

Meeting of the EAHIL COUNCIL,

Alghero, June 7th, 2001.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from:

Rene Mertens
Arne Jakobsson

2. **Notes of the last full meeting of the EAHIL Council, Amsterdam, January 2000:**

The notes were **agreed** as a correct record of the meeting.

3. **Matters arising not otherwise covered by the agenda:**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** In the absence of Arne Jakobsson, the President reported that although broadly speaking we were just about managing to balance the books, the financial situation continued to give rise to some concern. The Board had discussed the situation, and had concluded that the Association urgently needed to attract new members, whilst recognising the equal importance of retaining present members and ensuring the prompt and efficient renewal of subscriptions. There were several items later on the agenda which would further address these matters.

5. **Secretariat Report.** Suzanne Bakker reported that in general the Secretariat had been performing satisfactorily, despite one or two small problems. She was happy to report that the Newsletter was doing well. She urged all Council Members to give thought to possible new advertisers in the Newsletter.

6. **President's Report.** Tony McSean distributed printed copies of his Report (**EC2001/2**). He highlighted several items, including the important recent success in lobbying for the ratification of the Agreed Position with regard to the EU Copyright Directive; the possibility of introducing professional certification to EAHIL members (to be discussed later in the meeting); and the matter of trying to attract and secure increased WHO regional involvement and support of EAHIL activities. It was **agreed** that EAHIL members should be encouraged to submit ideas for projects suitable for possible WHO support via the Newsletter.

7. **EAHIL committees and groups.** Following on from discussions in the previous day's Board meeting, it was agreed that perhaps the **PhInfG group** needed to refocus their activities and that accordingly the President should write to them inviting feedback on their future plans. The veterinary librarians group **EVLG** was continuing to do well. There followed some discussion about EAHIL's relationship with **ELISAD**. They had joined EAHIL on a collective membership, and they were apparently planning a meeting in Cologne at the EAHIL conference in 2002, although they were unwilling to register for the full conference. It was agreed that this situation needed close monitoring to ensure future mutual benefit.

8. EAHIL qualifications/professional certification. The President introduced this item and circulated copies of his discussion paper on the subject (EC2001/4). He reminded Council members that this topic had already been discussed twice at Board meetings and that opinions had been canvassed via the Newsletter. The Board was of the opinion that, despite possible practical difficulties, the idea was an exciting one and should be pursued. Council members agreed that potentially it could be a very good direction for EAHIL to take, not least because it might prove to be a very useful incentive to join EAHIL and to remain in membership, but that we still needed to know the situation in the individual countries making up EAHIL membership, because practices of accreditation and continuing education varied considerably. After lengthy discussion it was **agreed** that Tony McSean should get together a small working group to further explore the possibilities, and that meanwhile discussion on the issue should be encouraged on the EAHIL lists.

9. Paper by Tamara Morcillo on “To be or not to be an EAHIL member”. Tamara was congratulated on her excellent paper, which highlighted many of the issues to be addressed. The President, Tony McSean, emphasized the important role of EAHIL Council members, urging all to be pro-active in exploring ways of increasing membership and thinking about how we could work alongside other bodies – particularly in Eastern and Central Europe. There followed discussion about the need to create a “benefit differential” for EAHIL membership, and it was acknowledged that this was where accreditation could play a part. Further discussion explored the merits of giving free access to the EAHIL web site as a publicity tool versus restricted access to encourage membership. The President re-iterated the need for each and every Council member to get involved, think about these issues and make suggestions.

10. Presentation by Patricia Flor on the Transfer of Knowledge initiative. Patricia explained how the initiative had been set up by LITNOR (Lithuania & Norway) medical libraries with the backing of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. It was an excellent example of co-operation centred on practical usefulness. They had started with a timely and relevant project which addressed major public health concerns in the region concerning transmissible diseases. Patricia pointed out that they had established a good basis to build upon this successful example of mutually beneficial medical library co-operation, and all present agreed it was an excellent example of how EAHIL members might pursue co-operative projects with WHO or other regional health association backing.

11. Exchange of Ideas on Continuing Education. After discussion, it was **agreed** that Francoise Pasleau would try to organise a database of what members were already doing in their various countries, and this would be used to plan possible EAHIL developments in the field.

12. EAHIL Code of Ethics. Pirjo Rajakiili presented the results of the work undertaken (in conjunction with Eva Alopaeus) on the development of an EAHIL Code of Ethics. They had largely followed the outline of the MLA code, but thought that there were possible differences in such areas dealing with vendors, national boundaries, confidentiality issues and freedom of access. After discussion it was **agreed** that a draft Appendix of Definitions and an outline Code should be posted on

EAHIL C for comments, and that as a matter of courtesy the President would write to the MLA to ask if they had any objections to us adopting and adapting their Code.

13. **EAHIL Web Pages.** Work was continuing on updating and improving the web pages. The President asked all members to contact Jarmila Potomkova with ideas and suggestions.

14. **Future EAHIL events:**

2002: 8th EAHIL Conference in Cologne. Ulrich Korwitz gave Councillors an outline of plans for the conference, which were already well in-hand.

2003: Oslo. A preliminary flyer for this workshop had just been produced and copies were distributed. The meeting would take place in a hotel just outside Oslo and would incorporate some novel features – e.g. “Walk and Talk” sessions.

2004: Santander. Further details were expected to be available soon.

2005: EAHIL Workshop at 9 ICML, Brazil. Tony reported that planning for 9ICML had not yet really got underway, but that we proposed to run a workshop for those EAHIL members able to attend. Possible venues in Europe for another meeting that year were still being explored.

15. **Any other business.** Suzanne Bakker reminded members that the new Statutes had been approved, but that it remained necessary to add certain definition and amend our accompanying Rules of Procedure. Also, Suzanne reminded members that it would be necessary to set up an election committee to replace Board members whose term of office would be coming to an end in 2002. She also asked for suggestions for members to serve on the IFLA subcommittees. As no immediate names were volunteered, it was agreed that the matter be referred back to Arne Jakobsson for suggestions.

16. **Date of next meeting.** The next meeting of the Council would take place at the 8th EAHIL conference in Cologne, September 16-21, 2002. The exact time and place would be notified later.