

Unconfirmed minutes - for preliminary information only.

European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics

Minutes of the 1987 Council Meeting

Congress Centre, Innsbruck, Austria: 12th September, 1987, commencing at 2pm.

1 Present	Aget, H	France	Leetz, H-K.	FRØ (Chairman)
	Bergmann, H	Austria	Milano, F	Italy
	Blackwell, R	U.K.	Molho, N	Italy
	Chavaudra, J	France	Piron, A	Belgium
	Claridge, E	U.K.	Richter, J	FRØ
	Clifton, J	U.K.	Rosenwald, J-C	France
	Gantchew, M	Bulgaria	Schmidt, T	FRØ
	Inia, P	The Netherlands	Tautz, M	GDR
	Kallinger, W	Austria	Walstam, R	Sweden (and IOMP observer)

There were apologies for absence from member organisations in Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Spain, and Turkey. There were personal apologies from Dr.B.Aubert (France), Dr.K.A.Jessen (Denmark), Dr. B. L. Reece (U.K.)

3 Minutes secretary. Dr.E.Claridge was appointed minutes secretary.

4 Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia on 21st September 1986.

The minutes were considered and accepted. (Proposer: Dr.Walstam, seconder: Dr.Molho)

5 Membership of EFOMP

Poland: The President reported that Poland had submitted the statutes of its organisation. These were considered satisfactory. The organisation has about sixty members. Council welcomed Poland to membership.

Soviet Union: Despite correspondence with the Soviet Union the problems of membership are still considerable. The physicists wish to be linked with EFOMP but are members of sections of a number of different, geographically based, medical societies. Efforts to clarify the situation will continue.

Rumania: Contact had not been established.

North Africa: It was confirmed that EFOMP seeks to cover the same geographic area as the WHO definition of Europe.

6 Reports from the Officers.

6.1 The President (Dr.H-K.Leetz)

There had been considerable scientific activity during the year. The main meetings, with the EFOMP co-ordinator, had been:

NMR Workshop	Mr.Clifton
EAR Lisbon	Dr.J-C.Rosenwald
	Dr.A.Benini
ESTRO Lisbon	Dr.J.Chavaudra
	Dr.H-K.Leetz
Innsbruck	Dr.H.Bergmann

There had been an Officers' meeting in London.

Dr.Leetz introduced a discussion on the various levels of co-operation possible with organisations with whom we might share in scientific meetings. The adjective used to describe the involvement may vary from country to country and according to the practice of the groups involved.

Council agreed the following **terms of reference** for meetings in which EFOMP has serious scientific involvement:

- a) EFOMP must have an active part in planning the scientific programme.
- b) EFOMP may nominate speakers.
- c) EFOMP must be included in the list of meeting organisers
- d) The EFOMP representative will be nominated by the Officers.
- e) The Officers will include geographical considerations when selecting EFOMP representatives.
- f) If the organising committee meets and invites the EFOMP representative it must pay his/her expenses.
- g) The proposed meeting must have the support of the local EFOMP member organisation, or of a recognised International body,

The terms of reference do not include phrases 'sponsorship', 'patronage' 'support' or 'with International Participation'. At the simplest level we may support a meeting by giving it publicity. Council left the Officers to define suitable terminology and levels of involvement in response to the invitations received.

6.2 The Immediate Past President (Dr.J.Chavaudra)

Dr.Chavaudra reminded Council of the meeting between the European Organisation for Research on the Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and ESTRO, held at Baden Baden and attended, by Professor Poretti, for EFOMP. An EORTC working group had produced a quality assurance protocol which might be used in all the centres which take part in its clinical trials. He had attended a short follow-up meeting in Lisbon. Dr.Johansen is now taking an active part in the development of the project. The work may divide into two components. Firstly the protocol will be offered for use in local quality assurance programmes. Quality assurance for clinical trials may form a second phase, with both postal dosimetry and audit visits playing a part.

It was suggested that the EORTC protocol might be sent to members organisations so as to obtain a broader base of reaction. The member organisations might reciprocate by sending details of their own material. Then an EORTC/ESTRO/EFOMP working party on quality assurance in radiotherapy might emerge. The role of EFOMP can be seen as concerned with standardisation on a wide scale.

Council agreed that Dr.Chavaudra, through Dr.Johansen and his other contacts, should seek actively to develop EFOMP collaboration on quality assurance in radiotherapy, with EORTC and ESTRO.

6.3 The Secretary-General (Dr.P.Inia)

Dr.Inia stressed the need for EFOMP records to be kept up to date. Although data can be requested it is best if the member organisations take the initiative and submit facts to the Secretary-General. Dr.Inia suggested that it would be useful if the long term delegates from members organisations could take part in EFOMP committee activity.

6.4 The Treasurer

In the absence of Dr.Reece the accounts were presented by Dr.Claridge.

A slightly clarified version of the previously circulated report was tabled. The summaries for 1986 and the budgets for 1987 and 1988 were considered. The figures predicted a difficult year in 1987 but improvement in 1988, providing that Council approved the rise in capitation fee. Dr.Gantchew pointed out that Bulgaria had paid for 55 members in 1986. Dr.Aget stated that France has about 140 members, rather than the 70 listed. Dr.Claridge stated that Dr.Reece had requested confirmation of the number of members when requesting payment for 1987. Any member organisation which has not yet paid 1987 dues is asked to do so.

Arrangements for the Vienna account to be closed and transferred to the U.K. have been made. The HPA office has moved to York and HPA staff will continue to assist in servicing the EFOMP account.

Council accepted the unaudited accounts, as prepared by Dr. Reece. The auditors requested the usual summary data so that they could perform their duties and submit their report. Council requested that this task should be done by the time of the next Officer's meeting.

Council accepted the recommendation that the capitation fee for 1987 should be £1.10. This recommendation had been submitted to member organisations earlier in the year.

Council re-elected Dr. Aget and Dr. Tautz as auditors, for 1988.

Council noted that the budgets did not contain provision for committee expenditure. The Officers' recommended that such expenditure was urgently needed and asked that £900 be included in the budgets for 1987 and 1988. Council accepted this proposal.

7 Training and Education Committee Report (Dr. Aget)

The policy document on the Role of the Physicist as a Qualified Expert has been completed, as requested by Council. The document will shortly be printed. A copy will be sent for each member and a supply will be available from Dr. Inia.

An EFOMP working party consisting of Dr. A-M Schmitt, Dr. J-C. Rosenwald and Dr. H. Aget had prepared material for the Lisbon EAR presentation about the Radiation Protection of the Patient. The turnout at the meeting was disappointing and there were few of the national summaries which had been hoped for. A condensed version of the of the EFOMP report will appear in European Medical Physics News.

Dr. Dendy will lead the committee work on the recognition of higher education diplomas. Dr. Aget made a plea for potential direct contacts at Brussels. Dr. Molho pointed out that the EEC was seeking to promote a 'scientific twinning scheme' and suggested that EFOMP might officially ask for Medical Physics to be included. Dr. Molho agreed to provide information on the scheme, with the names of the Brussels contacts. Mr. Blackwell stressed the importance and benefit of involvement with Community documents during the drafting stages..

The enquiry into training methods is still short of responses. A final effort to collect the required data will be made. The data will be used to approach the IAEA and the WHO with the suggestion that a second 'Kiel' meeting be held.

8 Scientific Committee Report (Prof. J.S. Clifton)

8.1 Involvement in future scientific meetings:

Yth Symposium on Clinical Radiation Physics - Neubrandenburg - GDR 25-28th April 1988

Dr. Tautz distributed invitations for the meeting. The town is in an agricultural area and about an hour by train from Berlin. Papers on quality assurance will be particularly welcome. There will be no parallel sessions. EFOMP will be fully involved in support for this meeting.

2nd European Congress of NMR in Medicine and Biology - Berlin - FRG 23-25th June 1988

The 1987 NMR Workshop had been very successful. The European Workshop on NMR in Medicine and the European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology had agreed, prior to the 1987 collaboration, to have a joint meeting in Berlin, in 1988. EFOMP has now been invited to take part and it has been agreed that the meeting be called the second European Congress of NMR in Medicine and Biology. It is proposed that a formal agreement be made between the three organisations to hold such Congresses annually. Prof. Clifton indicated a suitable form for such an agreement, which should include limited liability financial arrangements. However, as the financial arrangements for 1988 have already been made EFOMP will only participate as a scientific partner in that Congress.

Council agreed that the Prof. Clifton should seek to establish a formal agreement for full EFOMP participation in future Congresses in the series and noted the arrangements for 1988. Prof. Clifton was thanked for the effort he is putting into the collaboration. It was felt that a neutral title, associated with a list of the co-operating bodies, formed a good way of presenting the collaboration.

IOMP Congress - San Antonio - USA - August 1988

Dr. Chavaudra has been invited to take part in the organisation of the meeting and offered to transmit any comments from EFOMP. Council agreed that it was not appropriate for EFOMP to organise a symposium at the IOMP meeting when it took place outside the geographic region covered by EFOMP. Dr. Chavaudra asked that members be reminded of the meeting in EMP News.

It was pointed out that EFOMP might influence the selection of the next vice president of IOMP. Member organisations were asked to consider possible candidates.

At San Antonio bids will be made to host the 1994 IOMP meeting. It transpired that France, Italy and the U.K. had already considered the prospect. The HPA had discussed the matter with the Biomedical Engineering Society. After considering the financial arrangements in detail and having failed to get satisfactory information from IOMP it has been decided that there will not be a U.K. bid. SPHF is discussing with the engineering organisation the prospect of making a bid. Italy, which made a bid for the 1991 conference, is still interested.

Council supported the concept of the 1994 Congress coming to Europe but would also be happy to see a successful bid from a developing country.

Vth National Conference of Biomedical Physics and Engineering with international participation - Sophia - Bulgaria - 15-17 October 1988

Dr.Gantchew distributed leaflets about this conference. It will have full support from EFOMP.

International Congress of Radiology - Paris - 1-4 July 1989

Dr.Leetz is a member of the physics section organising committee. Council hopes that EFOMP will play a substantial part in the scientific programme.

EFOMP 10th Anniversary (with the HPA) - London, U.K. - May or June 1990

Detailed discussions between EFOMP and the HPA have not yet started

3rd Symposium on Radiation Physics - Czechoslovakia = During 1991

EFOMP Roentgen celebrations (with DGMP)- Wurtzberg- FRG- November 1995

An invitation from the Wurtzberg authorities has already been received and covers a combined EFOMP and DGMP meeting. An informal approach from the International Society for Radiation Research has been made. This group wishes to celebrate Roentgen's anniversary, in Wurtzberg. In discussion two potential problems were exposed. The informal discussions suggest that ISRR might wish to see EFOMP as a minor partner and not an equal participant. Secondly the main hall at Wurtzberg might not have room for the EFOMP participants and those from the ISRR. Thus two meetings with some overlap might be a solution.

Council agreed that negotiations with ISRR be held but stipulated that they should be on the basis that the identity of EFOMP be maintained in any final plans. Council also agreed that the negotiations should be conducted by a sub-group of the Scientific committee. Dr.Leetz recommended that a member of DGMP should become a member of the EFOMP Scientific committee. Dr. Jurgen Richter was proposed for this role and agreed to act.

8.2 Innsbruck - 1987

The participation of EFOMP in the DGMP/OGMP meeting at Innsbruck was formally noted. Dr.Bergmann was thanked for hosting such a successful meeting. Dr.Gadian had presented the first EFOMP lecture.

8.3 Collaboration with ESTRO

It was noted that ESTRO is an organisation of individuals, not a federation. ESTRO has strong scientific programmes at its annual meeting. Council felt that collaboration through working parties would be more effective than continuing involvement in those annual meetings.

8.4 Trieste Workshops

The Quality Assurance workshops are no longer supported as part of the activity of the Trieste Institute. EFOMP would welcome proposals for an alternative venue and financial structure.

8.5 Future committee work

It was accepted that there might be a useful role for the committee in acting as a clearing house for information on scientist exchanges.

Dr.Kallinger suggested further activity on the problems of quality assurance in diagnostic radiology. He felt that existing protocols might be harmonised and that minimum acceptable resolution should be defined. Workshops to be organised, by the European Communities, in Brussels (February 1988) and Oxford (September 1988) are still open to personal participants. Enquiries should be made to Dr.H.Schibilly, Commission of the European Communities (DGXII/D/y), Rue de la Roi, B 1049, Brussels

9 Publication matters.

9.1 European Editor of Physics in Medicine and Biology

Dr. Claridge reported that Dr. Chavaudra retires as European editor of Physics in Medicine and Biology at the end of the year. He stated that the officers had considered the vacancy and wished to nominate Dr. H. Bergmann, from Austria. Council accepted this proposal.

9.2 Proceeding of the 1987 NMR Congress

The Proceedings will be published by the Institute of Physical Sciences in Medicine (IPSM) and are almost ready for printing; any eventual proceeds will be shared equally with EFOMP.

9.3 The training of the medical physicist as a qualified expert in radiophysics.

This Policy document is almost ready for the printer.

9.4 European Medical Physics News

The next issue is behind schedule. There are two major articles; one on electronic mail and one on the NMR congress. Material on the Lisbon symposium on the Radiation Protection of the patient will also be included.

10 EFOMP Committee Membership

10.1 The Education, Training and Professional Committee.

H. Aget	(France)	1980	Chairman
P P Dendy	(U.K.)	1985	Secretary
*A Benini	(Italy)	1980	
B Breyer	(Yugoslavia)	1984	
K Jessen	(Denmark)	1984	
W Kallinger	(Austria)	1984	
F Milano	(Italy)	1987	
*A-M Schmitt	(FRG)	1984	
M Tautz	(GDR)	1980 (new term from 1987)	

10.2 The Scientific Committee

J Clifton	(U.K.)	1986	Chairman
*A. Benini	(Italy)	1984	
D Grachew	(Bulgaria)	1987	
P Horton	(U.K.)	1985	
J Jull-Christensen	(Denmark)	1987	
N Molho	(Italy)	1986	
J Novotney	(Czechoslovakia)	1986	
J Rassow	(FRG)	1984	
J Richter	(FRG)	1987	
J-C Rosenwald	(France)	1985	
W M Star	(The Netherlands)	1987	

*Council was told that Dr. Benini and Dr. Schmitt now both work for the IAEA, at Vienna. Their relationship to EFOMP members organisations will therefore be explored.

The officers will review the committees at their next meeting and will welcome further nominations from member organisations. The President stated that he wished to ensure that committee members were participating actively.

11 EFOMP Business Meetings

The Officers will meet in London early in 1988

Invitations for the 1988 Council had been received from Bulgaria and Italy. The President commented upon the difficulty he faced in dealing with all the invitations received. There is a need to achieve a balance, particularly in relation to geography.

Council agreed to accept the invitation to Milan, Italy. The date will be fixed and will be in the late summer or autumn. It may be possible to link with a Nuclear Medicine conference in October.

The 1989 Council will be in Paris, at the time of the ICR meeting. The 1990 Council will be in London, at the time of the anniversary scientific meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

E. Claridge - Minutes Secretary.