
European Cancer and Environment Research Institute

Minutes of the ECERI Administrative Board

25th October 2012, 04:00 pm

Present :

Pr Dominique Belpomme, ECERI President
Dr Ernesto Burgio, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, Italy,
Mrs Christine Campagnac, ECERI General Secretary,
Mr Jean Clément, Governor of Brussels, Belgium,
Pr Janos Frühling, Royal Academy of Medicine, Belgium,
Mr Jean Huss, ECERI Vice-president, Honorary member of European Council, Luxembourg,
Dr Philippe Irigaray, ARTAC, France,
Mr Paolo Tomatis, Italy

Excused :

Mr Frédéric Boulin, ECERI Treasurer,
Mrs Genon Jensen, Heal General Director, Belgium,
Mr Paul Lannoye, Honorary member of Parliament, Belgium,
Mrs Corinne Lepage, Vice-president, Member of the European Parliament,
Dr Peter Ohnsorge, Environmental Medical Academy, Germany

Invited :

Dr Manuel Almarcha, AT Consultants, Barcelona (Spain),
Pr Vincent Castronovo, Metastasis Research Laboratory, University of Liège (Belgium),
Pr Salvadora Delgado, Barcelona Hospital (Spain),
Pr Livio Giuliani, ICEMS (Italy),
Pr Lucia Migliore, Department of Human and Environmental Sciences, Medical Genetics Lab,
University of Pisa (Italy),
Dr René Olivier, Fondation Mondiale Recherche et Prévention Sida, UNESCO, France,
Dr Nick Osborne, European Centre for Environment and Human Health, University of Exeter Medical
School (UK),
Pr Ruggero Ridolfi, Associazione Italiana di Oncologia Medica (Italy)

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1) Approval of the March 2012 Administrative Board Minutes

Mr Clément's title is to be modified into Governor of Brussels. Except this remark, the Minutes is approved by the assembly.

2) Financial Budget Approval

Pr Belpomme indicates that ECERI is entirely funded by ARTAC at the moment. ARTAC is a non-profit organization created 25 years ago, with an annual budget around 200.000 euros, and gathering 2.000 members.

In order to clarify the financial links between both organizations, a "Means Agreement" is submitted to the Board. A loan agreement will be joined to it, enabling ARTAC to be refunded by ECERI as soon as the latter gets its financial independency.

This agreement is unanimously approved by the Administrative Board.

3) Proposal of new Administrative Board members

Pr Belpomme submits to the Administrative Board three new membership proposals :

- Pr Vincenzo Castronovo (Belgium)
- Dr Alain Herrera (France)
- Pr Livio Giuliani (Italy)

These proposals are unanimously approved by the present members.

4) Scientific Committee meeting summary

Several proposed collaborative projects are being studied at the moment by the ECERI Scientific Committee that may involve the ECERI network :

- Two transnational projects (the first one entitled EMFs exposures and new risk assessments, the second one Biomarkers for chemical and physical pollution assessment) have been submitted by Pr Giuliani in the framework of the FP7

Environment Program of the European Commission, with support of the Karolinska Institute,

- In addition, two different projects have been presented to the Scientific Committee, both aiming at dosing chemical pollutants in adipose tissue : “Effect of exposure to lipophilic xenobiotics”, and “Biomonitoring system of dioxin and PCBs presence in breastmilk”,
- A research project on a cancer biomarker in the aim of developing a new cancer detection method. This research may be extended to a new imaging technique as well and a therapeutic approach led in collaboration, notably, with Pr Castronovo 's laboratory.

5) Presentation of the 26th October Workshop

Pr Belpomme thanks Pr Frühling for welcoming the ECERI first scientific Workshop tomorrow at the Royal Academy of Medicine. This Workshop, focusing on epigenetic mechanisms and carcinogenesis will gather high level scientists from all over Europe.

Pr Michael Skinner, who had been requested for patronizing this Workshop couldn't unfortunately attend this event due to agenda difficulties.

This Workshop will be a first step in the building of a collaborative process; next step will be the 4th International Paris Appeal that will be held in May 2013 in Paris on the topics of Electromagnetic Fields and heavy metals.

It is proposed that the next Administrative Board takes place in UNESCO Paris, at this occasion.

6) Projects for 2013

Pr Frühling suggests that a Newsletter be published every 2 months, to which every member research center could contribute.

Pr Belpomme precises that some membership conditions are to be fixed and proposes :

- A membership fee of 200 euros for each participant organization
- The engagement of supporting ECERI European projects

- The engagement of mentioning ECERI in publications, so that ECERI gets known in the scientific community.

Pr Frühling suggests that the list of members should be updated, and that each of them should be asked more precisely about its research projects.

Pr Castronovo agrees with Pr Frühling and suggests that ECERI collects and defines some thematic research projects of common interest. Beside the development of the cancer detection method proposed by the ARTAC- this method is based on a biomarker - he proposes that, one or two more research projects are defined, as a B plan, for example heavy metals and mitochondrial toxicity.

The assembly agrees that ECERI strategy shouldn't be dependent on one research project only, and therefore a list of several projects of common interest should be collected among ECERI members proposals.

Dr Burgio suggests the foetal origin of diseases as a possible research project of common interest. This subject will be central in the tomorrow workshop.

The Administrative Board ends at 5.30



Dominique Belpomme