Minutes of the EBCOG & Section Council Meeting

Holiday Inn, Amsterdam

Saturday 29th November and Sunday 30th November, 2003

Professor A. Van Assche, President EBCOG
Dr. H. H. Wagner, President Section O & G
Dr. R. Kirschner, Vice-President EBCOG
Professor J. Wladimiroff, Secretary-General EBCOG
Professor W. Dunlop, Treasurer EBCOG
Professor M. Brincat (Malta)
Dr. S. Brostrom, President ENTOG
Professor C. Benedetto (Italy)
Dr. G. Buttigieg (Malta)
Professor L. Cabero-Roura (Executive)
Dr. G. Cession (Belgium)
Professor G. Creatas (Executive)
Professor G. C. Di Renzo (EAPM)
Professor R. Felberbaum (Germany) Dr. D. Felice (Malta)
Professor J. Feyereisl (Czech Republic)
Professor V. Giambanco (Italy)
Professor G. Gitsch (ESGO)
Dr. A. Goverde (The Netherlands)
Professor S. Heinonen (Finland)
Professor W. Holzgreve (Switzerland)

Dr. P. Hornnes (Denmark)
Professor A. Kalogeropoulos (Greece)
Professor L. Kovacs (Hungary)
Professor E. Kujansuu (Finland)
Professor J. Lansac (Chair SCTA)
Dr. S. Lenz (Denmark)
Dr. L. Loimer (Austria)
Dr. E. Magnusson (PWG)
Professor S. Mancuso (Executive)
Professor J. Martinez de Oliveira (Portugal)
Miss H. Mellows (UK)
Professor Z. Novak Antolic (Executive)
Professor N. Pateisky (Austria)
Professor I. Rusnak (Slovak Republic)
Professor E. M. Rutanen (Executive)
Dr. K. Salvesen (Norway)
Professor G. Schlaeder (France)
Professor M. Steiner (Germany)
Professor V. Unzeitig (Czech Republic)
Dr. G. Van Doorn (The Netherlands)
Dr. J. Van Wiemeersch (Belgium)
Professor B. Von Schoultz (Sweden)
Invited: Professor Diether Wallwiener, President ESGE
Professor Rudy Campo, Secretary-General, ESGE
Mr. Mauro Dolla, MAF Servizi
Mrs. Annalisa Sartoris, MAF Servizi

1. Apologies
Apologies were received from: Dr. H. Halila (President UEMS), Lord Patel, President EAGO, Professor O. Axelsson (Sweden), Professor J. Bajo (Spain), Professor G. C. Di Renzo (EAPM), Professor K. Diedrich (Germany), Professor M. Litschgi (Switzerland), Professor H. Meden-Vrtovec (Slovenia), Professor I. Szabo (Hungary), Professor J. Stenclo (Romania), Professor U. Ulmsten (Chair Scientific Committee).

The President began by welcoming new members of Council: Professor Felberbaum, Professor Heinonen, Professor Pateisky, Professor Rusnak and Dr. Magnusson.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 14th & 15th June 2003
The Minutes were adopted and accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.

4. Report of the President of EBCOG
4.1 Relations with UEMS
The President informed Council that relations with UEMS continued to be good and said that EBCOG sat as an observer on the UEMS Management Committee. He said that he was in regular contact with the President and Secretary-General of UEMS. Professor Rutanen agreed to invite Dr. Halila to participate in the EBCOG Council meeting in Athens in 2004.

4.2 Doctors’ Directive
The President reported that Dr. Cession had organised a meeting with a representative of the European Commission’s DG Internal Market to discuss the Doctors’ Directive. The President pointed out that, currently, under the Doctors’ Directive, mutual recognition in Europe has been accorded to 17 specialties. He went on to say however, that the adoption of the rest of the Directive by the European Parliament has been postponed. Dr. Cession remarked that EBCOG proposed to the European Commission that UEMS and EBCOG should act as expert consultants within the Commission for Medical Practice. The President told Council that he hoped a second meeting with the European Commission would take place in January 2004 and thanked Dr. Cession for all his efforts.

4.3 UEMS Working Group on Long Distance Learning
The President told Council that he had received an e-mail from this Working Group recently and agreed to circulate this to Council for information.

4.4 Relations with National Societies
The President stressed that good communication between EBCOG and national societies was crucial and agreed to continue circulating as much information as possible.
5. Report of the President of the Section
5.1 Presentation of National Societies
The President of the Section began by asking delegates to state whether they represented the Scientific or Professional Societies of their countries, or both. He said that the presentations that national societies made in June had been very helpful and that he would like to ask those countries which were not at that meeting to present their national societies at the next meeting. The President of the Section also said that new EBCOG members from the new EU countries would also be asked to present their societies.

5.2 WHO Atlas of Health in Europe
The President of the Section told Council that the Section had begun, some time ago, to compile statistics on gynaecology and obstetrics in Europe. He presented a WHO publication to Council, the WHO Atlas of Health in Europe, which gave an overview of statistics in O & G in Europe. He said that further information on this publication could be found at: euro@who.int

The President of the Section said that one of the problems in compiling pan-European statistics was that definitions of terms varied from country to country. He explained that because of this, during the Executive meeting, Professor Cabero-Roura had agreed to prepare a definition of a number of terms:

- What is a specialist?
- What is a subspecialist?
- What is a private practitioner?
- What is a teaching hospital?
- What is a university hospital?
- What is a trainee?
- What is a tutor?
- What is a trainer?

6. Report of the Secretary-General
6.1 EFSUMB
The Secretary-General told national delegates that he had received a letter from the European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB) concerning minimum training requirements for ultrasound in Europe. The Secretary-General said that he had agreed to send a copy of this letter to the Chair of the SCTA in order that they could give their views on this matter. The Secretary-General agreed to report back to Council on this matter.

6.2 E-mails from Marketing Organisations
The Secretary-General told Council that EBCOG was receiving an increasing number of unsolicited e-mails from marketing companies requesting EBCOG’s Members’ List. He reported that the Executive felt strongly that EBCOG should not respond to such requests.

6.3 UEMS Management Council, Ljubljana, October 2003
The Secretary-General informed Council that he had attended the UEMS Management Committee’s two-day meeting in Ljubljana. He explained that one of the major issues under discussion had been the Working Group on Postgraduate
Training and he reported that under UEMS regulations, the Sections have no authority to set examinations. The Secretary-General told Council that UEMS intended to write to all Sections about this issue.

6.4 UEMS Web Site
The Secretary-General informed Council that the UEMS web site will be linked to the web sites of national authorities and to the web sites of the Sections.

6.5 Doctors’ Directive
The Secretary-General told Council that the adoption of this Directive had been postponed, probably until after the European Parliamentary elections in Spring, 2004.

7. The Report of the Vice-President
7.1 EBCOG Strategy Paper
The Vice-President reminded Council that he had circulated his Strategy Paper but had received few responses from Council. He reported that the Action Points had been amended in the Executive meeting the previous day and informed Council that he had agreed to amend the Strategy Paper accordingly. He said that many of the Action Points had been based on issues of common concern raised in the presentations that national societies had made in June:

- Visits to accession countries;
- Gender ratio of gynaecologists and trainees per country;
- Litigation, a claims register and the ‘no-fault’ system;
- The organisation of office gynaecology at national level;
- The re-organisation of national systems from small scale to large scale;
- The incidence of C-Sections;
- Examination systems;
- Collaboration of societies at national and international level;
- Who is responsible for training in O & G – universities or societies?
- Who is involved in visiting if a visiting system exists in a country?
- Consumer representation;
- Human resources;
- Impact of the EU Working Time Directive.

The Vice-President went on to say that the presentations made by national societies had been so valuable that the executive proposed that this should be done on a rolling basis, with a number of delegates presenting the activities and concerns of the national societies at each meeting.

Council agreed the following amendments to the Action Points of the Strategy Paper:

- Point 1: Should be amended to read: “The EBCOG Congress in Athens must have high priority among the tasks of EBCOG during 2004. It is vital from all points of view that the organisation is seen as capable of showcasing a success. Responsible: Management Committee”;

- Point 2: Needs to be pursued by UEMS because the harmonisation of training will be expensive for many accession countries;
• Point 3: Should read: “Recruitment of representative organisations from the EU accession countries is a vital point. A special invitation will be extended to these countries to the Council meeting in Athens. Responsible: Executive/Officers”;

• Point 4 Survey on Gender Ratio: Point 4 should be deleted;

• Point 5 should read: “A temporary Working Party should be formed to evaluate whether the effect of claims and litigation in the EBCOG member countries affects training. (The results could be used in training matters as well as for political purposes. Responsible: Executive/Officers”;

• Point 6 should read: “The SCTA should evaluate the tutor-trainee relationship in the European Training Programmes. After assessment and evaluation, an educational programme for tutors/trainees should be established, including standard procedures and Log Books. Responsible: SCTA”;

• Point 7 should read: “The focus for hospital visiting should be placed on countries that have specifically asked for assistance e.g., Greece and the accession countries. Attention should likewise be particularly focused on the progress of visiting in France and Germany. Responsible: SCHR”;

• Point 8 should read: “A process of re-visiting hospitals that have been recognised should begin. In countries where the national authorities have instigated visiting programmes, this process should be their responsibility. Responsible: SCHR”;

• Point 9: The President told Council that the EBCOG Journal would be discussed later in the meeting.

Point 10: “A scientific project/a survey on the variation in the Caesarean section rate in Europe should be started.” should be deleted and replaced by “A process of revising the specialist training programmes should be initiated. Responsible: SCTA”.

Council also agreed that Point C (on page 3 of the Strategy Paper) currently entitled “Standing Committee on CPD”, should read “Standing Committee on CME/CPD”.

Professor Lansac told Council that he felt it was time for him to step down as Chair of the SCTA and that he had agreed to Chair the last meeting of this Committee in March 2003. The President thanked Professor Lansac for all his excellent work over the last ten years as Chair of this Committee. Professor Novak-Antolic agreed to take over as the Chair of the SCTA. Council also agreed that ENTOG should be represented on this Committee.

7.2 Relations with EU Accession Countries
The Vice-President told Council that Professor Novak-Antolic, Professor Unzeitig and himself had tried to organise a meeting with representatives of EU accession countries in Prague in October 2003, but unfortunately had not received responses in sufficient time. He reported that these countries were then invited to the EBCOG Reception, which took place during the FIGO World Congress, and that the Reception had been well attended.
8. The Report of the Treasurer of EBCOG and the Section

8.1 EBCOG Balance
The Treasurer of EBCOG and the Section reported that as at 23 November 2003, the balance of the EBCOG account stood at Euro 232577.51. He stressed that as it was not the end of the year, the figures he was presenting represented an interim report.

8.2 Income
The Treasurer explained that most of EBCOG’s funds were currently in the Section account. He went on to say that the Treasurer of EAGO had transferred Euro 52,218.98 to the EBCOG account from the EAGO account in preparation for the full amalgamation of EBCOG and EAGO and that some small expenses were owed to EAGO from this sum.

The Treasurer informed Council that he had received the overdue income from the Malmö Congress the previous week and that because the transfer was so recent, this sum had not been included in the current balance sheets.

8.3 Expenditure
The Treasurer reported that the major expenses were in line with the budget estimates, but that the expenditure on Executive meetings was over-budget and needed to be revised. The Treasurer informed Council that the present meeting costs for the Executive and Council meetings in Amsterdam were likely to be more expensive than usual. The Treasurer said that he was very concerned about the expenditure on Executive meetings. He told Council that the Executive had proposed that an extra Executive meeting should be held in 2004 because of the difficulties in fitting in an Executive and Council meeting at the time of the ENTOG Trainees’ meeting, and he said that this proposal needed to be discussed in Council.

The Treasurer reminded the meeting that he would invoice Erasmus for Management Committee meeting costs, which would reduce the expenditure. He said that no Standing Committees had met during the financial year.

The Treasurer reminded Council that income would be generated from individual membership fees following EBCOG’s amalgamation with EAGO. However, the Treasurer said that the management of individual membership finances would be likely to incur extra costs, as he would need extra administrative support. The Past-President of EAGO, Professor Kovacs, agreed to send the EAGO membership list to the Treasurer.

There was some discussion about how the Section might contribute to the cost of the joint EBCOG and Section Council meetings.

8.4 Section Balance
The Treasurer of EBCOG and the Section reported that as at 13 October 2003, the balance of the Section account stood at Euro 106573.73. The Treasurer said that the Section balance was healthy and that the only real expenditure from the Section account had been the expenses of the President of the Section. The Treasurer again emphasised that as it was not the end of the year, the figures he was presenting represented an interim report.
8.5 **ENTOG Account**
The Treasurer informed Council that the ENTOG bank account was now active and that the agreed sum of money had been transferred to this account.

9. **Standing Committees and Working Parties**

9.1 **Standing Committee on Training and Assessment (SCTA)**
The Chair of the SCTA informed Council that the next meeting of this Committee would take place in Brussels on March 19th, 2004. The present members of the SCTA will be invited to this meeting as will the President of ENTOG and Dr. Goverde.

9.1.1 **Training Programme and Log Book for Urogynaecology**
The Chair of the SCTA reported that this was the most recent document produced by the SCTA. He said that these documents had both been sent to EUGA and that he was now awaiting feedback.

The Chair of the SCTA told Council that the next project of this Committee was to update the EBCOG Postgraduate Training Programme in O & G and he asked national delegates to send him their views and suggestions.

The Chair of the SCTA informed Council that after the Postgraduate Training Programme in O & G had been updated, the subspecialist training programmes and Log Books would then be updated.

9.1.2 **EBCOG Volumes**
The Chair of the SCTA reported that the following Volumes had been published:

- Invasive Carcinoma;
- Breech Delivery;
- Ovulation Induction;
- Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology;
- Endometrial Cancer;
- Neural Infection.

He went on to say that the Volumes were in production:

- Diabetes and Pregnancy;
- Contraception & Family Planning;
- Climacteric;
- Stress Incontinence.

The Chair of the SCTA informed Council that there had been problems with the production and marketing of the Volumes by Elsevier and that, consequently, the Volumes that had not been published were out of date. National delegates told the Chair of the SCTA that they had seen no publicity at all about the Volumes. The Chair of the SCTA told Council that the Executive Committee had proposed that the Volumes currently in production should be published, but that the Volumes not yet underway should not be published and the contract with Elsevier should be annulled. Council agreed with this proposal.
9.2 Hospital Recognition

9.2.1 Recent Visits
The Chair of the Standing Committee on Hospital Recognition (SCHR), Professor Wladimiroff, informed Council that from June to November, 2003, three visits had taken place to Liège, Paris and Maribor. He told Council that the SCHR recommended that the Departments in Liège and Maribor be accredited for a period of 5 years. The Chair of the SCHR went on to say that could not make any recommendations about the Department in Paris, because the Report had not yet been submitted to the SCHR.

9.2.2 Future Visits
The Chair of the SCHR reported that future visits were planned to:
Italy, France, Germany and a re-visit was planned to Ljubljana.

9.2.3 Visits to France
Professor Wladimiroff told Council that 6 visits had been completed to date in France to: Lille, Paris (x 2), Caen, Bordeaux and Poitiers. He said that following discussions with the French College, a further series of Visits had been planned to Paris (x 2), Strasbourg, Nancy, Marseilles (x 3), Nice and Nîmes and that a French visitor from an accredited department would participate in the visits.

He said, however, that a visit to the department of Professor Ville in Paris had not been successful because of what appeared to be the reluctance of this department to proceed with the visit.

The Chair of the SCHR told national delegates that he proposed that Prof H.J.Philippe, the Secretary of the French College should act as the co-ordinator for EBCOG visits in France.

9.2.4 Visits to Germany
The Chair of the SCHR explained that 9 visits had been taken place in Germany, to: Giessen, Lübeck, Düsseldorf, Erlangen, Jena, Halle, Köln, Heidelberg and Aachen.

He told the meeting that he had discussed visiting in detail with the Executive Board of the German Society, and that 7 more visits had been agreed. He explained that he also hoped to find a co-ordinator for EBCOG visits in Germany. Professor Felberbaum told Council that he supported these visits and hoped further visits would take place in Germany.

9.2.5 Alpe Adria Consortium
Professor Novak Antolic reported to Council that a visiting consortium had been set up in the Alpe Adria Region. She explained that this consortium which included Slovenia, Western Croatia, Southern Austrian Eastern Italy and Western Hungary had agreed to conduct reciprocal visits, because these areas faced many of the same challenges.

9.3 Report on the Subspecialist Subcommittee (SSSC)
Professor Wladimiroff, who is the Chair of this subcommittee, told Council that the SSSC had met for only the second time the previous day. He said that the most important issue under discussion was the need to define the requirements of
subspecialist training centres in Europe and then to develop a Visiting system for such centres.

He reminded Council that at its last meeting the SSSC had accepted a definition of a subspecialty and of a subspecialist centre.

The Chair of the SSSC explained that this sub-committee had agreed to use the RCOG General Requirements for Subspecialist Training Centres as a basis for identifying criteria for subspecialist visiting and accreditation, but to amend these General requirements slightly to better suit the subspecialist societies. In addition, the SSSC will use the joint EBCOG and subspecialist training programmes and Log Books to set criteria for accreditation. The Chair of the SSSC told national delegates that the SSSC hoped to have finalised the requirements by March 2004.

The Chair of the SSSC told the Council that the SSSC had proposed the following process for eventual subspecialist centre visiting and recognition:

- Applications for Visits should be made by the Centre concerned to the SSSC;
- Two Visitors should be selected and each subspecialist society will provide a list of Visitors;
- Each subspecialty will produce an application form, a format for a day programme and a format for a Visit report using the EBCOG Hospital Recognition Committee documents as templates;
- The Visit should take place;
- The Visit Report should be submitted to the SSSC;
- The SSSC will look at the report and send it to the Executive Board of the Relevant subspecialty which will give its views to the SSSC;
- The recommendation for accreditation for a five-year period will be made by the SSSC to the EBCOG Executive and, if appropriate, joint accreditation by the relevant subspecialist society and EBCOG will be awarded for a five–year period.

9.4 The Report of EAPM
9.4.1 Visiting Programme
Professor Di Renzo reported that EAPM was continuing with its programme of developing an on-line visiting system and would take these proposals to the SSSC. He told Council that EAPM fully supports the development of a visiting system.

9.4.2 Diplomas of Excellence
Professor Di Renzo said that EAPM had received a lot of requests for recognition from centres of excellence in techniques such as ultrasound. He explained that EAPM was considering offering Diplomas of Excellence to such centres but had agreed that a modular approach would not be acceptable.

9.4.3 European Congress of Perinatal Medicine
Professor Di Renzo informed Council that EAPM is organising the European Congress of Perinatal Medicine in Athens from 15th-19th October, 2004. He reminded EBCOG that there was space in the programme available for a session on education and training.
9.5 The Report of ESGO
The President welcomed Professor Gitsch, the official representative of ESGO within EBCOG.

9.5.1 ESGO Annual Meeting
Professor Gitsch began by telling Council that the annual ESGO meeting in Brussels had been very successful and had been well attended. Professor Gitsch said that an election had taken place at this meeting. He informed Council that the current President of ESGO was Professor Ignace Vergote and that Professor Ian Jacobs would replace Professor Vergote as President in 2005. Professor Gitsch explained that he would become President of ESGO in 2007.

9.5.2 ESGO Journal
Professor Gitsch informed Council that ESGO had had some problems with its Journal because it belonged to a Past-President of ESGO who was unwilling to relinquish it. As a result, Professor Gitsch explained that ESGO had associated with the IGCS Journal the “International Journal of Gynaecological Cancer”.

9.5.3 ESGO and EBCOG
Professor Gitsch told Council that the President of EBCOG was now a member of the ESGO Council.

9.5.4 Gynaecological Cancer Centre
Professor Gitsch presented ESGO’s paper on Gynaecological Cancer Centres, which was circulated to Council prior to the present meeting.

Professor Creatsas proposed that Points 6 and 7 be moved to the preface and Professor Gitsch agreed to discuss this with the ESGO Executive.

9.6 The Report of ESHRE
The President of ESHRE presented this report in Professor Tarlatzis’ absence.

The President reported that Professor Tarlatzis was very active and that ESHRE had agreed to work with the SSSC.

9.6.1 ESHRE’s Ethical Responses
He told Council that ESHRE produces excellent ethical documents and had agreed that EBCOG could put these documents on its web site or distribute them to Council by e-mail.

9.6.2 European Academy of Andrology
The President informed Council that a European Academy of Andrology is offering training and certification. He reported that this group involved urologists, endocrinologists, dermatologists and gynaecologists but that the urologists had threatened to withdraw if gynaecologists are given accreditation. The President said that Professor Tarlatzis had agreed to discuss this matter with ESHRE. The President told Council that the Executive Committee of EBCOG had agreed that EBCOG should refuse to accept this proposed boycott by the urologists.
9.7 The Report of EUGA
The President agreed to telephone Professor Ulmsten for an update on EUGA’s activities.

EAPM, ESGO and ESHRE agreed to discuss with their Executive Committees the President’s request that they supply their members’ lists to EBCOG so that the second Announcement of Athens could be sent to the individual members of these societies.

10. ENTOG
10.1 Trainee Exchange and ENTOG Meeting
The President of ENTOG reported that the recent Trainees’ Exchange Programme had attracted 39 trainees, the highest number of participants to date.

He told the Council that the annual ENTOG meeting had begun the previous day, and that there had been some very useful reflections on the difficulties of cross-border training, the creation of national trainees’ committees and on the Working Time Directive during this meeting. The President of ENTOG said that whilst some members of EBCOG’s Council and Executive Committee had attended, it was unfortunate that the timing of EBCOG’s meetings precluded more members from participating.

The President of ENTOG said that the ENTOG Executive Committee had presented the ENTOG business plan. He said this was widely supported by the ENTOG Council and that ENTOG intended to continue with the priorities laid down in the Business Plan.

10.2 ENTOG Elections
The President of ENTOG explained that Dr. Angelique Goverde and Dr. Catherine Wykes were retiring from the Executive and that two new members had been elected (from 9 candidates) to replace them. Mrs. Mercer agreed to circulate the names of these new members.

10.3 Future ENTOG Meetings
The President of ENTOG told Council that ENTOG was keen to continue to hold its meetings annually and that EBCOG continued to meet at the same time and same place. He said that the annual Exchange Programme and meeting in 2004 would take place in Slovenia and that it was planned to hold the meeting in 2005 in Barcelona. He expressed his wish that EBCOG would continue to meet annually at the same time as the ENTOG Trainees’ Exchange and Meeting.

The President of EBCOG congratulated ENTOG on the success of the meeting and apologised for the overlap between the ENTOG and EBCOG meetings in Amsterdam. He explained that this had been due to the time necessary to hold an EBCOG Executive meeting. The President of EBCOG firmly stressed EBCOG’s support for ENTOG, saying that he felt it was an important task of EBCOG to support ENTOG as much as possible. He went on to say that it had been proposed that ENTOG and EBCOG meet together every two years at the time of the European Congress. The President of EBCOG explained that this meant that there would have to be an extra Executive meeting in 2004 in order to avoid an overlap between the
EBCOG and ENTOG meetings. There was some discussion and Council agreed that it was extremely important to support ENTOG and that delegates wished to meet at the same time as ENTOG in 2004.

Council therefore agreed that in 2004, Council would meet in Slovenia for its Autumn meeting at the same time as the ENTOG Exchange. The Executive will have an additional meeting in Brussels, in September 2004. The President of ENTOG agreed to send the dates of the ENTOG meeting 2004 to Mrs. Mercer as soon as possible so that Council could be informed.

11. Standing Committee on CME/CPD (SCCME)
The Chair of this Standing Committee, Dr. Van Wiemeersch, reported that there had been no progress for the moment because conflict still existed between national systems of CME/CPD and the European System of accreditation.

The Chair of the SCCME told Council that UEMS EACCME Committee was currently meeting to discuss this conflict and that he would report back to Council about the outcomes of the discussion. The Chair of the SCCME agreed to update EBCOG’s CME/CPD recommendations and Council agreed to re-discuss this document in the future, with a view to producing Guidelines.

12. Relations with Other Societies
The President reminded Council that a lot of discussion had taken place on how EBCOG should relate to other European Societies such as: European Society of Contraception, the European Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy (ESGE) and the European Federation of Colposcopy and Pathology of the Lower Genital Tract (EFC). He told Council that ESGE had produced a training programme and that it was seeking EBCOG’s support in this matter. The President explained that ESGE’s main aim was to develop training programmes. The President informed Council that he had recently met with ESGE, who had introduced Stortz and Olympus to Erasmus as possible sponsors of the Athens Congress.

The President then introduced the President of ESGE, Professor Diether Wallwiener and ESGE’s Secretary-General, Professor Rudy Campo, both of whom had been invited to present ESGE to Council.

The President of ESGE explained that ESGE is a scientific society focusing on operative, innovative surgical procedures in obstetrics and gynaecology. He said that ESGE began as a group of highly experienced endoscopic surgeons and that with the help of national societies, ESGE has implemented educational programmes, the underlying principle being that of evidence-based medicine. The President of ESGE said that ESGE now has 1000 members.

Professor Wallwiener told Council that according to ESGE, endoscopic procedure had four quality labels:

- The surgeon;
- The nurse;
- The operative environment;
- Hospital Management.
He explained that, using these labels, ESGE has made a quality control programme and that ESGE now believed it was time to have a platform within EBCOG. In response to a question from the Treasurer, the President of ESGE told Council that ESGE issued certificates of accreditation and would like EBCOG to be involved in this activity.

The Secretary-General of ESGE informed Council that information about ESGE’s quality control labels and on accreditation, hysteroscopy and guidelines was available on the ESGE web site: www.esge.org

The President and Secretary-General of ESGE offered to present more details at the EBCOG European Congress of O & G, Athens 2004.

The President of EBCOG thanked the President and Secretary-General of ESGE for their input.

The President told Council that to date ESGE, the European Society of Colposcopy, EFSUMB, the European Society of Contraception and the European Society of the Menopause had contacted EBCOG to explore the possibility of co-operation. Members of Council expressed the view that EBCOG should develop a policy towards all such societies. National delegates agreed to send the names of these societies to Mrs. Mercer and Mrs. Mercer agreed to prepare a list.

Council agreed that these societies are important and that it would be important for them to link to EBCOG. It was agreed that since these societies are not subspecialties, links might be developed with EBCOG’s SCTA and also possibly with the Standing Committee on CME/CPD.

13. EBCOG Journal
The President reminded Council that in June 2003, it had agreed that the Officers might further investigate the possibility of EBCOG’s developing its own Journal. He reported that the Secretary-General, Lord Patel and himself had met with a number of companies and found that Springer Verlag was offering the best terms. He reminded Council that following the meeting with Springer Verlag, he had circulated an urgent e-mail to Council asking for their permission to add Euro 60 to the Athens’ Congress registration fee so as to include a two-year subscription to the Journal, which Springer would produce.

The President told Council that Springer Verlag had made the following proposal:

1. Springer will pay EBCOG 10% net revenue up to 200 print full price subscriptions, thereafter royalty will be increased to 30% net revenue;
2. No indirect costs (i.e., no overhead) will be charged to EBCOGJ's annual profit/loss statement;
3. Conference/delegate subscriptions will be locked-in at €30 per year for 2005-2006, providing full access to online edition as well as all print issues of EBCOGJ for all members for a single fee;
4. Any members of EBCOG or affiliated societies can receive EBCOGJ for €25 online only (waived in the first year) negotiable thereafter (payment
5. Springer will offer EBCOG members a discounted rate of €55 for the print and online versions (payment collected by society);

6. EBCOG will receive 30% royalty on all net advertising (gross revenue, less advertising commission/agent discount – less production costs and 35% publisher’s overhead);

The President told Council that under the terms of Springer’s proposals, EBCOG would own the Journal. He said that Springer had estimated that, with individual members, in 2005, the Journal could make a profit of Euro 2,000, which it expected to rise to Euro 42,000 by 2009.

The President said that the proposed title for the Journal was “The EBCOG Journal” and that the Journal would use both the EBCOG and UEMS logos.

The President told Council that EBCOG needed to appoint an Editorial Board. He said the provisional Editorial Board that had been proposed was Dr. Eric Steegers, as the Editor in Chief, with an English mother-tongue Associate Editor-in-Chief and a board made up of the EBCOG Officers, Lord Patel, the President of the Section, the Chair of the SCTA, representatives of the subspecialist societies and a representative of ENTOG. The President informed Council that the subspecialist societies had each been asked to nominate an Editorial Board member before 15th December. Professor Holzgreve advised the President that Springer’s commitment to supporting the Editorial Board should be included in any eventual contract. Dr. Goverde proposed that EBCOG take legal advice on the contract.

The President reported that it was proposed that for the first two years, the Journal would be an educational journal with a focus on review articles and that the first issue was due to be prepared in time for the Athens Congress. He said that Springer Verlag would also have a stand at the Athens Congress to promote the Journal.

The President told Council that the Officers would meet in London on December 15th and that a representative of Springer Verlag would also participate in the meeting.

Council was then asked to vote on the motion that it would support the Officers to negotiate with Springer on 15th December if the President circulated information about the negotiations immediately following the meeting. The result of the vote was as follows:

- 11 votes in favour
- 4 abstentions

The motion was carried.

14. European Congress
14.1 European Congress, Athens, 2004

Professor Creatsas reported that 80% of the Scientific Programme has now been finalised and in included in the Second Announcement. He said that unfortunately few registrations had been received to date, probably because it is still some time before the Congress. However, Professor Creatsas stressed the need for all Council
and Executive members to promote the Congress as widely and proactively as possible.

14.1.2 Joint Registration Fee
Professor Creatsas reminded the meeting that a reduced joint registration fee had been offered to participants attending both the 14th World Congress on Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology (8th – 11th May) and the EBCOG Congress.

14.1.3 The Opening Ceremony
Professor Creatsas informed Council that the Opening Ceremony would now take place at the Divani Caravel Hotel, rather than at the University of Athens. He reminded delegates that the formal amalgamation of EBCOG and EAGO would take place during this ceremony and that some honorary awards would be made.

14.1.4 Abstracts and Registrations
Professor Creatsas told Council that, to date, 50 participants had registered and 23 abstracts had been submitted. He went on to inform Council that the Executive had proposed that the deadline for abstracts be extended and it was agreed that the new deadline should be 31st December. Mrs.Mercer agreed to inform Erasmus about the change in the deadline for abstracts. The President also informed Council that the Romanian national society had indicated that 50 of its members would be participating in the Athens Congress.

14.1.5 Congress Promotion
Professor Creatsas asked national delegates to promote the Congress in their own countries and asked members to let him know whether or not they had received an electronic and print version of the Second Announcement. A number of people indicated that they had not received an electronic version and the President agreed to ask Erasmus to re-send an electronic copy to all national delegates. He also asked national delegates to send the Second Announcement to the individual members of their national societies and to include information about the Congress in their national Journals.

The President agreed to send a letter including the names of all national delegates to send to the Head Offices of pharmaceutical companies to request sponsorship. It was agreed that this letter would be sent to Council before it was sent to the industry. The President agreed to send the Second Announcement to Departments of O & G in Europe.

Dr.Lenz asked if it would be possible to use the participants’ lists from previous Congresses. The President told Council that Guarant, the PCO for the Prague Congress, had been fully co-operative in sending all the details to Erasmus and that Erasmus had readily agreed, as part of the Contract with EBCOG, to send details of the Athens Congress and participants to the PCO for the Turin Congress. He reported that the Congress Organisers for the Basel Congress had also provided this information, but that nothing had been received from the Congress organisers of the Malmö Congress.
The President of ENTOG told Council that ENTOG had publicised the Congress during its recent meeting in Amsterdam and that information about the Congress would be included in the ENTOG web site.

14.2 European Congress, Turin, 2006

The President welcomed Mr. Mauro Dolla and Mrs. Annalisa Sartoris of the Italian PCO MAF Servizi.

Mr. Dolla and Mrs. Sartoris began by giving a general presentation of MAF and of the project plan that they had prepared for the Turin Congress 2006.

Mr. Dolla explained that MAF Servizi was established 17 years ago and had organised over 600 Congresses during this time. He explained that MAF was recently been awarded the UNI EN Quality System Certificate as a Professional Congress Organiser. He went on to say that the forthcoming events that MAF was organising included:

- The Gastroenterologists’ National Congress (2004)
- World Winter Road Congress (2006)
- European Diabetology Congress (EASD) (2008)
- Architects’ World Congress (2008)

Mr. Dolla said that MAF uses highly sophisticated electronic equipment and was able to ‘stream’, or broadcast events live, on the Internet.

Mr. Dolla explained that the Lingotto Congress Centre in Turin was very well suited to the requirements of the EBCOG Congress. He told Council that the President and Secretary-General had visited the Congress centre during their visit to Turin. Mr. Dolla went on to say that EBCOG would have three or four rooms in the Congress Centre: a large room with a capacity of 2000; a second hall with a capacity of 480 seats; another room with a capacity of 120 and a fourth room with 210 seats. Mr. Dolla explained that MAF had taken an option on these four rooms for EBCOG and had also taken an option on a room which could act as the base for an EBCOG Secretariat. He explained that there would be one poster area which could accommodate 70 poster panels (i.e. 140 posters) but if there were more than 140 posters another room was available which could house 240 posters. Mr. Dolla said that at the moment MAF had taken an option for both of these rooms.

Mr. Dolla explained that 22 booths were available but that these could be expanded. He explained that these booths were situated on the main corridor that led to the reception and therefore should be highly visible and accessible. Mr. Dolla told the meeting that MAF had planned to hold the coffee breaks in places where participants were likely to gather such as near the main hall, near the reception, booths and posters.

Mr. Dolla told Council that one of the entrances of the Hotel ‘Le Meridien’ opened directly into the Congress centre. He said that a hostel with accommodation for 210 students was due to open within the Congress centre. In total the room availability in Turin will be 7000 rooms. Mr. Dolla informed Council that the Hotel Le Meridien had
offered a reduced room rate of Euro 200 per room per night. Mr. Dolla said that these reductions would be passed on to delegates and that it was not the policy of MAF Servizi to mark up hotel accommodation costs.

Mr. Dolla explained that MAF planned to have a stand in Athens to promote the Turin Congress and, with the agreement of the Executive and Council, would prepare a full brochure in time for the Athens Congress. Mr. Dolla also proposed to distribute promotional ‘gadgets’ at the Athens Congress.

Sponsorship

Mr. Dolla presented his sponsorship plans for the Turin Congress. These plans included:

- Sponsorship for the programme (preliminary, advanced & final);
- Sponsorship for booth rental in the exhibition area;
- Sponsorship for Congress material;
- Advertising leaflets in the Congress bag;
- Sponsorship for coffee breaks;
- Sponsorship for the Opening Ceremony;
- Sponsorship for invited speakers and Chairmen;
- Sponsorship for satellite symposia;
- Sponsorship for the gala dinner;
- Sponsorship fee for the web site;
- Sponsorship for a Congress newsletter.

Mr. Dolla also stressed that MAF Servizi had excellent relations with local authorities and Chambers of Commerce. He also told the meeting that MAF had good relations with Lavazza Coffee, Lauretana Water, Peyrano Chocolate, Galup and other companies, which would help to reduce the costs.

Congress Date

Professor Benedetto informed Council that the original dates proposed for the Congress were 3rd - 6th May, 2006. However, May 1st is a holiday in most of Europe, it was suggested that these dates might have an adverse effect on the Congress attendance. Further, EAPM is holding its meeting in Prague on 26th May and the preliminary programme for this meeting has been printed. Professor Benedetto told Council that it had therefore been agreed to change the dates of the Congress to 5th – 8th April, 2006.

At this point Mr. Dolla and Mrs. Sartoris left the room so that Council could discuss these proposals.

Finances

The President told the Council that the Congress Management Committee had met with MAF Servizi the previous evening. He informed national delegates that for 800 participants, MAF had said that it would guarantee an income for EBCOG of Euro 102,000. He said that for 1000 participants, MAF had proposed to guarantee an income for EBCOG of Euro 116,000 and for 1,500 participants the guaranteed income would go up to Euro 148,000.
Should the number of participants be greater than 1.500 and the income therefore higher, or should the expenditure be below what has been estimated, the President explained that the Management Committee and MAF had agreed that the surplus income should be divided as follows:

- EBCOG: 45%; SIGO: 15%; MAF: 40%

The President explained that if MAF secured more sponsorship than estimated, the guaranteed income for EBCOG would reflect this and that this point would be written into any eventual contract between EBCOG and MAF. The President said that that the budget that MAF had presented was realistic and mentioned that 5 – 7% of the proposed budget was intended to cover unforeseen expenses. The President went on to say that Mr. Dolla had agreed that any changes to the budgetary lines must be discussed with the Management Committee.

**Contract**

The President told the meeting that MAF had agreed to prepare a draft Contract based on the discussions of the Management Committee, Executive and Council.

He said that this Contract would be discussed by the Management Committee and SIGO in detail and that it was hoped that, subject to the agreement of Council to use MAF Servizi as the PCO for the Turin Congress, the Contract could be finalised at the Executive meeting in March 2004.

Council voted by majority that the Management Committee, SIGO and MAF should prepare a Contract. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

Council voted by majority to mandate the Management Committee and Treasurer to negotiate with MAF. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

**15. Amalgamation of EAGO and EBCOG**

The President reiterated that the Officers would meet in London on December 15th and that a strategy for individual membership would be discussed at this meeting.

He reminded Council that individual members of EAGO who had fully paid up their EAGO subscription fees in 2002 would be eligible to become individual members of EBCOG, as would specialists trained in a training centre that had been accredited by EBCOG.

The President told Council that the benefits of individual membership would include a subscription to the EBCOG Journal and a reduced registration fee for the EBCOG European Congress.

The President reminded Council that there would be an official ceremony of amalgamation during the Opening ceremony of the European Congress in 2004.

The Treasurer said that it was important to decide upon a fee for individual membership and that it would be important to keep a clear and up to date register of members who had paid. The Vice-President proposed that individual membership
fees be covered by a reduction in the Congress fee for members. There was agreement that this might be difficult, but it was agreed that the officers should discuss this with the Congress PCOs to see if it was a feasible system, as this would ease the strain on the Treasurer immensely and possibly reduce administration costs.

The Past-President of EAGO, Professor Kovacs agreed to ask national EAGO Treasurers to send their lists of paid-up members in 2002 to the Treasurer of EBCOG, so that he would know which EAGO members would be eligible to become members of EBCOG.

16. Any Other Business
There was some concern expressed about the difficulties for national delegates to return home on Sunday afternoons, following EBCOG Council meetings. It was agreed that Council would discuss this at its next meeting in Athens in May 2004.

17. Date and Place of Next Meetings
- SCTA: Brussels, 19th March, 2004
- Executive Committee: Brussels, 20th & 21st March, 2004
- Council: Athens; 15th & 16th May, 2004

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Points for Action

1. Professor Rutanen agreed to invite Dr. Halila to participate in the EBCOG Council meeting in Athens in 2004 (4.1)
2. The President agreed to circulate an e-mail from the UEMS Working Group on Distance Learning to Council (4.3)
3. The Secretary-General agreed to report back to Council on the correspondence from EFSUMB (6.1)
4. The Vice-President agreed to amend the Strategy Paper as per the discussion by Council (7.1)
5. Professor Novak-Antolic agreed to take over as the Chair of the SCTA (7.2)
6. The Past-President of EAGO, Professor Kovacs, agreed to send the EAGO membership list to the Treasurer (8.3)
7. National delegates agree to send the Chair of the SCTA their views and suggestions for updates to the basic training programme (9.1.1)
8. Professor Tarlatzis agreed to discuss the European Academy of Andrology with ESHRE (9.6.2)
9. The President agreed to telephone Professor Ulmsten for an update on EUGA’s activities (9.7)
10. EAPM, ESGO and ESHRE agreed to discuss with their Executive Committees the President’s request that they supply their members’ lists to EBCOG (9.7)
11. Mrs. Mercer agreed to circulate the names of the new ENTOG Executive members (10.2)
12. The President of ENTOG agreed to send the dates of the ENTOG meeting 2004 to Mrs. Mercer (10.3)
13. The Chair of the SCCME agreed to update EBCOG’s CME/CPD recommendations (11)
14. National delegates agreed to send the names of these societies to Mrs.Mercer and Mrs.Mercer agreed to prepare a list (12)
15. Mrs.Mercer agreed to inform Erasmus about the change in the deadline for abstracts (14.1.4)
16. The Past-President of EAGO, Professor Kovacs agreed to ask national EAGO Treasurers to send their lists of paid-up members in 2002 to the Treasurer of EBCOG (15)