



Summary report from the call with the EFORT National Delegates scheduled in October and November 2019

Being aware that a better and more fluid communication between the National Delegates and EFORT is mandatory to improve collaboration, the EFORT Board together with the National Societies delegates decided to organise a round of zoom conferences. The national societies were grouped by number of delegates in four groups and four zoom conferences were scheduled. This initiative was considered of utmost importance by EFORT Board and besides Antonio Cartucho, the link between the Board and the National Delegates, the EFORT President, the Secretary General as well as the Treasurer actively participated in the conferences.

The four meetings had the same agenda and supporting documents:

1. Introduction to the EFORT National delegate Zoom conferences
2. Short report from the Treasurer
3. EU affairs
4. Implant and patient safety initiative
5. National issues - each delegate is invited to speak for up to 1-2 minutes if they wish to raise any issues they would like EFORT to be aware of or engage
6. Summary call, next call and closure

1 - In his capacity as EFORT President, Prof. Philippe Neyret welcomed all present and then handed over to Dr. António Cartucho, who moderated the call. The calls were the result out of the discussion during the meeting with the National Delegates in Lisbon as an attempt to improve communication with the EFORT National Societies.

2 - The EFORT Treasurer, Prof. Theofilos Karachalios, gave a short overview of the financial results of 2018, of 2019 and a prediction for the next few years. EFORT's main financial income derives from the annual congress and a reduction in sponsoring (industry) has been observed the last years. The financial support (membership fees) from our member National Societies is relatively small. An attempt is made to reduce administration and governance cost of the Federation and keep the annual financial result balanced. EFORT will continue to support Educational activities and other sources of income are explored.

3 - EFORT's work currently focuses on the cooperation with the Biomed Alliance and the White Book project.

The Biomedical Alliance in Europe is the result of a unique initiative of 32 leading European medical societies that together include more than 400,000 researchers and health professionals. EFORT joined the Biomed Alliance in 2018. EFORT is concentrating on specific topics only, CME and Medical Device Regulation, to be able to achieve actual goals. The Biomedical Alliance is recognised by the EU as notified body and through that, EFORT and its National Societies can actively influence the healthcare agenda.

EFORT's Secretary General, Mr. David Limb has been involved in the working group or rather permanent committee on CME. Members of the CME experts committee tap into the complexity of the European system for guaranteeing the quality of CME. They study and

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discuss this important topic and further explore the potential role of the Biomed Alliance in enhancing the quality of CME and in achieving a standardization of criteria to attribute CME.

EFORT's Immediate Past President, Ass. Prof. Per Kjaersgaard-Andersen, is representing EFORT within the Regulatory Affairs and Medical Devices Task Force (MDR task force). In this task force, high-level experts in this field discuss the latest developments in the regulatory framework for medical devices. They exchange key insights and interpretations of the EU medical devices framework and identify areas where the Biomed Alliance can provide input and expertise to enhance the safety of medical devices in Europe. They also explore opportunities for reaching out to key stakeholders and organisations in the medical devices field, both within Europe and beyond. A call for experts was made to the national societies and the candidates must personally fulfil their candidacy.

The Implant and Patient Safety Initiative, initiated by the EFORT 1st Vice President, Prof. Klaus-Peter Günther, is one result out of the MDR discussion and issues evolving around it.

The White Book project is led by its Editor-in-Chief Prof. Jan Verhaar, EFORT Past President. Chapters of the book are at different stages of construction and the subjects analyse the main European Health Care problems and concerns in an alerting but constructive perspective.

4 – EFORT is organising an inauguration workshop on Implant and Patient Safety in Brussels on 21 January 2021. All Nat. Soc. to spread the news among their communities and think about attending. Places are limited, travel is to be paid by the Nat. Soc., but registration is offered by EFORT. Everybody interested should contact the EFORT office at office@efort.org

5 – Main concerns expressed by the National delegates were related to: increasing of burnout cases among doctors working in the public sector; medical devices regulation and patient safety issues; topics of the White Book and National Societies EFORT Congress participation.

Increasing of burnout cases among doctors working in the public sector was pointed out by several National Delegates. As an action point it was decided that further discussion within the EFORT Board and with the Editor-in-Chief of the White Book (J. Verhaar) will take place in order to include the subject in the White Book.

Medical devices regulation (MDR) and patient safety issues were approached. Concerns were expressed on the way experts were selected and Mr David Limb clarified that role of EFORT was to stimulate the National Societies to point out experts in the field and that after the personal on line application done by the candidates EFORT had no influence in the selection. The new MDR was considered by most of the participating National Delegates a good initiative that has the potential to, in European level and consequently in each country, enhance device quality and patient safety. Concerns were also raised regarding post graduate medical education due to new companies' policy after the change in compliance rules. Mr David Limb clarified that the quality of education should be guaranteed by the system of CME accreditation currently being discussed at the Medical Alliance committee.

Apart from the doctors burnout issue whose inclusion on the White Book will be discussed, also a Chapter on musculoskeletal tumours that would offer some referral guidelines was suggested. This chapter is already under construction under the supervision of EFORT member at large Prof. Pietro Ruggieri

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Under the raised topic of how Nat. Soc. could have more influence in the setup of the scientific programme of the congress all present were informed that the call for session proposal will change in the future with the introduction of the 3 years rolling programme in collaboration with the Spec. Soc. This will be able to better plan the scientific programme of the EFORT congress. The Nat. Soc. will then be able to influence it and contribute more targeted. Emphasis was put in the fact that the prompt response from the Nat Societies to the call for sessions is mandatory for the scientific presence of that society in the program.

6 – Antonio Cartucho thanked all present for their contribution and informed that the next round of calls will be scheduled for spring 2020; an official invitation shall follow on due course.