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Title:	Draft Minutes FEMS Board Meeting Krakow, 8 October 2015		
Author:	Bojan Popovic		

Thursday 8 October 2015 15:00-18:30

Venue: Hotel Radisson Blu, Straszewskiego 17 Street, Krakow, Poland

1 Introduction (E. Reginato)

Enrico Reginato welcomed the participants.

2 Roll call (B. Popovic)

3 Approval of the Agenda of the Board meeting (B. Popovic)

F15-044

The agenda was unanimously approved.

4 Approval of the Minutes of the last Board meeting (B. Popovic)

[F15-043](#)

The minutes were unanimously approved.

5 FEMS President's report (E. Reginato)

Enrico Reginato briefly informed about his participation in the various events since the last FEMS GA in Vienna.

5.1 15/16 June 2015, Brussels – conference on “TTIP – Increased Trade for Better Living?”

[F15-036](#)

Thus, he attended a conference on TTIP as well as some working group on 15-16 June in Brussels. As far as he appreciates, TTIP is unlikely to be approved in the next 2-3 years. There is unanimous agreement that health is a sensitive structure and must be taken out of the TTIP.

Bojan Popovic mentioned the Canadian health system, where 77% of the people in the public health system are people that can pay insurance. Richer people benefit more from the public system than the poorer ones. One may therefore redirect the richer people to the private health system so that the public system remains for those who cannot afford that.

Enrico Reginato further commented that in the US the collective agreements are not recognised.

5.2 25/26 June, Milan – conference on the comparison among European Health Systems

Enrico Reginato informed that the Florence conference was very successful in Florence; so it was decided to replicate it in Milan.

[F15-037](#)

Serdar Dalkilic suggested this would also replicated in France in September 2016. The health systems

are continuously changing, it is important that all this information is shared among FEMS members.

5.3 14 July, Rome – hearing at the Italian Senate on postgraduate education in EU countries

Enrico Reginato explained that in Italy, one doctor cannot work in a hospital unless he/she is a specialist. Further, one cannot become specialist unless he/she doesn't go back to the university to obtain specialisation. The bottleneck remains at the university, as they grant the specialisation. What would be the solution? Reduce the number of graduates? Under the current circumstances, if universities are closed until all current graduates obtain jobs, they will only reopen in 2026. He further said that, for Italy, the actual solution would be not to cut the number of places in the university but to allow the opportunity to obtain specialisations outside the university.

Stanislaw Urban pointed out that in Poland there was a period of about 14 years when doctors could not obtain specialisations, which resulted in almost a generation of doctors being absent.

5.4 4 September, Brussels – EPHA General Assembly (Serdar Dalkilic)

Serdar Dalkilic represented FEMS at the General Assembly of EPHA (<http://www.eph.org>). FEMS applied for membership and was accepted following the GA. EPHA is a large umbrella organization advocating health at the European level. Nevertheless, as Serdar Dalkilic pointed out, there are no doctors' organisation among its membership, which makes it particularly important for FEMS to make sure doctors' voice is heard. He will further continue being involved in EPHA activities and aim for a position in the board of this organisation when it will become available (September 2016).

5.5 19-20 September, Berlin – EMSA meeting and EMOs Presidents' Committee Meeting [F15-055](#)

Enrico Reginato informed that, on the occasion of his participation in the EMSA meeting, he approached the Marburger Bund exploring the possibility to its joining FEMS again. Since the question of the membership may be problematic, due to its large membership, Bojan Popovic agreed that this may be negotiable, as the membership fee is not statutory. When FEMS received a concrete proposal from Marburger Bund, the fee/vote issue will be reopened.

6 Report of the 1st Vice-President (P. Oravec)

Pavel Oravec informed he would not run for another mandate in the FEMS board and would no longer be FEMS delegate from the Slovak trade union.

He explained that there is a big discussion within his organisation about the European developments/actions at the EU level; the trade union expected something different from FEMS/Commission/Parliament; there are some proposals so as to achieve a clearer vision about their expectations from FEMS.

Enrico Reginato explained that FEMS is not the European Commission, but just another trade union; acting at the European level; therefore, it doesn't have other weapons than writing to the European Commission or other European institutions, meeting their representatives, entering public alliances like EPHA. He invited Pavel Oravec to submit concrete proposals as to what he thinks it useful for FEMS to act/achieve.

Pavel Oravec further insisted that maybe his trade union had different expectations from himself via FEMS, for instance some direct contact with the European institutions.

Enrico Reginato said that FEMS wrote to the Commission concerning the Slovak problem, the same as it did for the issue of the Italian postgraduate education. Nevertheless, since the Commission remains a very bureaucratic structure. FEMS also wrote to both the Commission and the Parliament concerning the EWTD, but it is not easy so easy to influence these organisations.

Bojan Popovic pointed out the question of the intermediate structure; in Slovakia, the same as Slovenia,

is quite easy to get in contact with the government while it this is not the case at the European level. He also explained that, as far as Slovakia or Slovenia are concerned, there is only one trade union at the national level, while at the EU level, there are several doctors' organisations, with sometimes conflicting interests. EU is not an employer to negotiate with.

Pavel Oravec said its trade union wished for more information to be shared.

Bojan Popovic explained that the difficulty may arise from the way the social dialogue is organised, as it is more a question of networking rather than negotiating.

Paulo Simões also suggested it is a matter of strategy at the national and European level; he recommended the Slovakian organisation to better formulate its plans and expectations at the national and international level as well as the ways to achieve them.

Enrico Reginato pointed out that FEMS' "weapon" is its Europe wide knowledge of data, best practices and examples in the healthcare systems.

Pavel Oravec insisted FEMS should develop a common policy to all members.

Enrico Reginato reminded that FEMS has recently become member of the Joint Health Workforce Planning & Forecasting (Working Package 7 - Horizon Scanning); on this occasion, he found out that the topic of working conditions of health workers were not considered at all by the European Commission; this should be changed, as national autonomy is no longer acceptable; he suggested the European Commission should be more powerful as regards the member states with respect to healthcare policies.

Bojan Popovic also reminded Pavel Oravec that the latter had been the 1st FEMS vice-president, who could have initiated and taken significant action at the level of the organisation.

Pavel Oravec insisted there should be more FEMS meetings in Brussels; also, he suggested that, in order to achieve more visibility, the FEMS board should hire one expert working at least part-time to ensure more involvement of FEMS at the level of the European institutions.

Enrico Reginato suggested using medical students from EMSA to do a research on various issues to be determined, against a grant to be offered by FEMS.

Paulo Simões reiterated that it is necessary to discuss within the general assembly what the expectations of the various members of FEMS are from the organisation.

Stanislaw Urban suggested there may be a difference in the expectation of Central and Eastern Europe members as compared to the others; in the sense that it is more difficult for the former to make themselves heard at the national level; for this reason, they believe that influencing at the European level may help passing over the message to the national authorities.

7 Report of the 2nd Vice-President (S. Dalkilic)

Serdar Dalkilic said that FEMS should be more active, interact with other pan-European organisation active in the health area. To this end, the board should meet more often, not only just before the GA, when the issues discussed are more or less the same as those debated by the GA.

8 Report of the Secretary General (B. Popovic)

Bojan Popovic recommended three issues:

- FEMS should avoid interfering with local politicians on the occasion of the next FEMS GA in North Cyprus meeting: we should not interfere with the politician at the local level;
- FEMS should aim for the official establishment as an organisation in Belgium; the Belgian tax

system should be carefully explored to that purpose;

- FEMS should aim for an increased communication among its membership.

9 Report of the Deputy Secretary General (S. Urban)

Stanislaw Urban announced that he would not run for a different mandate in the FEMS board. He thanked the board members for their collaboration.

10 Report of the Treasurer (P. Simoes)

10.1 *Draft Budget 2016*

[F15-045](#)

10.2 Internal auditors' report 2014

[F15-030](#)

Paulo Simões briefly informed on the financial situation of FEMS, which proves stable and better than in the past, due to additional funding (about 10,000). Therefore, he recommended that the board explores possible ways of using this money for various actions aimed at achieving FEMS goals.

Pavel Oravec suggested this issue is also addressed by the GA, so that all members are consulted.

11 Elections according to FEMS Statutes

It was decided to report this point to the agenda of the General Assembly.

11.1 Elections for President

[F15-040](#)

11.2 Elections for Vice-President

[F15-041](#)

[F15-042](#)

[F15-047](#)

11.3 Elections for Secretary General

[F15-054](#)

11.4 Elections for Deputy Secretary General

11.5 Elections for Treasurer

[F15-046](#)

12 Update on actions of the working groups and delegations

Issue not addressed

12.1 On-site survey concerning doctors' remuneration systems in Europe

[F14-043](#)

12.2 Working group on Working conditions of European doctors (Dr Albert Tomas i Torrell)

[F15-034](#)

[F15-013](#)

[F15-005](#)

[F15-006](#)

[F15-007](#)

13 Next FEMS General Assemblies

Issue not addressed

13.1 *6-7 May 2016, information and updates (Turkish Cyprus)*

13.2 *7-8 October 2016, information and updates – (Bucharest, Romania)*

14 Next FEMS Board meetings

The next FEMS board meeting would take place on 5 February 2016 in Catania, jointly with AEMH.

15 Meeting Calendar

Issue not addressed

Date and place	Event	Attendance FEMS
14-17/10 2015 (Moscow, Russia)	WMA GA	
16-17/10/2015 (Warsaw, Poland)	UEMS General Assembly	
22-24/10/2015 (Oslo, Norway)	EJD Autumn Meeting	
30-31/10/2015 (Brussels, Belgium)	CPME meeting	
18/12/2015 (Luxembourg)	CPD conference	
08-09/04/2016 (Brussels)	CPME meeting	

[International EMOs' Calendar](#)

16 Any other business

16.1 Establishment of an official branch / independent organisation of FEMS in Belgium
The issue will be explored and will be submitted to the vote of the next FEMS GA.