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FEMS General Assembly

Friday 25 September 09:00 – 13:00 (Brussels time)
Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89103653794>

1. Introduction and welcome (João de Deus, FEMS President)

João de Deus welcomed the participants to the FEMS autumn meeting, organised also online, due to the COVID-19 situation. He also shortly informed on his activity since the last meeting in June. Thus he attended the CPME meeting (12 June) on COVID-19 as well as the AEMH Clinical Leadership working group meetings (July and August); he will further attend the UEMS and AEMH general assemblies taking place October (also online).

PART I: procedural issues

2. Roll call / right to vote (B. Popovic)-

Bojan Popovic declared the assembly valid; there were 30 participants online, representing 17 FEMS member delegations, i.e. the majority.
 The Czech Delegation was excused due to COVID-19 emergencies.

3. Approval of the agenda

João de Deus suggested adding a bullet point for the European Medical Organisations representatives. The agenda was approved with this addition (point 8).

4. Approval of the minutes of the last FEMS GA (8 May 2020, online)

F20-021

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Part II – Planning, Financial and Statutory Issues, Other Internal Affairs

5. Financial Reports - art. 8 of the Statutes (Jean-Paul Zerbib):

a) Treasurer report

Jean-Paul Zerbib informed of a letter from the Istanbul Medical Chamber that decided to discontinue its presence in FEMS due to financial difficulties. He suggested waiting about taking a decision in this respect, perhaps they will be able to return.

b) FEMS accounts at 31.08.2020

[F20-034](#)

Jean-Paul Zerbib pointed out the rather low spendings to date, due to the lack of travelling of the board members as well as the absence of on-site meetings. This will most probably lead to significant savings in the end of the year, allowing FEMS to redistribute the money towards other projects (i.e. the White Book).

c) Draft budget 2021

[F20-023](#)

Jean-Paul Zerbib presented the budget for 2021, which he drafted in accordance to the previous budget, since the situation may come back to normal and the meetings and travelling shall be resumed.

In point of bank fees – repeatedly pointed out by the accountant as significantly high – Diana Voicu suggested exploring other French banks with potentially lower fees. As far as opening a branch/establishing FEMS as a Belgian legal entity, the process is currently delayed and postponed. Bojan Popovic said this is to be resumed as soon as the circumstances will allow it (COVID-19 situation impacting on international travelling).

As compared to previous budgets, an important amount was assigned to the production of the White Book, as this proved necessary in point of achieving professional projects / documents.

Claude Wetzel recalled opening the FEMS account, with services that are not used; he further suggested Jean-Paul Zerbib to go in person to the Credit du Nord branch and change the account to one more appropriate to the activity of an association.

The budget for 2021 was unanimously approved.

d) Auditors' report

[F20-031](#)

Reinhart Waneck presented the auditors' report.

6. Next FEMS Meetings

a) 6-8 May 2021, Austria: information and updates

[F20-026](#)

Lukas Stärker renewed the invitation, in the name of the Austrian Medical Chamber, to organise the joint AEMH-FEMS general assembly in Austria in the spring of 2021. The location was changed to Frauenkirchen, in the eastern part of Austria. In the situation the meeting needs to be again cancelled, the organisers will try to do the same as it was done for the Kitzbuhel meeting (i.e. all advance payments were returned to the participants). More practical information as to the organisation of the meeting will be provided in the following months.

Erich-Theo Merholz thanked the Austrian delegates in the name of AEMH for their availability and efforts to host the joint AEMH-FEMS general assembly.

b) Autumn 2021: 23-25 September 2021, Zagreb – Croatia: information and updates

[F20-044](#)

Renata Culinovic-Caic (HLS) invited again the FEMS delegates to Zagreb for the autumn GA of 2021. She suggested the dates of the meeting to be 23-25 September 2021. The Sheraton hotel is the potential location of the meeting, to be confirmed.

Part III: Emergencies, European Affairs, National Affairs

7. Discussion and Decisions on Emergencies

- Working groups updates

- Results of the questionnaire on burn-out (Jean-Paul Zerbib)

[F20-035](#)

Jean-Paul Zerbib presented the results of the questionnaire.

João de Deus suggested that FEMS delegations that did not answer should do so; he also recommended sending the questionnaire to the AEMH members that are not members in FEMS.

- Questionnaire on doctors' job satisfaction (Alessandra Spedicato)

Alessandra Spedicato reminded the decision to perform the survey on doctors satisfaction; for the achievement of more professional results, the analysis of the questionnaire will be outsourced to an Italian company. The questionnaire will be translated in the different languages of the FEMS members so that it can

reach a wide audience across Europe. She pointed out that such a study will be a great opportunity to promote FEMS at the European level.

Christiaan Keijzer said that the questionnaire is not quite applicable to the Netherlands. The Dutch organization had already sent its own questionnaire regarding COVID-19 impacting doctors' working conditions and gather information internally.

Diana Voicu informed that Crowdtech will perceive a fee for processing the questionnaire in the different languages.

- Members brief national updates on COVID-19 crisis + national reports

The delegates presented their national situations as described in the reports below.

Austria OAK / VLKO	F20-027	Italy/ANAAO/AAROI/SNR	F20-029
Belgium/GBS-VBS	F20-037	Netherlands LAD	F20-030
Bulgaria/BgMA	No report	Poland OZZL	No report
Croatia/ HLS	F20-032	Portugal/Ordem dos Medicos/FNAM/SIM	F20-040
Cyprus/CTMA	F20-038	Romania/CFSMR	F20-036
Czech Republic/LOK-SCL	No report	Slovenia / FIDES	F20-033
France/FPS/UNMS/	F20-028 UNMS	Spain/CESM	F20-039

João de Deus recommended updating the questionnaire on COVID-19 (drafted by Claude Wetzel earlier this year) and asked the delegates to send their proposals with issues to be included in this update. He further suggested organising a meeting to update on the situation in January, also to evaluate whether the meeting in Austria can be eventually organised.

Claude Wetzel encouraged the delegates to send their suggestions to modify the questionnaire (i.e. establishing COVID-19 as a professional disease for doctors); the updated questionnaire could be sent out by the end of December/beginning of January. The questionnaire could also be sent to the AEMH delegates. Another idea would be to compare data on the healthcare situation/excess of mortality for 2019 and 2020 and eventually present the results for the joint AEMH-FEMS GA in May 2021.

João de Deus suggested 29 January for intermediate online meeting to update on the COVID-19 situation.

8. Any other business

- Response from the EC commission to the FEMS letter [F20-025](#)

The EMOs should coordinate their actions of response towards EU initiatives.

- Address by EC President, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, on the [State of the Union](#) on the future of European Health

Ideally, all EMOs should send a common reaction to this address. It was agreed that Bojan Popovic drafts a proposal of a letter to the EC president (Bojan Popovic) expressing FEMS concerns as an example; the other EMOs may follow with theirs; this letter proposal will be discussed during the next EMOs presidents committee meeting (15 October).

- EMOs reports
 - AEMH – Erich-Theo Merholz

Erich-Theo Merholz briefly informed on the European Academy of Clinical Leadership, a project into which AEMH has put a lot of effort lately and which will be hopefully launched during the upcoming joint AEMH-FEMS GA in Austria (2021). He kindly invited the other EMOs to join in and follow the developments of this project.

- CEOM – José Santos

[F20-045](#)

- CPME – Christiaan Keijzer

Christiaan Keijzer briefly informed on the CPME activities. In cooperation with other EMOs, CPME commented on the future pharmaceutical strategy of the European Commission and responded to the future developments of the European Medicines Agency. CPME is gathering data on the COVID-19 crisis across Europe and provides weekly updates, which are made available on the CPME website (www.cpme.eu)

N.B.: Participation in votes requires the payment of the contribution of 2020 (article 12a of the Statutes).