

# **Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Orthodontic Teachers' Forum Lisbon, 10.06.2008**

**Chairpersons:** A.M. Kuijpers Jagtman, S. Kiliaridis

**Attendees:** see attendance list

**Apologies for absence:** 6 apologies for absence, see attendance list

## **1. Words of welcome**

A representative of the European Orthodontic Society welcomed the participants in the Lisbon Congress Centre and wished them a fruitful meeting.

Professor Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman also welcomed the participants. This was the third time European teachers in Orthodontics could meet, thanks to the EOS that sponsors the meetings of the Teachers Forum. She summarized the results of the two earlier meetings and reported on the continued commitment of the EOS. The handout of her presentation has been attached to the Minutes.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting (Berlin, 2007)**

The minutes were discussed and approved.

## **3. Assessment ideas: Network of Erasmus based programmes**

During the 2007 Teachers Forum the participants agreed to establish the Network. Professor Kiliaridis gave an overview of the work of Taskforce-1 during the past period regarding the development of the Network of Erasmus Based Programmes. The handout of the presentation has been attached to these Minutes.

On behalf of Taskforce-1 he presented a working proposal to start the Network. Basically it means that applicants who consider that they fulfill the Network requirements completely or to a great extent (see Minutes of the 2007 meeting) could apply to become provisional members of the Network, after filling in an application form, with a short self assessment of their own program, based on the minimum required criteria as approved by the Teachers Forum during the Berlin meeting in 2007. There will be no grandfather clause. Applications should be sent to Kiliaridis or Kuijpers-Jagtman before September 15, 2008. A founding meeting (20-21st November 2008) of the initial provisional members is necessary to discuss the details of the procedure concerning: an extensive self assessment guide, the process of the site visits, the financial aspects of the site visits. The task force group should prepare a working proposal for the meeting. For the founding meeting a place has to be found in central Europe that is not too expensive and can easily be reached with cheap flights.

The procedure was approved by the attendees.

#### 4. Towards a common trunk in postgraduate education

Professor Jonathan Sandy, University of Bristol, gave an overview of the British Orthodontic Society Modular Programme that has been developed by cooperation between a number of schools in the UK. The programme is using the managed learning environment platform Blackboard. Managed Learning Environments are software systems that support a range of learning, ranging from videoconferencing for lectures, tutorials and journal clubs to off-line, distance learning and online learning. The programme consists of a modular curriculum with 40 online modules. The handout of his presentation has been attached to the Minutes.

The participants of the EOTF agreed that such a system could also work at the European level. However, costs seem to be the main obstacle. Programme directors who are interested could contact the British Orthodontic Society (Dr. Sue Cunningham).

#### 5. Breakout groups

The Assembly was then divided into working groups to discuss two issues for which proposals were brought forward by Taskforce-1:

- Assessment procedure of programs in Europe
- Development of common courses

The group chairpersons reported the results of their group discussion to the plenary session. These are summarized as follows:

##### *Assessment procedure of programs in Europe*

- The Teachers Forum is for every program; To be included in the Network a program director should have to apply, so nobody is automatically a member
- Site visits are important, but what about costs? Another breakout group proposes to do only a paper assessment. Accept the accreditation systems in place in a certain country.
- Before or after the site visit organize a course given by an assessor and pay the assessor from the earned money
- English language could be a problem
- How can good quality be checked?
- Need to have a review template – might be useful to see what others are already available in case these can be adapted/modified
- Set of criteria needs to be developed
- Erasmus programme should be updated
- How to help the “weaker” programmes?

##### *Development of common courses*

- Compile a list of courses that are currently being run in each country. This will help to find a list of speakers who can do courses, and already have the course prepared. For example, the Nordic countries have a joint course on Genetics. In the UK there are regional courses provided by groups of trainers, like the Northern Universities Consortium (NUC) with a similar group for the south of England. In Germany there is a large course based on Orthodontics and Surgery
- Why not use the knowledge and expertise already demonstrated in the established courses and have them travel to other places within Europe?

- Revisit the Erasmus curriculum to make sure that the topic selection is still appropriate
- Course for a common trunk: genetics, embryology, biomechanics

## **6. Conclusions and future follow-up**

Participants were in full agreement on the next steps regarding the founding of the Network. Besides that it was felt to be important to continue with the Teachers Forum, which is an open forum for all universities and institutes providing orthodontic education in Europe, regardless whether or not they are members of the Network. The EOS Teachers Forum should also try to keep on board programmes that need assistance to raise their quality further. Professor Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman will bring the results of the EOS Teachers Forum Meeting to the Council of the EOS.

At the end of the meeting, Professor Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman thanked all attendees for their active participation. The next meeting will take place in Helsinki in June 2009, prior to the EOS meeting.

Nijmegen and Athens, December 2008

Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman  
Stavros Kiliaridis