

Minutes of the ECERI General Assembly,

30 th November 2011

Present :

Mr Dominique Belpomme, ECERI President, Oncologist

Mrs Christine Campagnac, ECERI General Secretary

Mr Jean Huss, ECERI Vice-president, Luxembourg MP and President of the Commission of Environmental Health, Council of Europe

Mr Philippe Irigaray, ARTAC Scientific Director

Mrs Genon Jensen, HEAL General Director

Mrs Corinne Lepage, ECERI Vice-president, Member of the European Parliament

Mr Paul Lannoye, Honorary Member of the European Parliament

Mr Peter Ohnsorge, Physician, European Academy of Medicine

Mr Jean Clément, , Vice-Governor of Brussels, invited

Mr Janos Frühling, Royal Academy of Medicine Permanent Secretary, invited

Excused :

Mr Frédéric Boulin, ECERI Treasurer

Mrs Carine Houssay, ARTAC

Mr Roberto Romizi, ISDE (International Society of Doctors for the Environment) President

Mr Paolo Tomatis

1) Change of headquarters

The General Assembly approves the change of headquarters, now located at :

Rue Auguste Lambiotte 14

1030 Brussels

2) New nomination to the Executive Board

The candidacy of Mr Jean Clément, Vice-Gouvernor of Brussels is presented as a permanent member of the Executive Board. This candidacy is approved by the General Assembly.

3) 2012 Budget proposal

A minimal starting budget is presented and approved by the assembly. This budget will be reviewed according to non predictable costs and potential funding occurring during the year.



Pr Dominique Belpomme,

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1) Welcome and thanks to Hope

Mr Dominique Belpomme, President, thanks Mr Pascal Garel for his welcome in Hope Headquarters. The assembly agrees it is a very convenient place to gather, near the European Institutions and the Royal Academy of Medicine.

2) Change of ECERI headquarters

The official address of ECERI is now Rue Auguste Lambiotte 14, 1030 Brussels.

3) Prospective opening of an office in Brussels

Several possibilities are being studied, Mr Jean Clément suggests a location in Chateau La Tour de Freins, in Uccle, which hosts many scientific teams, another possibility would be in Brussels, close to Hope premises.

Mr Janos Frühling indicates that the Royal Academy of Medicine can provide rooms for ECERI meetings, provided these are requested three months in advance.

4) Bank account opening

Power is given by the Executive Committee to the General Secretary to open the ECERI bank account.

5) Executive Committee new nomination

The nomination of Mr Jean Clément, Brussels Vice-Governor, as a permanent member of the executive Committee is approved by the Assembly.

6) Scientific Council

Mr Belpomme submits the Scientific Committee composition for approval; he indicates that Professor Luc Montagnier, French Nobel Prize laureate should be its first president, and that would be a rotating presidency. He invites Mr Frühling to be part of this Scientific Council.

Mr Frühling accepts to be a member of the Scientific Council. He is a specialist in nuclear medicine and radiotherapy . As he speaks fluently languages from Central Europe, he offers his help in writing a letter in German to Mr Zur Hauzen.

Mr Belpomme explains that the composition of this Committee tries to keep a balance between the main European countries. Mr Frühling suggests the integration of one member from Switzerland and one from Russia.

Mr Belpomme indicates that a contact has already been made with a Swiss scientist.

Mr Huss and Mr Ohnsorge suggest names : Pr Kundi, from Austria, and Mrs Schlumpf, from Switzerland.

7) 2012 objectives and projects

Professor Belpomme presents the 2012 objectives; one of the main issues will be the search for funding.

However the scientific project is already defined, since a very important break-through is underway, regarding a screening test for cancer. It is according to Professor Belpomme one of the best discovery for the past 25 years. A patent is being applied for.

In the same way that a cancer can be detected through a single blood test, a treatment aiming at suppressing cancer progression could be proposed suppressing the concerned molecule from the body.

Thanks to the European Commission support, it could be possible to go further in this discovery and to lead additional research in collaboration with many European research centers.

Other research projects have been proposed by other European teams, for example a study proposed by Pr Lennart Hardell from Sweden on electro-magnetic fields.

Mrs Christine Campagnac, General Secretary, is in charge of finding sponsors.

Mr Peter Ohnsorge suggests that a high level congress is organized, where pharmaceutical firms would be invited. There should be advertising for this congress and it would be a good way to inform these firms about the ECERI project and obtain their support.

Mrs Genon Jensen suggests organizing an information meeting of half a day, easier to organize.

She thinks that this is relevant for the development of treatment but wonders if collecting funding from commercial firms is consistent with ECERI other goals.

Mr Paul Lannoye suggests that Mrs Lepage organizes an event in the Parliament with the media.

Mr Frühling agrees that to have a policy, capital is needed.

One idea would be to ask each member of the Scientific Committee to bring funds from a firm.

Mr Jean Huss suggests that the ECERI project should be part of a European program. As for private funds, in order to make their support ethically acceptable, pharmaceutical firms could be asked to improve their image by supporting prevention.

Mr Peter Ohnsorge asks whether the fundings would be dedicated to the administrative functioning or the scientific projects. In the first case, some figures should be given in order to define the financial needs.

Mr Dominique Belpomme explains that the structure has to be created first, then the projects can follow. So the first step is to find funding from foundations.

The project has been presented to European Commission representatives who were very positive about it and found it was a real opportunity. But it is too early to ask funding from the Commission, the patent has to be delivered first.

Mr Frühling adds that since 2004 public clinical trials have decreased by 40% in Europe because of the new legislation.

Russia could as well be a good source of funding since there are wealthy organizations there willing to give a more positive image. He suggests to contact the Russian Embassy in Brussels.

He can also personally contact some people in Russia.

Mr Jean Huss suggests to contact Mr Grigoriev.

Mr Jean Huss and Mrs Genon Jensen advise not to translate the web site in too many languages since it is a very difficult job to update. The assembly agrees that the German version is not necessary given that all German scientists use English. It has also been proposed that Russian might be a third language for the website.

Mr Frühling also suggests to contact the EORTC in Brussels, especially Mrs Meunier, who is specialist in fund-raising.

Mr Dominique Belpomme explains that the EORTC was so far not receptive to any primary prevention messages.

Mr Frühling suggests to sum up in two pages the main prevention rules and to submit them to Mrs Meunier, that can be a way as well to make the EORTC evolve. That is small steps diplomacy.

Mr Clément knows well Mrs Meunier, she has a very good sponsorship network and has excellent relationship with national authorities. She is a member of the Royal Academy of Medicine.

Mrs Genon Jensen suggests to add on the budget proposal the real time spent on the project, particularly for the ARTAC team.

Mr Frühling suggests that a communication factsheet is created so that the information about the ECERI activities could be disseminated by the Executive Board members, through newsletters for example.

The possibility of fiscal deduction for donors can be studied with the Ministry of Finance, however the process to obtain it is quite long.

The next Executive Committee will take place in March .



Pr Dominique Belpomme,

President