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### ***Minutes of General Assembly***

Genoa, Centro Congressi Dei Magazzini Del Cotone, Room Grecale, July 14, 2009, 14:45-16:15

Present:

*The Executive Committee*

Michael A. Ferenczi (President), Erick J. Dufourc (Past President), Alberto Diaspro (Vice President), Manuel Prieto, Grzegorz Bartosz, Jose L. Carrascosa, László Mátyus (observer, acting as secretary of the EC), the representatives of the national societies, observers.

Apologies were received from Tony (A) J Wilkinson, Anthony Watts, Antoinette J. Killian, Helmut Grubmüller.

### **Agenda of the General Assembly**

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. The Minutes from the 10th General Assembly in London
3. President's report, including Secretary's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Report from Dr. Sabine Schwarz, Senior Editor - Life Sciences, Springer for European Biophysics Journal.
6. New member society: Austria
7. Vote on proposal by EBSA Executive Committee to increase the number of Executive Committee Members for 8 to 10, and number of co-opted members from 2 to 4
8. Vote to authorize purchase of Trustee Indemnity Insurance for the members of the EBSA Executive Committee
9. Vote for election of the EBSA Executive Committee.
10. Co-opted members of executive committee
11. Future Congresses
12. EBSA Courses
13. Vote of thanks to Executive Committee Members who are leaving the Committee
14. Any other business

**1. The General Assembly was opened by Prof. Michael A. Ferenczi and the agenda was adopted.**

**2. The Minutes from the 10th General Assembly, July 14, 2007, London, UK**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. President's report, including Secretary's report**

Prof. Michael A. Ferenczi reported on the activities since 2007. There have been four meetings of the Executive Committee since the 10th General Assembly. Most of the work has been concerned about European Biophysics Congresses, with the European Biophysics Journal, and with the EBSA Prize. The Executive Committee awarded bursaries for the Congress, supported various schools and congresses. The main concern of the Executive Committee has been to increase the visibility of EBSA. The report of the President and the Secretary was approved unanimously.

**4. Treasurer's report**

In the absence of Prof. Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer) Prof. Michael A. Ferenczi (President) presented the report of the Treasurer.

Accounts for the year ending 31 March, 2009 were submitted to Sam Rogoff & Co., Chartered Accountants for audit on 23rd June, 2009. EBSA holds its Bank Accounts with Barclays Bank, Whetstone & Finchley Group, 1250 High Road, Whetstone, London N20 0PB. EBSA holds an Investment and a Current Account in Euros and in Sterling. Balance of accounts at 31 March 2009: **€273,325**. EBSA's income in the year was as follows: EBJ: €80,113, subscriptions: €3,300.

EBSA supported six Meetings/Workshops in the course of the year with typical payments of €1500 and in one case €2500. These meetings were held in five different countries. The meeting sponsorships were as follows: MRC Workshop on Advanced Optical Microscopy, European Muscle Conference, Portugal-Spain-UK Biophysics Congress, Sitges Conference, Biology Physics and Large Facilities, Biophysics School Rovinj.

EBSA supports the EBSA Congresses, provided 40 Bursaries for young biophysicists, and shall support Biophysics Courses.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

**5. Report from Dr. Sabine Schwarz, Senior Editor - Life Sciences, Springer for European Biophysics Journal.**

In the absence of Prof. Anthony Watts (Editor EBJ) Dr. Sabine Schwarz (Senior Editor, Springer) presented report on the European Biophysics Journal.

The number of published papers in 2007 was 101 and it increased to 140 in 2008. The numbers of submission for 2009 is expected to increase based on the first half-year's data. The numbers of downloads increases steadily. The impact factor of journal for 2008 is 2.324 (increasing in the past 3 years).

Editorial handling time is 2.3 months, online publication time is 1.1 months, time from online to print is 4.7 months. The acceptance rate is 58 %.

**Prof. Uli Nienhaus** (Germany) asked if it was possible to cut down the online publication time. Sabine Schwarz answered that Springer publishes the final version online therefore cutting down this time is not feasible.

**Prof. Peter Bayley** (UK) asked if the login procedure to the web-site was advertised properly. The second question was: does Springer have statistics about the usage of the web-site. Answer from Sabine Schwarz: Springer doesn't have the e-mail list of the members of the member societies, therefore has to rely on the information distribution of the societies. Very few people use the web-site, suggesting that information about the login procedure is not distributed properly.

The report was approved unanimously.

## 6. New member society: Austria

The Austrian Biophysical Society has applied for membership in EBSA. The executive committee recommended acceptance of the application. Prof. Martin Hohenegger briefly explained the history of the Society. The General Assembly accepted the application with 26 votes, and Austrian Biophysical Society was accepted as new EBSA member.

## 7. Vote on proposal by EBSA Executive Committee to increase the number of Executive Committee Members for 8 to 10, and number of co-opted members from 2 to 4

EBSA activities are growing. This should be reflected in the size of the Executive Committee, such that relevant expertise can be maintained and that optimal representation and participation is ensured of the National Societies in the affairs of EBSA.

### *Current rules:*

2.3 The General Assembly shall elect an Executive Committee to serve for a term of office, normally two years and not more than three years.

The Executive Committee shall consist of up to **eight** voting members drawn from different member societies where possible, and including the following officers: President, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Managing Editor of EBJ.

The Executive Committee has the power to co-opt up to **two** additional full members of the committee for specific purposes.

### *Proposed rules:*

2.3 The General Assembly shall elect an Executive Committee to serve for a term of office, normally two years and not more than three years.

The Executive Committee shall consist of up to **ten** voting members drawn from different member societies where possible, and including the following officers: President, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Managing Editor of EBJ.

The Executive Committee has the power to co-opt up to **four** additional full members of the committee for specific purposes.

According to the Rules of EBSA, voting at the General Assembly will be conducted with one vote for each National Society and one vote for each Member of the Executive Committee.

The changes in the Statutes were voted on by show of hand and approved unanimously.

#### **8. Vote to authorize purchase of Trustee Indemnity Insurance for the members of the EBSA Executive Committee**

Under the rules of the UK Charity Commission, all members of the Executive Committee are Trustees of the organisation. As such, they are potentially liable for damage claims against EBSA. In view of this, the General Assembly is also asked to approve that the Executive Committee seeks to purchase Trustee Indemnity Insurance ([www.charity-commission.gov.uk/supportingcharities/ogs/index100.asp](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/supportingcharities/ogs/index100.asp)) to protect its Trustees.

The proposal was voted on by show of hand and approved unanimously.

#### **9. Vote for election of the EBSA Executive Committee.**

Officers:

According to the Rules of EBSA the Vice President will be the President for the next term, the President becomes Past President and the Managing Editor of EBJ is a member of the Executive Committee.

The candidates for members had an opportunity to introduce themselves.

The elections were by secret ballot, with one vote per National Society represented at the General Assembly, and one vote for each of the existing Executive Committee Members. According to section 2.1 of the Rules the members of the Executive Committee and the voting delegates from the Member Organizations may vote. The votes were counted by János Szöllősi and Miklós Nyitrai, observers.

#### **Nominations for Officers:**

**Prof. László Mátyus** (Hungary) was elected Vice President by 26 votes

**Prof. Antoinette Killian** (Netherlands) was elected Secretary by 26 votes

**Prof. Michael Ferenczi** (United Kingdom) was elected Treasurer by 26 votes

#### **Nominations for Members:**

According to the Rules of EBSA there are vacancies for five members of the Executive Committee besides the officers. The following nominations were received in advance of the General Assembly:

#### **In the election of the officers of the Executive Committee**

**Prof. Jose L. Carrascosa** (Spain) was elected by 20 votes

**Prof. Yves Engelborghs** (Belgium) was elected by 21 votes

**Prof. Helmut Grubmüller** (Germany) was elected by 22 votes

**Prof. Aneta Koceva-Chyla** (Poland) received 9 votes

**Prof. Eugenia Kovacs** (Romania) received 10 votes

**Prof. Manuel Prieto** (Portugal) was elected by 25 votes

**Prof. Catherine Royer** (France) was elected by 24 votes

#### 10. Co-opted members of executive committee

**Prof. Anthony Wilkinson**, UK (past Treasurer of EBSA) was co-opted as financial administrator, to maintain expertise and continuity in the financial administration of the Association.

#### 11. Future Congresses

Presentation to the General Assembly of the plans for the 2011 Congress in Budapest.

**Prof. László Mátyus** Vice-President of the Hungarian Biophysical Society gave a presentation for the 2011 Congress to be held in Budapest.

Presentation to the General Assembly of the plans for the 2013 Congress in Lisbon.

**Prof. Manuel Prieto** gave a presentation for the 2013 Congress to be held in Lisbon.

#### 12. EBSA Courses

A short presentation of EBSA Course on Membrane Biophysics and Lipid-Protein Interaction (Bordeaux- Arcachon, June 6-11, 2010) was given by **Prof. Erick J. Dufourc**.

**Prof. Michael A. Ferenczi** announced that an EBSA Course entitled Collective motor systems: from Molecules to Cells, will be held Spring 2011, near Dresden (in the National Park)

#### 13. Vote of thanks to Executive Committee Members who are leaving the Committee

Prof. Erick J. Dufourc (Past President) was thanked for his remarkable services in the Executive Committee of EBSA.

#### 14. Any other business

Dr. Naira Ayvazyan (Armenia) suggested that EBSA should promote exchange of equipment.

The Meeting was closed at 16:15.

Prof. Michael A. Ferenczi  
EBSA President

Prof. László Mátyus  
observer, acting EBSA Secretary

Attachment:  
List of the delegates

**List of Delegates of Member Societies of EBSA  
on the General Assembly**

| Country            | Voting delegate     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Albania            | -                   |
| Armenia            | Naira Ayvazyan      |
| Belarus            | -                   |
| Belgium            | Yves Engelborghs    |
| Croatia            | -                   |
| Czech Republic     | Irena Kratochvilova |
| Denmark            | Ole Mouritsen       |
| Egypt              | Wael Awad           |
| Finland            | Mervi Kuronen       |
| France             | Bruno Robert        |
| Germany            | Uli Nienhaus        |
| Hungary            | Győző Garab         |
| Israel             | Elisha Haas         |
| Italy              | Silvia Morante      |
| Netherlands        | -                   |
| Norway             | Bjørn Torger Stokke |
| Poland             | Maria Koter         |
| Portugal           | Manuela M. Pereira  |
| Romania            | Ioan Turcu          |
| Russian Federation | Natalia Krupenina   |
| Slovak Republic    | Daniel Jancura      |
| Slovenia           | Ales Iglic          |
| Spain              | Alicia Alonso       |
| Sweden             | -                   |
| Switzerland        | -                   |
| Ukraine            | -                   |
| United Kingdom     | Elisabeth Hounsell  |