



**Minutes of the EFAS General Assembly Montpellier,
Friday 28sep18 11h, Institut Saint Pierre, Palavas-Les-Flots**

- **Welcome from Chair**
- **Attendance and Apologies**
- **Minutes of GA in Interlaken June 2017**
- **Chairperson´s report**
- **Working Group reports**
- **Treasurer´s report**
- **Report on preparations EFAS 2019 Lisbon**
- **Report on preparations EFAS 2021 Croatia**
- **Election of new EFAS board (period 2019-2021)**
- **Any other business**

1. Welcome from Chair:

Dr. Françoise Artières-Sterkers welcomes the attendants to the General Assembly meeting.

2. Attendance and Apologies:

The following EFAS-member countries and n EFAS-representatives are attending and/or sent apologies (person with voting rights underlined):

Present n=16

Belgium (Wouters, Laureyns), Croatia (Trotic, Bilic, Birtic), Finland (Kokkonen), France (Artieres , Thai Van), Germany (Kollmeier), Ireland (Pitt), Poland (Sulkowski), Portugal (Martins), Switzerland (Kompis, Dillier)
Montenegro (Jovanovic), Slovenia (Zupan)

Apologies n=9

Austria (Stephan), Czech Republic (Syka), France (Dauman), Germany

(Hoppe), Israel (Attias), Russia (Boboshko, Tavartkiladze), Slovenia (Bozanic Urbancic), United Kingdom (Dawes)

3. Minutes of GA in Interlaken, June 2017:

The minutes of the Interlaken meeting (June 2017) was sent around after the meeting. However not put on website yet. It is decided to put the minutes on the EFAS website www.efas.ws and send e-mail to all representatives that they can submit comments and/or suggestions for changes and date of deadline (3 weeks) specified before final.

4. Chairperson's report:

Dr. Françoise Artières-Sterkers addressed the following issues:

- The EFAS congress 2017 in Interlaken: Thanks to Martin Kompis and his team for organizing an excellent EFAS congress
- At the 2017 EFAS General Assembly elections were held for new board members, new search committee members and new congress location 2021:
 - Birger Kollmeier was elected as vice chairman/chairman-elect
 - Jan Wouters as secretary general for the period 2017- 2019,
 - Re-election of EFAS treasurer, Martin Kompis (in office since 2013)
 - Election of a new search committee : Norbert Dillier, Kurt Stephan, Özlem Konukseven.
 - Sibenik in Croatia will be the location for the EFAS Congress 2021
- Major activities of EFAS since last General Assembly meeting:
 - Update EFAS Website
 - Established contacts to National Audiology Societies to fill in open positions to extend involvement in EFAS and reactivate contacts.

- New non voting members in Czech Republic (Libor Cerny), France (Hung Thai Van), Portugal (Melissa Gravo), Montenegro (Maja Jovanovic), Slovakia (Lukas Vargas).
- Contacts with countries Lithuania, Iceland, Denmark
- EFAS session in CI Conference 2018 Antwerp: «CI- assessment in patients with special needs» Jan Wouters, Martin Kompis and Françoise Sterkers- Artières
- EFAS representation CEORL -HNS Conference 2019 Brussels :Martin Kompis, Françoise Sterkers-Artieres
- Workshop New applications in Audiology: EFAS Workshop 2018 Montpellier/Palavas
- Preparations for EFAS congress 2019 Lisbon: Many video/telephone conference meetings were organized to prepare the conference program, January 2018:
- Site visit Culturgest, excellent site, very good location, many hotels
- Scientific program : 3 Keynote speakers, 6 Structured sessions,
- pre-symposium Wednesday with reports of EFAS Working Groups
- EFAS representatives are asked to distribute flyers
- AEA (Hearing and Acousticians European Society) Chair Mark Laureyns met with EFAS Board at Interlaken 2017 with mutual understanding to open for possible future collaborations between AEA and EFAS.
- Proposal for project of EFAS and Audiology training in Western Africa by Theresa Pitt and Joseph Attias : Online-recordings of basic-audiology, educational lectures in English and French in collaboration with the Austrian Development Agency ADA and ENT Society of Ivory Coast and University at Abidjan.

- Special thanks for continuing support to the Board, to the search committee Norbert Dillier, Özlem Konukseven, and Kurt Stephan who were voted into office in GA 2017, to the scholarship officer Joseph Attias, to the auditors Wieslaw Sulkowski, Arne Vik.

5. Working Group reports

Four EFAS working groups are active:

- **EFAS WG SHS:** School Age Hearing Screening, Chair: Jan Wouters, 11 countries.
- **EFAS WG AID:** Audiology screening and services for Intellectual Disability, Chair: Melina Willems, 7 countries.
- **EFAS WG APD:** Auditory processing disorders, Chair: Vasiliki Maria (Vivian) Iliadou & Hung Thai-Van, clinicians and researchers from 13 countries .
- **EFAS WG EDU:** Audiology Education in Europe, Chair: Birger Kollmeier

Extended reports of the status of the working groups SHS, AID and APD have been given at the EFAS Workshop Montpellier/Palavas. Birger Kollmeier accepts to chair the EDU working group. Next reports of all 4 working groups will be presented at the Wednesday of the Lisbon EFAS 2019 congress.

6. Treasurer's report:

EFAS treasurer Martin Kompis reports on the period from May 1st, 2017 – July 31st, 2018. The income of approximately 10.7k€ is balanced with the expenses of approximately 8.7k€. This indicates an increase of the current balance of the society by 2k€. Overall, EFAS can be considered as financially healthy, with a solid base. The largest expenses have been the EFAS scholarships (for attending

EFAS Interlaken 2017), the EFAS website, and project support for EFAS WG AID and the project on Romanian Speech Audiometry. Most member states of EFAS have already paid their membership fees which are greatly acknowledged. The remaining member societies are thanked for paying as fast as possible. In 2019, expenses will cover the scholarships for EFAS 2019 in Lisbon and pursuing the general aim to spend EFAS money well for Audiology.

The Auditors Arne Vik (Norway) and Wieslaw Sulkowski (Poland) received the full report on August 7th, 2018 and reported that the financials are in perfect order (both auditors). The voting members accepted unanimously the treasurer's report (with one abstain Martin Kompis).

7. Report on preparations EFAS 2019 Lisbon:

The congress chair Jorge Humberto Martins reports about the EFAS 2019 congress in Lisbon to be held from Mai 22nd -25th , 2019 and invited all EFAS members and their society members to attend the conference in large numbers. He gives overview of the scientific program (keynote speakers, structured sessions, pre-congress symposium on Wednesday, ...) which is almost final, and informs about venue and major sponsors. Concerning deadlines, it is felt that the abstract deadline of November 30th is too sharp, because presently flyers are not yet available (within ~1 month when all information about structured sessions is final). He emphasizes that the registration fee has been kept low to attract as many as possible, but also stresses that we can all help by stimulating many colleagues to attend the Congress.

8. Report on preparations EFAS 2021 Croatia:

The congress chair Robert Trotic reports about the preparations. EFAS 2021 will be held May 26-29 or May 19-22. Especially concerning the venue, attendees inform that recently new regulations apply for scientific conferences, the name and representation of the venue may be an important factor for approval.

9. Election of new EFAS Board (period 2019-2021)

According to the bylaws, at the Lisbon 2019 congress Françoise Artieres-Sterkers will change mandate from chairperson to past-chairperson and Birger Kollmeier will step up from vice-chairperson to chairperson for the subsequent voting period 2019-2021. The term of Martin Kompis as treasurer ends, as well as Theresa Pitt who will step down from the post of past-chairperson. The mandate of the Secretary General Jan Wouters is open for election. Also a new incoming vice-chairperson will have to be elected.

The search committee is invited to select and contact possible candidates for the different mandates in the EFAS Board.

10. Any other business:

The representing EFAS partner Serbia-Montenegro will from now on be split as 2 separate EFAS-countries, with both a representation within EFAS.

There is a need for update and restructuring parts of the EFAS-website. Norbert Dilier has been asked by the board for his inputs and for webmaster support. He accepted.

Theresa Pitt gives some additional information about the request to EFAS to collaborate on a project of Audiology training in Western Africa (in English and French), and with links to Med-El company. The involvement of Med-El and EFAS need to be specified. A concrete plan is not clear yet. Will be further investigated by Theresa Pitt and Joseph Attias and the board.

Mark Laureyns mentions that the EFAS inventory of the audiology educational Ba and Ma programs is not available anymore on the EFAS website. Jan Wouters will check for the last version and this doc can be made available at the

EFAS website.

The next EFAS Workshop 2020 will be organized by Birger Kollmeier

Dr. Françoise Artières-Sterkers is thanked for the organization of the EFAS workshop 2018 in Montpellier/Palavas.

Leuven, September 29th 2018

Signed: Jan Wouters (EFAS secretary general).