



**Minutes for the 2013 EFAS General Assembly,  
Budapest, Hotel Boscolo, Second Hall  
Friday, 21st June at 16.00-17.30 hrs**

**Present voting members or their representatives:** Kurt Stephan (Austria), Jan Wouters (Belgium), Anamarija Simuncic Veselic (Croatia), Josef Syka (Czech republic), Christian Meyer-Bisch (France), Birger Kollmeier (Germany), John Xenelis (Greece), Jozsef Kiss (Hungary), Theresa Pitt (Ireland), Joseph Attias (Israel), Fernando Grandori (Italy), Sandra Kuskye (Latvia), Ad Snik (The Netherlands), Arne Vik (Norway), Wieslaw Sulkowski (Poland), Odete Batista (Portugal), Alexandru Pascu (Romania), George A. Tavartkiladze (Russia), Milan Profant (Slovakia), Jose Barajas (Spain), Inger Uhlen (Sweden), Norbert Dillier (Switzerland), Ahmet Atas (Turkey), Julia Deyeva (Ukraine)

**Present additional nonvoting members or guest representatives of member societies:** Thanos Bibas (Greece), Ulrich Hoppe (Germany), Szolt Farkas (Hungary), Alicja Sekula, Henryk Skarzynski (Poland), Nicole Santos (Portugal), Madalina Georgescu (Romania), Martin Kompis (Switzerland), Bulent Serbetcioglu (Turkey)

**Excused representatives:** Sanja Spiric (Bosnia and Herzegowina), Sari Mykkänen (Finland), Rene Dauman and Francoise Artieres (France), Jürgen Kießling (Germany), Ligija Kise (Latvia), Ingrida Uloziene (Lithuania, vote by e-mail), Elania Pace Balzan (Malta), Wim Soede (The Netherlands), Ana Maria Borges de Sena Alvarenga (Portugal), Tatjana Golubok-Abyzova (Ukraine), Linda Luxon (Great Britain)


**Defaulting voting members** (i.e., countries without representation and without prior apologies): Janusz Wajn (Denmark), Katrin Kruustyk (Estonia), Einar Sindrason (Iceland), Branka Milic (Serbia), Jagoda Vatovec (Slovenia)

## **1. Welcome from Chair**

Kurt Stephan welcomes the representatives and thanks the congress president Joe Kiss for the invitation and the excellent organisation of the EFAS congress which appears to be a great success.

## **2. Attendance and Apologies**

B. Kollmeier reports that 24 countries are present (see list above), whereas 5 countries are excused and 5 more countries have not responded to any of the E-Mails so far.

	<p><u>Action Point</u></p> <p>The attendance in the General Assembly and the nomination for voting or non-voting member should be closer linked to the board of the respective audiological society in each country. This should insure a secure flow of information between the respective society and EFAS.</p>	<p><b>All member societies</b></p>
---	---	------------------------------------

### **3. Minutes of the General Assembly in Cernobbio, June 2012**

The minutes have been sent around shortly after the meeting to all voting and non-voting members of the General Assembly and have meanwhile been posted on the EFAS webpage. The minutes are accepted unanimously.

### **4. Agenda**

The agenda of the meeting and the invitation has been sent around in time prior to the meeting (with additional documents in follow-up E-Mails). The agenda is approved unanimously.

### **5. Chairman's report**

- The guideline „How to run an EFAS conference” has been finalized and has been sent to all potential bidders for offering to run an EFAS Congress.
- The working group on preschool and school age children following the activities in Warsaw initiated by H. Skarzynski at the last EFAS meeting has been nominated and is actively working. A special session was given during the congress and a report point is added to the agenda.
- New activities towards an improved Education in Audiology in Europe by EFAS board members resulted in a special session and a „market place of university education in audiology” during the congress and a special point on the agenda.
- An accreditation of the EFAS conference by the EACCME and by the DGA has been achieved so that first time the conference is accredited for Continuous Medical Education (CME). Credit points provided by EACCME are also accepted by International partner organizations in the US. The fact that Amplifon sponsors 150 ENT Doctors from Italy to participate in the


conference and in a satellite meeting is largely due to the accreditation.

Activities to achieve accreditation of EFAS conferences should be further extended in the future.

- EFAS Grants have been decided on as being given out in two categories:
  - a) EFAS congress scholarships (for attending EFAS conferences) that can be applied for by young scientists in order to receive a support for visiting an international conference (see website).
  - b) EFAS Project Grants: in this new category, new application forms have been developed to apply for small grants of up to 2000 € for all kinds of applicants.
- The EFAS homepage has been updated, a congress calendar has been added, still there is room for improvement. The application forms for the EFAS grants (congress scholarships and project grants) have been put on [www.efas.ws](http://www.efas.ws) .

## 6. Treasurer's report

The current treasurer's report which was sent to the EFAS auditors is dated May 31st, 2013. It includes an increase of the balance of approximately 5.000 € which is primarily due to the annual contributions from member countries minus the expenditures for membership dues to other societies, maintenance of the website and other administration purposes.

 <u>Action Point</u>	Several member societies have not yet paid their dues. The treasurer asked to pay the dues as soon as possible.	<b>Defaulting societies</b>
---	---	-----------------------------

Note that no travel reimbursement for the EFAS board has been taken from the EFAS budget, but that all board members have either taken their travel expenses from own resources or have saved these expenses because several board meetings were performed via phone conferences (costs for „goto meeting” software in the order of 500 € p.a. has been included).

Note that in the upcoming financial year, more expenditures due to the EFAS travel grants and to EFAS project grants are going to be debited.

The treasurers report has been sent to the auditors (Alexandru Pascu and Wieslaw Sulkowski) in time. No request for a further explanation of the current financial situation of EFAS has been received.

**Statement of auditors:** Wieslaw Sulkowski and Alexandru Pascu certify that the financial transactions have been very transparent and in an undisputable manner and proposed to the General Assembly to accept the treasurer's report. This proposal is unanimously accepted by the General Assembly (with abstainments from the board).

### **7. Report on Budapest congress**

Joe Kiss reports about the current congress with 710 delegates (i. e. EFAS congress participant record!), including 30 young scientists and 30 accompanying persons and more than 200 presentations (165 oral, 64 posters). The sponsors of the conference and the exhibitors are listed in the program. He thanks the board and the General Assembly for their respective support.

It is remarked that the Poster sessions were not attracting as much attention as originally hoped because the posters were displayed in electronic format in a somewhat remote location and not on paper or Canvas. For the next EFAS congress, posters should preferably be presented in a conventional poster format. In addition, extra poster sessions where the posters are on display should be incorporated in the program.


EFAS president Kurt Stephan thanks - on behalf of the General Assembly, the board and all conference attendees - Joe Kiss and his team for the successful organisation of the excellent conference.

### **8. EFAS congress scholarships**

Joseph Attias reports about the outcome of the application procedure and presents together with the president the respective certificate of the EFAS congress scholarships to the following persons:

Zusana Balogoá (Czech Republik), Asher H. Efrati (Israel), Anna V. Balakina, (Russia), Dilek Fidan (Turkey), Maksym Tarasenko (Ukraine), Marina V. Goykhuburg (Russia).

The address of thanks by the recipients is delivered by Marina V. Goykhuburg.

	<u>Action Point</u>	The possibility of application for an EFAS congress scholarship and for an EFAS project grant should be actively advertised by the members of the General Assembly.	<b>All member societies</b>
---	---------------------	---	-----------------------------

## **9. EFAS Working Group on School Age Hearing Screening**

Jan Wouters reports about the EFAS activities of the working group and the meeting at the EFAS congress. The consensus has been made that the action should be concentrated on hearing screening for school entry. However, the costs are important and data for evidence-based evaluation of the success of intervention at this stage is missing.

## **10. University Education in Audiology**

The structured session at the EFAS congress has been prepared with inputs from the Oldenburg group (much work performed by Karin Klink) and by the Leuven group (much work performed by Helen Luts). A meeting about University Education in Audiology (follow-up of the Rauschholzhausen meeting from 1999 and Bad Zwischenahn meeting from 2008) will be held on September 4th/5th, 2014 in Leuven (midday – midday). The next meeting of the General Assembly in 2014 of EFAS will take place during this event (cf. point 16).


## **11. Report about the progress for the Istanbul Congress 2015**

Congress president of 2015, Ahmet Atas, presents the envisaged conference site (Grand Cevahir Hotel Convention Centre, which is 6 km away from the Taksim Square) and the date of the conference: **May 27-30, 2015**. Because of the

current political situation in Turkey, plan B is to organize the meeting at the Golden Horn Congress Centre which is in the old part of the city. In addition, plan C (in case that the number of participants at the conference is below 750) is the Istanbul University congress centre which is also close to the Golden Horn. A contract with the Turkish Airlines is done to reduce travel costs. It is aimed that the conference fee for participation and especially for students should be very reasonable.


**12. Vote for auditors**

Of the previous auditors, Alexandru Pascu has announced to retire for this task. The General Assembly thanks him for his work as auditor.


 <u>Decision</u>	The candidates Wieslaw Sulkowski (currently in office) and Arne Vik (Norway, new candidate) are unanimously voted on by the General Assembly in an open voting.
---	---

**13. Votes for Vice Chairman and Treasurer**

The nomination committee (Joseph Attias, K. M. Holgers, Rene Dauman) has come up with the list of three candidates (i. e., Theresa Pitt, Henryk Skarzynski, Fernando Grandori). This list has been communicated (together with a biosketch for each of the three candidates) to the voting and non-voting members (prior to the General Assembly). On behalf of EFAS, the board thanks each of the three members for serving as candidate. After the short presentation by each of the three candidates, voting is performed by the General Assembly in a closed (secret) vote.


 <u>Decision</u>	Theresa Pitt has been elected as the new Vice Chairman.
---	---

Since the office of the treasurer has to be filled again (according to the bylaws, the term of Norbert Dillier as treasurer ends after six years), M. Kompis has been suggested by the nomination of committee as new treasurer.


 <u>Decision</u>	The General Assembly unanimously votes for M. Kompis as a new Treasurer in an open voting.
---	--

**14. Nominations Committee**

Following the experience from the previous EFAS General Assemblies, new guidelines for the nominations committee have been put up by the EFAS board and the nomination committee. These guidelines will be published on the EFAS website. Joseph Attias suggests that the nominations committee should be renamed as „search committee”. This change will require an update of EFAS bylaws, planned for the meeting of the GA in Istanbul.

	<u>Action Point</u>	An update/adaptation of the EFAS bylaws (including some minor terminology changes and adaptation to the best practice methods established in the recent years) will be worked out and voted on during the General Assembly in Istanbul.	<b>EFAS Board</b>
---	---------------------	---	-------------------

Of the previous nomination committee, Rene Dauman has declared to step down and both Joseph Attias and K. M. Holgers have declared their willingness to serve as candidates again. In addition, the two retiring board members (e. g. Linda Luxon as past president and Norbert Dillier as past treasurer) have been proposed by the board as new candidates for the nomination committee (following the established procedure that retiring board members are experienced potential candidates for the nomination committee).

	<u>Decision</u>	The General Assembly votes for Linda Luxon, Norbert Dillier and Joseph Attias as the new members of the nomination committee in a closed (secret) voting.
---	-----------------	---


Kurt Stephan thanks K. M. Holgers and Rene Dauman for their services and support of EFAS during the recent years.

**15. Presentation of bids and vote for next EFAS Congress 2017**

John Xenelis presents a very detailed and elaborated bid for Rhodes, Greece as EFAS congress site to be holding the conference in May, 2017 at the Rodos Palace Congress Venue. About 550 rooms are available in total for approx. 110 €/night. The conference budget will be about 140 T€ and the fees will be about 400 € for early registration and 100 € for students.

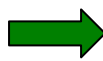
Martin Kompis presents the bid for Interlaken, Switzerland as a congress site for 2017. The site will be the congress centre Kursaal Interlaken, congress fees of 440 - 490 € for regular registration are planned that might be lower if

appropriate sponsorship is found. The gala dinner is planned in a restaurant on the Schilthorn which is rotating in an altitude of 2970 m (with snow in summer).

 <u>Decision</u>	The EFAS General Assembly votes for Switzerland (Interlaken) as the conference site of the EFAS congress 2017.
---	--

## 16. Any other business

For the location of the next General Assembly 2014, there are two invitations: Fernando Grandori invites the General Assembly to the HEAL conference which will take place in Cernobbio in June 6th, 2014. In addition, Jan Wouters invites for September 2014 to the conference on University Education in Audiology in Leuven.

 <u>Decision</u>	The General Assembly votes for Leuven, Belgium, on September 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 as the site and date for the next General Assembly in an closed vote.
---	---

The president Kurt Stephan thanks both bidders for their kind invitation

## 17. Handing over of Presidency

At the end of the General Assembly, the outgoing president Kurt Stephan thanks all EFAS representatives, in particular the board members and members of EFAS committees for their cooperation and support during the last two years. The new president, Jan Wouters thanks both the outgoing president Kurt Stephan and the outgoing board members Linda Luxon and Norbert Dillier as well as the outgoing nomination committee members K. M. Holgers and Rene Dauman for their continuing support of EFAS. On behalf of the new board and the General Assembly he also thanks the previous (Henryk Skarzynski), the current (Jozsef Kiss), and the incoming (Ahmet Atas) EFAS congress organizers for their highly appreciated support of EFAS by organizing the respective conferences and closes the session.

Budapest, June 2013, B. Kollmeier (Secretary-General)