

Combined board meeting and general meeting 2005

European Federation of Tinnitus Associations EUTi e.V.
Domicile: Wuppertal, Germany

Record of the combined board meeting and general meeting

on 7th of December 2005

Location: Munich Airport, Administration of Lufthansa

Start: 11:30 o'clock

Close: 16:00 o'clock

Chairman: Mr. Dr. Eberhard Biesinger

Recorder: Mrs. Elke Knör, Mr. Dr. Eberhard Biesinger

At invitation of EUTi's chairman Dr. Eberhard Biesinger attended

the members of the board

Mr. Dr. Eberhard Biesinger, Chairman of EUTi

Mr. Dr. Manfred Koller, Vice Chairman of EUTi

Mr. Jan Anjou, further Vice Chairman of EUTi

Mr. Michel Prévôt, treasurer of EUTi

Mr. Johann F. (Hans) Knör, assessor.

As representatives of the members attended

Mr. Dr. Eberhard Biesinger on behalf of the Deutsche Tinnitus-Liga e.V. (DTL) (German Tinnitus League)

Mr. Dr. Manfred Koller on behalf of the Österreichische Tinnitus-Liga (Austrian Tinnitus League)

Mr. Dr. Andreas Schapowal on behalf of the Schweizerische Tinnitus-Liga (Swiss Tinnitus League)

Mr. Michel Prévôt on behalf of the French Tinnitus Organisation "France Acouphènes"

Mr. Jan Anjou on behalf of the Swedish Tinnitus Organisation.

Further participants were:

Mr. Dr. Ewart Davies, Chairman of the British Tinnitus Association (BTA)

Ms. Annette Mette Mohr, Denmark

Ms. Dr. Laura Carraba, Italy

Mr. Carlos Herraiz Puchol and Ms. Isabel Diges, Spain

Mr. Dr. Ulrich Wegehaupt, Germany

Mr. Horst Gafner, Switzerland

Mr. Prof. Dr. Gerhard Goebel, Germany.

Mr. Dr. Biesinger opened and led both meetings. He welcomed the participants and thanked them that they had taken on the partly very long way to Munich. After his introducing words the participants acquainted as far as it was necessary because of the antedated meetings. Mr. Dr. Ewart Davies, Chairman of the British Tinnitus Association BTA, was especially welcomed as guest at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1:

Mr. Dr. Biesinger stated that the invitations to both meetings had been in due time and in due form. No objection was entered against his statement.

Mr. Dr. Biesinger reported

a) on his participation at the international Tinnitus Congress in Pau/France and his promotion for EUTi there.

b) on the implementation of an interactive web system on the Swedish model of the Swedish Tinnitus Organisation on www.eutinnitus.com during the last year. Mr. Konrad Schätz reported on this topic. Unfortunately there was a dispute within the Swedish Tinnitus Organisation so that Mr. Anders, Sweden, is not any more available for the supervision of the website. Mr. Anjou is now taking care of the installation of a new Swedish self-help group.

c) The web system is still very rarely attended (26 user). Dr. Biesinger made clear, that the discussion forums are very rarely visited and that the discussion contributions often miss the point. Mr. Dr. Davies discouraged strongly from offering patients access to discussion forums. Mr. Dr. Biesinger placed emphasis on the exigence of providing further funds for the further expansion and support of the web system. Only then EUTi will be able to pay the further work of Mr. Konrad Schätz. Mr. Anjou and Mr. Dr. Biesinger themselves will try to get money from politics.

d) Mrs. Knör, chairman and CEO of the DTL, reported on the provisionally perceived administration of the cash desk which she overtook in order to discharge Mr. Prévôt. The present assets amount to 1777 Euro.

e) Mr. Anjou reported on his activities to integrate the organisations in England, Denmark and Spain as EUTi members. He tries to stimulate more fundraising and further developments on behalf of EUTi in Scandinavian countries.

f) Mr. Konrad Schätz, EUTi-webmaster, reported on the website and started an animated discussion.

On question of many attendants the annual EUTi-fee was stated:

up to 1 000 members 50 Euro annually
up to 4 999 members 100 Euro annually
up to 9 999 members 200 Euro annually
up to 14999 members 350 Euro annually
more than 15 000 members 500 Euro annually.

AGENDA ITEM 2: New board members

As successor of the retired Vice Chairman Mr. Dr. Matefi the general meeting elected Mr. Dr. Dr. Schapowal, Landquart/Switzerland, as Vice Chairman by the general meeting and by appointment of the board according to article 10 clause 3 of the charter. He accepted the election and participated in the further votes. The registration in the register of associations is to be postponed on cost reasons until the next general meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Authorisation for voting at the general meetings

Each representative of a member has to prove his/her identity by authorisation in written form. Each member country shall delegate both a person affected by tinnitus and a professional representative (medical practioner, psychologist etc.) for being accordingly represented.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Website

Report of the administrator, Mr. Konrad Schätz. Mr. Schätz presented the website. There was a vivid discussion.

Afterwards the following decisions were made:

1. At the request of Dr. Davies and Dr. Biesinger it is resolved that in the future patients will not have the possibility to discuss on EUTi's homepage. The responsibility and the supervision would be too immense in order to embark the connected dangers. This decision is accepted with one dissenting vote.
2. It is decided to improve the information content of the homepage in order to augment its attractiveness for patients but also for experts. All participants are aware of the fact that only many clicks on the homepage will be attractive for sponsors.
3. A vivid discussion took place regarding the necessary regularities. It was put clear again that the the European self-help organisations are the true members of EUTi. These countries delegate persons suggested by decision of their board or decision of the general meeting as representatives to the general meeting of EUTi. The attendants decide that at least one person affected by tinnitus and at least one professional representative (medical practioner, psychologist etc.) of each member country shall attend the EUTi general meeting.
4. Persons affected by tinnitus and other laymen shall have no possibility to participate in discussions as far as they do not serve a special function within EUTi or have the permission to do so. The responsibility for information given by laymen would be too big; a qualified supervision is not possible. This decision is accepted with six cooperative votes and one dissenting vote.
5. Additional decision; unanimously: The information content of the homepage shall be improved in order to augment its attractiveness both for patients and experts. All participants are aware of the fact that only many clicks on the homepage will be attractive for sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Cash Report/Cash Audit/Discharge of the Board

The cash report presented by Mr. Dr. Biesinger was accepted by the board and the general meeting. The following decision was made by the general meeting: Due to the few account entries and the low cash flow the attendants renounce a cash audit. The board was given discharge for his term of office up to now. As far as members of the board act at the same time also as representative of a member, the general meeting grants them discharge of the restrictions of § 181 BGB (self-dealing). Mr. Dr. Biesinger thanked the DTL for its financial support.

TO DO-LIST

The following topics are discussed:

1. EUTi shall get a distinct profile, and there shall be more transparency so that everyone knows what is happening there generally.
2. The website shall inform about requests and statutory tasks of EUTi.
3. Only scientifically evaluated informations shall be incorporated in the website.
4. The mini-questionnaire by Goebel/Hiller shall be incorporated in the website with a link to the national tinnitus organisations, especially when a higher score is achieved.
5. Calls for donations and EUTi-membership on the homepage should be supported by major experts.
6. Further contents: article database, abstracts, advice/quotation of the month (Shall rotate or be renewed.), prevention, especially for young people (loud music, loudness restrictions) in music clubs
7. Write letters to foundations (Hans Knör).
8. Pop or rock bands etc. could contribute to prevention.
9. Each member organisation shall have a special link button to the EUTi website.

The realisation of these thoughts and other ones shall be checked before the next general meeting/board meeting.

The next general meeting and board meeting will take place on 13th of December 2006 at the same place at 11 o'clock. The participants thanked the Deutsche Lufthansa for its support.

Munich, 7th of December 2005

Chairman Recorder

Actual changings

After the last board-meeting we decided to close the discussionboards for sufferers. This is due to legal reasons. Sufferer should discuss their questions with the forum in their specific country. The discussion will be opened for professionals after restructurizing the websystem. They will discuss medical topics under their full name. All users can read this posts. In addition there will be a database for literature and a "topic of the month" with comments from the most important experts in Europe.