

Minutes General Assembly FESTMIH – May 28th 2007
Amsterdam

Present: Zeno Bisoffi (ZB) (Italy, Vice-President), Martin Boeree (MB) (Netherlands, president), Thomas Junghanss (TJ) (Germany), Esther Jurgens (NVTG), Pascal Magnussen (PM) (Denmark, Secretary), C. Whitty (CW) (United Kingdom), Patrick van der Stuyft (PvdS) (Belgium, Treasurer), Frantisek Stejskal (FS) (Czech Republic), Diego Torrus (DT) (Spain), Taneli Puumalainen (TP) (Finland), Pierre Landry (PL) (Switzerland).

Absent: Austria, France, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, and Slovak Rep.

Agenda

1. Opening and signing list of attendance
2. Approval of minutes from GM in Marseille 2005
3. Report of the President
4. Report of the Secretary
5. Financial Report by the Treasurer
6. The role of TM&IH in relation to FESTMIH
7. The future of FESTMIH, plans and realities
8. Update from TropMedEurope
9. Update on Verona 2009 and beyond
10. New members
11. Election of new board members
12. Any other business

1. Opening

The President opened the meeting and thanked participants for their presence at the Congress in Amsterdam and at the meeting. Special welcome to the representatives of the Norwegian and the Finnish Societies as new members of FESTMIH.

2. GM Marseille

Minutes were approved. No textual comments. MB commented on the Marseille congress: the congress was successful, with approximately 1500 delegates, interesting programme and financial sound outcome.

3. Report President

MB has been very busy with the organisation of the 5th congress in Amsterdam. The organisation was quite satisfactory with the help of the Professional Congress Organization (PCO), the KIT from Switzerland/ Germany, the same PCO that has organized the Lisbon Conference.

The number of participants seems to be approaching the 1,400, which is slightly more than anticipated. There are many one-day participants, which may have a negative effect on the final financial result.

The content is balanced and of high standard; up until the day of the meeting the appreciation for this is high. There are mainly European and African participants, and not many participants from Asia and the Americas.

4. Report Secretary

PM referred for the update to the minutes from the meeting in Copenhagen, which was held on the 16th of March 2007.

5. Report Treasurer

Report was handed out and followed by a brief discussion. Positive balance of € 30.000 (as of December 31, 2006). Main expenses in 2007 are the travel costs of Board members. At the

GA in Marseille (2006) it was agreed to hold an internal audit; main argument against an external audit is that expenses of hiring an external auditor will stand in no relation to the total budget. It was proposed to ask two members from the Netherlands Society for this task.

Action point: MB to follow up the internal audit.

6. Role of TM&IH in relation to FESTMIH

TM&IH will issue a special edition on the 5th European Congress. Brief discussion on possible more input from FESTMIH, referring to earlier discussions on this topic. In the past FESTMIH sent in editorials. There were some suggestions (TJ, PvdS) for topics: the issue of North-South research; research priorities; scientific update (partly as output from the 5th Congress). There was a suggestion to explore the possibility to ask TM& IH to become “the official Journal of the FESTMIH”. **Action point: MB** to follow up

7. Future of FESTMIH, plans and realities

MB started the discussion with a brief overview of the main activities of FESTMIH, thereby referring to the position paper, which was presented in Marseille (by MB and EJ). TJ underline the importance to strengthen FESTMIH and the need for more involvement of societies. He mentioned some activities, which could be undertaken, such as lobby (European context), fundraising, raising awareness. The discussion focused on the how. Most societies are relatively small; also it may not be possible to speak out on a specific issue with one voice. Furthermore, it is not clear what national societies expect from FESTMIH, in most cases the Societies are involved in organising national events, not so much involved in a broader context. The topic remains relevant and will be further discussed at the GA / Board Meeting in Verona later this year.

Regarding constitutional matters: following the suggestion to add more Board members (to 9 or 10 members), it was decided to follow up this issue at the meeting in Verona.

Action point: MB to include both topics (future and new board members) for the agenda of the meeting in Verona.

8. Update from TropMedEurope

Not discussed.

9. Update on Verona 2009 and beyond

Theme of the 6th Congress in Verona (2009) is: ‘Equity, Human Rights and Access to Care’. Preparations are well underway. ZB mentioned the rationale for the timing of the Congress in September: the date was chosen in order not to coincide with the Congress on travel medicine (in May), some overlap may occur with the Congress of the American Society.

MB mentioned the upcoming XVII International Congress on Tropical Medicine and Malaria in South Korea (in 2008), an item which was discussed earlier with the President-Elect of the International Federation, Eduardo Gotuzzo. The IFTM is looking for support from the European Federation, possible from national societies to participate and / or organise sessions during the upcoming Congress. The meeting repeated the statement that the FESTMIH had no funds or facilities to help the IFTM with their financial concerns.

The Congress in 2011 will be held in Barcelona, dates to be determined.

10. New members

FESTMIH welcomes the two new member societies: the Norwegian International Health Association and the Finnish Society for International Health.

11. Election of new board members

Postponed to the meeting in Verona on **Friday 7th December 2007**.

12. Any other business

The President thanked all present for their input. Due to time constraints no other issues were discussed.