

Minutes of the General Assembly of CPOLO May 7th and 8th 2005, in Graz, Austria

1. Opening

The president Linda Schrey-Dern welcomed all delegates to the ordinary General Assembly 2005. A special welcome was expressed to the representatives from Slovenia, Katja Bucik and Mladen Jeličić, and to the interpreters Marcia Beer and Michèle Kaufmann-Meyer.

The president hereafter asked the Assembly to approve two amendments of the distributed agenda, namely items 3 A: Presentation and admittance of a new member, and 7 A : vote on the future functioning of CPOLO

The final agenda was approved unanimously.

The General Secretary then performed a count of voting delegates – which showed that 33 voting delegates were present.

2. Approval of minutes

There were no comments or remarks to the minutes as published in the Newsletter. Both minutes – of the ordinary GA in Malmö 2003 and the extraordinary GA in Limassol 2004 – were approved unanimously by oral expression.

3. Activity report

The president introduced to the report, referring to the publication in the Newsletter. The activity report was put to the vote – and adopted by a majority of 31 votes. There were 2 abstentions (FNO) and no votes against.

3 A. Presentation of the Slovenian Association of Logopedists (SAL)

The representatives of SAL were invited to present the association. Katja Bucik thanked the president for this opportunity – and then made a presentation of the *Društvo Logopedov Slovenije*.

The association was founded on May 20th 2004 and by September 2004 it was officially registered.

In Slovenia there are 150 speech and language therapists – logopedists, and 124 of them are members of SAL. Most of the members work in primary schools, centres of hearing and speech, and community health centres.

Given that Slovenia has 2 mill. inhabitants, the ratio is 16,129 inhabitants per SLT/logopedists.

The current education programme for logopedists is a four years undergraduate programme, at the University in Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, and Faculty of Medicine, and three post-graduate programmes.

Katja Bucik also told about the main goals and activities of the association, among these the continuing education.

Several questions were asked to fully understand the educational system.

Katja Bucik explained that for the moment the full programme consists of 4 years undergraduate university study + 2 years for the Master's degree + 3 years PhD.

A different branch of continued education is an optional supplementary specialization in clinical logopaedics for 3 years.

The president expressed a warm thank to Katja for the presentation and for the fine results achieved since Malmö.

LH, vice-president for International relations, made a short comment on the course of negotiations with SAL – and recommended that SAL be admitted member of CPLoL. Loud applause expressed the unanimous admittance and welcome to CPLoL.

Katja Bucik repaid the welcome on behalf of all Slovenian members.

Jean-Marc Kremer asked about subsequent amendments of the statutes. The president answered that given the unanimous vote on admittance it was considered an editorial amendment to include Slovenia in the list of members of CPLoL. – for the General Secretary to take care of.

4. Presentation of finished projects

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson (BRG), vice-president for Prevention, informed about the leaflet project, the questionnaire project, and the dysphagia project. The dysphagia report will be ready for publication soon. It is based on a survey made by CPLoL among colleagues throughout Europe and describes the situation about dysphagia, i.e. who is the responsible profession for the care of this group etc. These documents exist in several languages and are/will be presented on the CPLoL web site.

Aileen Patterson (AP), vice-president for Education and Professional Practice, informed about the CPD (Continuing Professional Development) survey that is very near to be finished – and will be available on the web site in a near future.

She also informed about a survey of numbers of students in the member countries, the result of which will also be published on the web site, in both languages, very soon.

Tina Faber informed about the lists of data bases and journals on the web site.

AP thanked Annu Korpijaakko-Huuhka and Susanne Daniel for their great contributions to the work of the commission. And BRG gave special thanks to Jean-Marc Hild. All

three of them have announced that they will have finalized their mandate in CPLoL by this meeting.

5. Accounts / Budget

The treasurer presented the overall results of the accounts 2003-2004.

He pointed out that the 2004 result in fact showed a deficit of 15.000 Euros. However, the expenditures for the following two years are expected to be lower, thus balancing the budget over the period.

JR thanked the delegates for claiming refund via their associations.

On behalf of the two auditors George Kalomiris made the following statement:

"The auditors found all the financial figures and data in a condition dreamt of even by the most demanding accountants. All books and files are meticulously kept and informed. Everything was found to be in the right order" -- and recommended the accounts be approved by the General Assembly.

Before taking the vote, the General Secretary drew the attention to the fact that the Spanish delegation had arrived, and that the Slovenian delegates had obtained voting rights, thus bringing the total number of votes up to 37.

The accounts were unanimously adopted by 37 votes.

After the coffee break the Assembly was resumed by Linda Schrey-Dern presenting her last words as a president:

"Dear friends,

Leaving CPLoL today I would like to take the opportunity before starting the election procedure to express my personal feelings and to describe the ideas I have for CPLoL in the future.

First of all you should know that I really appreciated being your president! The European idea has become reality as we have been working together in CPLoL; in the General Assembly, in the commissions, and in the working groups. Mutual respect prevails in the discussions. It has been a pleasure for me to meet you during the 6, or rather the 17 years! We have exchanged professional experiences and I have profited from these meetings both personally and professionally! I would like to thank you for that!

CPLoL in the future means for me that it represents the only European professional platform for SLTs officially recognized by the European authorities.

CPLoL as a professional platform might have the power to influence more directly the decisions of EU that are of relevance for our profession.

Maybe CPLoL will have more possibilities to realize projects funded by the EU, so that the professional development will be more and more a European rather than a national issue.

Finally I would like to remind you that the success of CPLoL is due to the fact that a cplolian spirit prevails in all activities:

- The spirit to guaranty equality between countries and cultures*
- The spirit of respect for small countries representing only a few professionals*
- And last but not least the spirit of mutual respect towards everybody and her opinion.*

I am convinced that this democratic spirit has led CPLoL to the kind of organisation that it represents today. I hope that CPLoL will continue to follow this road because I am convinced that it will promote the development of our profession. One of the principal aims for CPLoL would be to establish guidelines for assessment and treatment in order to safeguard a highly qualified service for our clients all over Europe!"

6. Election of members of the E.C.

The General Secretary informed about the procedure for the elections – and proposed that Ene Taurafeldt (Estonia) and Mladen Jeličić (Slovenia) be appointed counters of the votes. This proposal was approved by the General Assembly.

Due to the fact that five delegates had been nominated for the four vice-president offices the Executive Committee had decided to have a secret ballot – and therefore, in order to give time for the counting of votes, to start with the election of the vice-presidents.

Before taking the ballot, the nominees for vice-president were asked to present themselves briefly. Thus presentations and statements were given by Aileen Patterson, Tina Faber, Hanneke Kalf, George Kalomiris, and Maria Christopoulou.

According to the result of the secret ballot the following nominees were elected:
Aileen Patterson, Tina Faber, Hanneke Kalf, and George Kalomiris.

Proceeding to the election of president, general secretary and treasurer Jean-Marc Kremer requested a secret ballot on these offices, too. The result of the ballot was that the three nominees were elected:

For President: Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson

For General Secretary: Bent E. Kjaer

For Treasurer: Joe Reynolds.

BRG acknowledged the confidence shown her by the General Assembly.

Finally the General Secretary proposed that Lily Lalor (re-election) and Wiebke Scharff be elected auditors. A unanimous vote was expressed by applause.

Sunday 8th May:

The new president, Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson, resumed the General Assembly – and asked for information of who would wish to present national issues under item 8. Portugal and United Kingdom indicated they so wished.

7. Presentation of ongoing projects

Congress Berlin 2006:

Tina Faber informed about the progress of planning. The congress logo was presented. And it was announced that the call for papers would go out now.

Quality Guidelines

Tina Faber also presented the Quality guidelines project. The responses to the survey questionnaire had been set up in an overall grid. There were still some countries missing in this overview, but the information would be gathered in the near future – and the final result published on the web site.

Hanne Kalf went on informing about the ongoing work on developing CPLoL criteria.

European Day of SLT

Birgitta Rosén-Gustafsson informed about the European Day project. The aim of the commission has been to have the European Day presented in a similar “frame” in all member countries. The commission will draft a letter to all member associations encouraging them to participate in the project. Also an introduction letter will be drafted for the national associations to use towards various authorities, potential sponsors etc. Based on and thanks to (free) professional assistance press release material will be produced, including slogan and poster. A proposal will be sent to the E.C. and the commission before the end of May.

Michèle Kaufmann-Mayer informed about a ‘day of SLT’ in Switzerland this year. See www.dlv.ch.

7 A Future functioning of CPLoL

The president resumed that the future structure and functioning had been thoroughly discussed in the commission meetings Friday or Saturday.

The president of FNO made a statement (see Annexe) on the process of changing and adopting the future structure of CPLoL expressing the French delegation's displeasure at the insufficient possibilities to a thorough debate of the future structure and functioning. She proposed the setting up of a working group to further discuss this important issue. Bent Kjaer recommended to proceed as proposed by the E.C. given that there are many tasks and projects to deal with; that all delegates are responsible for making CPLoL function in an optimum manner; and that, according to the statutes, it is the responsibility of the General Assembly to set up commissions as required.

Aileen Patterson suggested that sufficient time be set aside for discussion at the next general assembly in 2007 when we all have gathered experiences and that for now we focus on the work at hand.

Nicole Denni-Krichel clarified that the French delegation had no objections as to the reduction of number of delegates and commissions, but merely that the process of changing structure had been too rapid.

Jean-Marc Kremer repeated that the FNO wanted a working group set up to discuss the future in view of the increased number of members, the financial implications, and the French proposal for proportional representation.

The president concluded the debate by stating that the proposal had been recorded and would form part of the work of the E.C.

The proposal for the future functioning as presented in the Newsletter was put to the vote – and unanimously adopted by 37 votes.

8. National issues

Portugal: António Carvalhal informed about the congress “Speech and Language Therapy – Limits and Perspectives” – and drew attention to the fact that CPLoL members will attend at member fee (according to previous mutual agreement of the General Assembly).

United Kingdom: The Chair of the Royal College informed that the book "Clinical Guidelines" has now been published.

The General Secretary encouraged delegates to send information about national congresses to the webmaster for publication on the CPLoL web site.

9. Place and host association of the congress in 2009

Portugal and Spain declared their candidature to host the next congress in Madrid. The information was met by loud applause!

Cyprus also announced their bid to host the next congress. However, having heard the Iberian invitation, they withdrew their proposal immediately and changed it into an invitation to host the next ordinary general assembly in 2007.

The President thanked the three delegations for their proposals and promised the EC will take them into consideration and be in contact with the associations in question.

10. Place (and dates) of the ordinary G.A. in 2007

Dealt with under item 9.

11. Miscellaneous

- The webmaster informed that the short descriptions on the web site of "Speech and Language Therapy in the member countries" seem to have diminished the number of email queries about national conditions etc. He therefore encouraged the delegates of the countries still missing on the web site to please draft and deliver their description in order to complete this 'web project'.
- Likewise he asked for the last / missing updates of figures of number of speech and language therapists / logopedists in the member countries in order to complete this part of the presentation of the our profession.
- Finally, he announced that the E.C. will ask member associations to inform about the names of their two official delegates for the term 2005-07 – by 1st August.

In closing the General Assembly and on behalf of all the delegates the President expressed her warm thanks to the Austrian colleagues for an excellent arrangement. She also thanked the interpreters for ameliorating the communication. And finally she expressed her thanks to the delegates that may not be present at the future meetings for their efforts laid down in CPLLOL.

Keeper of the minutes: Bent Kjaer

ANNEXE

Déclaration de la FNO
AG du CPLOL – Graz, le 8 mai 2005

Certains d'entre vous ont peut-être été étonnés de l'abstention de la France lors du vote du rapport d'activité du mandat 2003/2005.

Nous vous remercions de nous donner la parole à l'occasion de la mise à l'ordre du jour du point 7 A, lors de l'ouverture de l'assemblée générale hier.

Nous souhaitons préciser quelques points :

- Nous pensons avoir toujours fait notre possible pour contribuer au développement du CPLOL, particulièrement en ce qui concerne son fonctionnement ;
- Nous avons soutenu la démarche du Comité exécutif pour réformer les statuts et adapter le fonctionnement du CPLOL à l'élargissement de l'Union européenne ;
- Nous avons plusieurs fois manifesté notre regret que cette démarche s'effectue trop vite, sans suffisamment de discussions et de réflexion, et sans prise en compte de propositions extérieures au CE ;
- Nous regrettons que nos propositions relatives à la mise en place d'une réflexion sur une proportionnalité dans les votes et sur le principe de majorités qualifiées ne soient toujours pas soumises à discussion ;
- Nous sommes toujours dubitatifs quant au principe de la création de 2 seules commissions fourre-tout, et de comités en leur sein ;
- Nous nous félicitons que le CE ait finalement interprété les statuts comme nous en appliquant la réforme des statuts votée à Limassol, et spécialement l'article 13 (l'AG crée les commissions et les comités requis) ;
- Nous demandons que la nouvelle équipe du CE crée un groupe de travail sur les questions que nous posons quant au fonctionnement du CPLOL.

Merci de votre attention.