at Agenda item 14.</p> <p>Payment to Stephen Gordon:</p> <p>ZD (SoH) proposed a goodwill payment until the end of 2017, as per the succession planning reduced fee structure from July. To be reviewed at the beginning of November. (SG had already given notice of his intentions to step down from all ECCH work at the end of 2017.) This goodwill payment was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Decision: SG to be paid until the end of June as per his current arrangements, from then the new rate will be paid from July until end of December 2017.</p> <p>Action : Executive</p> <p>The Executive will update council when there is any news about Stephen Gordon.</p> <p>Action : Executive</p> <p>Role descriptions:</p> <p>Role descriptions for ECCH Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer were agreed.</p> <p>Terms for Executive and Advocacy Group</p> <p>These had not been sent out prior to the AGM. The Executive will send these out later for vote by email.</p> <p>Action : Executive</p>

15.00	7	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>LT presented the Treasurer's report. It was noted that ICH has transferred the money in the ICH bank account to ECCH current account because it has not been possible for C L-G to access the ICH bank account from Germany. This amount (£7,000) will be transferred to ICH account once a new ICH bank account is set up.</p> <p>Kristiina Zaeske had audited ECCH's 2016 accounts and budget 2018. KZ sends her regards to council.</p> <p>MS asked if there are any questions to LT. Vote on Treasurer's report: 2016 final accounts, account summary 2017 and the 2018 budget: unanimously accepted.</p> <p>MS thanked LT for her contribution to ECCH and the excellent work she did as Treasurer and as an Executive member.</p>
15.30	8	<p>Registering ECCH as a legal company</p> <p>Council discussed legal registration for ECCH, including opening an ECCH bank account in the Euro zone</p> <p>Outline agreement from council: Executive was tasked with seeking more information and reporting back to council.</p> <p>Action Executive.</p> <p>Brexit:</p> <p>GM asked for clarification about the UK and ECCH post Brexit as the UK has been central to ECCH. ZD (SoH) clarified that the UK has been represented by three associations in ECCH and therefore not the UK per se. The UK associations are: ARH, HMA and SoH. ARH will not renew its ECCH membership in 2018. HMA currently maintains its membership of ECCH to date but has not recently sent a representative. SoH is committed to ECCH. KM said ARH decision to leave ECCH was not to do with Brexit.</p> <p>S E-K asked about maintaining a UK office for ECCH. MS confirmed that the current UK office would close if SG was not involved further.</p> <p>The Executive clarified ECCH is not a legally registered company. ECCH is an unincorporated association, not for profit, and does not have to pay tax in the UK.</p>

		MS and ZD gave more information on ECCH's status as an unincorporated association. Unincorporated associations are a recognised structure for small not for profit organizations in the UK. S E-K asked if ECCH had considered developing sales to make a profit. ZD said that this would need a proposal and a change of Constitution. MS asked representatives to come back if there are further questions on this issue.
15.45		BREAK
16.15	9	<p>National report: Greece</p> <p>VK reported on the situation in Greece and an invitation received from the Health Ministry to a meeting in June. S E-K asked if George Vitoukas supported HAG as he is a non doctor homeopath. VK confirmed that GV does not support practice by non medical homeopaths in Greece. VK acknowledged support of the Executive, also the possibility to explore PSA type accreditation in Greece. Graham Mockler, of the Professional Standards Authority had presented at the HAG conference and had a useful meeting with HAG lawyer. VK clarified that their practice is in a grey area, members practise but have no legal recognition. GK asked re regulation of other CAM therapies in Greece. VK said there is no law for CAM therapies, acupuncture has tried with no success, homeopathy is in the best position at the moment.</p>
16.30	10	<p>National Reports: Written Reports to be sent by e-mail prior to the meeting. Only urgent matters will be discussed.</p> <p>TF reported on remedy situation in Norway, Norwegian homeopaths will not be able to get nosodes and non registered remedies from 1st July 2017. MS offered support. IJ reported on situation in Czech Republic. If registration of remedies expires they were not renewed, and so the remedy stock reduces. There was a general discussion on remedy availability. TF said there are no homeopathy pharmacies in Norway. MS suggested the discussion is carried forward in Pharmacy Working Group discussions.</p> <p>There were no other urgent issues from National Reports for discussion.</p>
16.45	11	<p>Advocacy Report.</p> <p>MS introduced and welcomed MR to the Executive as ECCH Policy Officer. MS pointed out that Annemieke Bolesma had sent apologies for the AGM,</p>

		<p>designating MR to represent NVKH. MS clarified that MR has a dual role at this meeting. ZD indicated that in discussion with MR, the Executive has agreed that NVKH will be asked to share expenses with ECCH for MR's attendance at this meeting. Council agrees to accept that MR has a dual role at this meeting as an exception and NVKH is informed that the PO is independent of any association.</p> <p>Action: Executive</p> <p>MR summarized her focus to date. ZD said Advocacy Team ensures advocacy work is now shared from January 2017 according to succession planning and the advocacy structure. MS said ECCH now considers meeting attendance carefully as EUROCAM may attend some meetings, so ECCH may not need to attend so many meetings. KM asked for clarification regarding two advocates attending EUROCAM meetings. MS said shadowing was agreed and budgeted for in this phase of succession and advocacy structure. The Advocacy Team will decide who attends what meeting. KM asked if ECCH now has a lead representative at EUROCAM. MS emphasized that the Advocacy Team will decide based on ECCH's interests. SE-K asked for clarification about the role of EUROCAM. Agreed to look at that in discussion on strategic alliances. SO acknowledged SG's achievement in this area. MS reiterated all EUROCAM members are equal in the EUROCAM constitution.</p>
17.15	12	<p>Election of: Chair, Treasurer.</p> <p>Election Officers</p> <p>RD and R T-R confirmed a call for nominations had been sent out for the positions of Chair and Treasurer. LT is not standing again. MS is standing for re-election. Nominations for MS had been received from SoH, VKHD and MARH.</p> <p>MS was re-elected as ECCH Chair unanimously.</p> <p>No nominations had been received for Treasurer.</p> <p>Nominations from floor were requested. LT nominated RD for Treasurer. GM seconded. No further nominations from the floor were received. RD was elected unanimously as Treasurer.</p> <p>Election Officer: LT volunteered. Agreed unanimously.</p> <p>MS, RD and LT were thanked by council for accepting these roles.</p>

17.45	13	<p>Membership applications</p> <p>No applications received. MS affirmed that the Homeopati Dernegi association in Turkey had been accepted by email vote as an Applicant for Membership.</p> <p>OCH, Armenia, has dissolved as an organisation. ARH will not renew its membership in 2018. MS expressed regret for both. The Executive is waiting for news from CHO, Italy about their situation and membership of ECCH. PSHP is in a difficult situation but will hold a meeting 17th June to discuss and inform ECCH Executive.</p> <p>German association, BkTD, (an association for the homeopathic treatment of animals) application for Observer Status : The application was considered by RD, AB and ZD. ZD will track status of that application and report later in the meeting.</p>
18.00		Meeting Closed
		Saturday 3rd June
09.00	14	<p>General Secretary: A Succession Planning paper had been sent out. MS explained in the circumstances interim measures are needed, and proposed that Christine Liebing-Gabel is appointed as Interim Acting Secretary.</p> <p>Council unanimously agreed that C L-G is appointed as Interim Acting Secretary on a 6 month contract from 1st July 2017, renewable. C L-G will do secretarial and administration work only. The role will not include advocacy focus. Executive will explore other possible candidates for a permanent appointment, including C L-G, and regularly update council. A contract and role description will be prepared for C L-G ready for her start on 1st July 2017.</p> <p>Action: Executive</p>
10.00	15	<p>Strategic Partners</p> <p>ZD summarized the review of current strategic partners and AB and MR's involvement in reviewing potential new strategic partners. One new organisation had been identified; The Executive will follow through an initial inquiry.</p> <p>EUROCAM</p>

		<p>ZD outlined role of EUROCAM and ECCH's membership of EUROCAM. KM asked if EUROCAM had achieved anything. ZD outlined the Recital agreed by the EU in February which affirmed the right of EU citizens to choose the healthcare of their choice, including CAM. This is significant.</p> <p>National Strategic Partnerships</p> <p>MR described strategy used by NVKH in the Netherlands, outlining the strategies listed in the Strategic Partners paper. Council discussed these and the 4H tools /media kit. KM reported that 4H is discussing Find a Homeopath website becoming international. Mani Norland had presented 4 H to ICH and there are 2 possible options and costs to opt in to 4H packages.</p> <p>MR stressed importance of working with consumer associations and patient groups.</p> <p>National associations to send in their positive strategies to ZD by end June and a collated paper will be sent out to council.</p> <p>Action: All</p>
10.30		BREAK
11.00	16	<p>Scoping standards report</p> <p>MS, GK and ZD presented the results of the Scoping Standards Survey. There was a general discussion on standards and the need to build quality standards for the profession.</p>
12.00	17	<p>ECCH Strategic Plan: to be updated at the meeting</p> <p>MS introduced the Strategic Plan. KM suggested that it is too long. Council agreed that the Executive could produce a short list of action points extracted from the text as a summary at the beginning of the strategy plan.</p> <p>Action: Executive</p> <p>RD: said that the definition of Integrated Medicine and Integrated Health Care was very important. Executive to explore definition. To include wording on this to the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Action: Executive</p> <p>Action list will be updated by end of meeting and points added. Representatives agreed that the Action point list with evaluation is useful.</p> <p>Action: Executive</p>

12.30

18

ICH: report:

ZD summarized the ICH meeting and AGM on 2nd June. Michelle Hookham has stood down as ICH Chair. No nominations had been received ahead of the meeting, but Eliaz Raz, IACH, Israel had stood for Chair and been elected (2 abstentions (SoH and VKHD.) Gergana Angelova, HSB, Bulgaria was nominated for ICH Treasurer and been unanimously elected. RD said time is needed to see what happens with the new Chair etc.

A general discussion on ICH followed, including that a relationship with WHO is a long-term goal. SO expressed concern regarding member numbers and succession planning in the profession. GK said that young people say homeopathy is not a profession; they want a bachelor or masters degree and want to make a living, in an accepted profession. GK said the implication is, "Please regulate us." ZD summarized the AHA, Australia, national report on education in Australia, where homeopathy education was placed at Bachelor level. ZD to ask AROH for more information.

Action: ZD

There was a general discussion on education and education level. GM outlines what previously happened in Ireland. Targets were set by the Qualifications Authority that were not able to be met. Physical Therapy is the only course validated. KM said in the UK the Homeopathy Course Providers Forum has made videos showing why homeopathy is good career option. Associations including ARH and SoH had contributed to costs of filming. The videos are available on the Find a Homeopath website. MS identified that the proportion of students who actually go on to practice is very small.

General discussion followed on education issues including medical sciences teaching. What can ECCH do? GK proposed that ECCH research what already exists for medical sciences education in other qualifications, involve patients in this.

Council agreed that ZD/GK/S E-K research this and present findings to AGM 2018.

Action: ZD, GK, S E-K.

FM outlined the Swiss model of a CAM Board, which took 15 years to develop

		<p>including a public consultation with the result that homeopathy and other CAM education costs may now be refunded by the Swiss government. FM said the big theme is unity across the professions and courses.</p> <p>GK said it is important to ask patient groups what they want from homeopaths. IJ emphasized the importance of homeopaths being educated to recognize red flag conditions, and to be aware of bounds of competence.</p> <p>Media</p> <p>MR to prepare notes on using Facebook for national associations, including the 4H tools.</p> <p>Action: MR</p> <p>Pharmacy</p> <p>NHL is to ask for support from ECCH as needed.</p> <p>Action: NHL</p> <p>Research</p> <p>A general discussion was held on providing members with positive research which could be shared with consumer associations. GK said there may be unintended consequences of publicizing positive research which might lead to regulation of remedies/ the profession. Crowd funding could be considered for research projects.</p>
13.00	LUNCH 13.00 14.30	
14.30	19	<p>Scoping standards.</p> <p>MS and ZD presented the results of the Scoping Standards Survey. Lack of teacher training identified as a key issue.</p> <p>S E-K described teacher training for teachers in a school opening in Croatia. SO said it is important to improve the level of teachers. SHZ organised relevant and appropriate training for teachers and supervisors. GZ sent email of online resources. MR said it should be compulsory for teachers to have teacher training. TF said Norwegian schools had invited a lecturer from UCLan to provide teacher training. KM outlined UK Homeopathy Course Providers Forum peer accreditation scheme which encourages Course Providers to work well together.</p> <p>The council agreed not to break out into working groups but to have focused</p>

discussion on particular areas of interest.

GK presented a PowerPoint on SHZ as a model of setting and maintaining standards. GK offered to send further information to associations re SHZ process. He emphasised standard setting is in the patient interest. If national process in place, the EU will use that model. SHZ took 10 years to get established, talks for 5- 8 yrs before that, so probably 20 years in development. MS what can ECCH do to begin process? Discussion on doing something at national level or European level? Collaboration between schools and associations? MR will translate SHZ documents to develop appropriate model for BKHD.

ZD summarized:

MS and ZD to write report on Scoping Standards, including report on today's council discussion (Swiss model, SHZ model)

Two issues were identified :

- Medical Sciences research (GK, S, ZD + Exec – by next AGM)
- Teacher training – will be highlighted in the Scoping Standards report for discussion with national associations and discussion with course providers nationally.

Action : Executive Write report on the Scoping Standards

Media

MR presented on Media approaches. KM will discuss with 4H what the involvement of organizations outside the UK might be if they buy in to the full 4H package.

MR emphasised the importance of approaching patient groups, to be discussed in Advocacy Team.

Action: Advocacy Team

MS raised the topic of Anti Microbial Resistance and the part homeopathy may play here. KM said the focus should be on better practice in food industry reduction on dependency on antibiotics, to include homeopathy treatment for patients. Discussion on encouraging farmers to use homeopathy, increase public awareness of homeopathy e.g.HAWL UK, Netherlands course for farmers.

	<p>Use of MYMOPs for acutes, A large amount of patient evidence needed and would be beneficial.</p> <p>VKHD is collecting information on patient experience consulting homeopath.</p> <p>Action: Encourage use of MYMOPs (Information available on the Making Cases Count website).</p> <p>MYMOP target – 10 % increase to use MYMOP in their practice by AGM 2018.</p> <p>1 rep currently uses MYMOP, reps to consider using MYMOPS. Exec to send gentle reminder with Exec reports.</p> <p>Action: All. Action: Executive.</p> <p>Research</p> <p>Research Working Group to send representatives good research and focus on linking positive research to patient groups/consumer associations/media. RD to contact PV.</p> <p>Action: RD</p> <p>GK & MS to report on the HRI conference.</p> <p>Action: GK and MS</p> <p>Patients not interested in research detail. Develop key phrase for “good research” or “peer reviewed” research. ECCH could share research abstract or full article if in public domain.</p> <p>Executive to get access to ECCH Facebook site.</p> <p>Action: Executive</p> <p>MR to write guidance on how to promote positive evidence /research.</p> <p>Action: MR</p> <p>MR outlined that Twitter is immediate, so a Twitter Officer would be needed to make it work if it was used.</p> <p>GK send link to information on a research conferences for teachers – disseminate information on research how useful it is.</p> <p>Action GK</p>
15.45	BREAK

17.00	20	Previous Discussions were continued until close of meeting.
18.00		Meeting Closed
		Sunday 4th June
09.00	21	<p>Politics</p> <p>SO discussion re situation in Belgium. MR to contact a group that could be useful for LCH.</p> <p>Action: MR</p> <p>Asked for transition rule to enable homeopaths to continue in practice. No answer received to date. Continue to practice under the radar. MR suggests asking sympathetic medical homeopaths to support members. Discussion re best way forward. MS emphasized the importance politically of LCH continuing as an association in Belgium. The Executive continues to offer support as needed. SO to look at ECCH Code of Ethics Guidelines and other associations Codes to see what's missing in LCH Code in relation to not disparaging colleagues.</p> <p>Action : SO</p> <p>GA described BHS's new strategies to support members including activists from patient associations. BHS is translating the ECCH Portfolio, and will ask for support from ECCH if needed at a later date.</p> <p>Discussion regarding member numbers.</p> <p>RD said most VKHD members are between 50- 65. VKHD is working on ways to encourage more members. VKHD can advise members to develop more patients and motivate members to become more active. GK says more committed students are needed and that it is important to consider raising quality, recognizing the opportunity to develop high quality to benefit the profession. GA described how BHS is developing ways of attracting new members by professionalizing office etc.</p> <p>MR asked council to consider her attendance at full council meeting in 2018. MS suggested this was appropriate for discussion within the Advocacy Team.</p> <p>Action: Advocacy Team</p>

		<p>AGM evaluation to be sent out to members, including consider the effectiveness of a shorter meeting.</p> <p>Action: ZD</p>
10.30		BREAK
11.00	22	<p>Date and venue of 2018 AGM;</p> <p>The venue for the ECCH AGM has been previously agreed as the Netherlands (the dates agreed at the 1st 2nd and 3rd of June 2018)</p>
11.15	23	<p>Any Other Business.</p> <p>BkTD accepted into Observer Status with ECCH.</p> <p>Action: Executive to inform BKTD.</p>
11.30	24	<p>Round robin.</p> <p>Representatives round the table were invited to give their feedback on the meeting. Representatives expressed their thanks to VK and HAG for their hospitality and friendliness. Many found the meeting had been inspiring and had given them information to take back to their organizations. The Executive was thanked for their work during the year and in preparation for the AGM. Representatives also said it felt like ECCH was moving into a new phase and that it had been a positive meeting, particularly staying in plenary session to discuss all issues.</p> <p>Council expressed their acknowledgement and thanks to Stephen for his contribution to the profession. A short video greetings card will be sent to Stephen by MS.</p> <p>ZD thanked VK for her work in organising the conference and the meeting and presented her with a token gift from ECCH.</p> <p>ZD also thanked LT for her enthusiasm and positive contribution to the Executive in her term as ECCH Treasurer and presented her with a gift.</p> <p>MS thanked the Council for their contributions and willingness to engage in a focused way in discussions. MS thanked the Executive for their work and support and their ability to work as a team throughout the year.</p> <p>MS closed the meeting by acknowledging Stephen Gordon for all his work for</p>

		ECCH and wished him the very best that can be for him.
12.00		AGM 2017 Athens Closes.