



Minutes of the

General Meeting of the European Trauma Society (ETS)

Date: Friday, May 25, 2007

Time: 12:00 – 13:00

Venue: Grazer Congress, Saal *Steiermark*

1. Opening

Otmar Trentz greets all attending colleagues and opens the General Assembly with a brief description how EATES and ETS have been working towards a merger over the course of the last few years – and that today, 'we finally have a result'.

He then announces that at 13:10, they will meet with their colleagues of EATES for the Founding Meeting of ESTES, the new society.

Those signing the founding member list will be charter members of this new society ESTES, which stands for 'European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery'.

2. Announcements by the Chairman

Vilmos Vecsei proceeds to tell the auditorium that for the last 2 years, talks and discussions have taken place regarding this merger (e.g. in January in Graz and in Frankfurt in March) and that ALL national societies and delegates have agreed to the merger.

This merger will be done in a legal, well-founded manner.

He then extends his profound thanks to Dr. Kdolsky for preparing the new society's bylaws.

In recent Board Meetings during the Graz Congress, the final unclear points were cleared up which mainly had to do with who will be the officers of the new society.

3. Report of EATES – ETS conference, Graz, January 14, 2007

Otmar Trentz continues by saying that there was a discussion at a later date following the Frankfurt meeting, but that now, all points have been cleared up.

Both Boards are working together until 2008, where a new Board will be elected.

4. Discussion of merger of ETS and EATES

Otmar Trentz then goes on to say that Pol Maria Rommens has been elected President for 2010, and that the 2010 Meeting will be in Brussels to honour him and his work.

2009 will take place in Antalya, Turkey, as this had already been decided by EATES.

This will be the first official ESTES-Congress since the society will not yet have been officially and legally founded in Budapest.

He then tell the participants that they should start to think about who they want to elect in Budapest, and that info and input will be expected of all of them.

Vilmos Vecsei then gives a short talk on ETS and its past congresses, like Vienna in 2002, with 2000 participants, Prague in 2004 and Ljubljana in 2006, which all were both very successful.. He advises everyone 'not to go into smaller cities' because often, connections aren't that good.

Richard Kdolsky comments from the auditorium that it's very important to keep a PCO (Professional Congress Organizer) to secure that congresses are of a high quality.

5. Founding of ESTES (European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery), the merged society of ETS and EATES

ETS and EATES both profit from the merger, however "it's up to each national society to decide where it will go." (Otmar Trentz)

Topics like 'trauma in hostile environments' (e.g. catastrophes) will be addressed on working groups/sections.

He stresses that the society is open for cooperation with organizations of related topics, e.g. EFORT, and that it should be considered to include such topics in future meetings.

However, he warns of an overemphasis on skeletal trauma.

6. Varia

Since the report from the Treasurer was omitted from the Agenda, Vilmos Vecsei asks Pol Maria Rommens, who was Treasurer until January 1st, 2007, to describe the society's financial matters.

Pol Maria Rommens tells that when he took over the account on January 1st, 2006, it had a positive balance of € 115.656,29.

When he transferred the money to the account of the new treasurer, Stefan Marlovits, it was € 134089,69.

All national societies paid their membership fee, totalling € 19.419.

Expenses like bank costs, travel, ETS-Awards, Homepage and printed matters ran in the amount of € 7308.

The Financial Committee has reviewed the sheets and has found everything to be in good order.

All agree that Pol Maria Rommens may be released from the task of Treasurer.

Then, Dr. Thiekötter of Urban & Vogel is introduced.

Through negotiations, it was possible to set the price for the society's journal at € 65 for members of the new society.

The question is raised from the audience how much money the EATES brings into the new society – this question cannot be answered at this point.

EATES has about 500 individual members, 350 of which have paid their fee.

ETS, on the other hand, has 'institutional members', and thus an assured income of € 19.000 - per member for societies from Western Europe, € 2,50 for each member of an Eastern-European member.

First, the merger has to proceed, and then such topics will be addressed.

A Working Group of the 2 Boards will be created, which will address some of the important questions like the bylaws (and how to publicize them), the registration of the new society, a new Congress secretariat, and how to proceed the next few years.

It has already been agreed that the main emphasis of ESTES will be on individual members, but the society will retain its institutional members, thus creating a large basis.

The new society is also open to new institutional members, e.g. Trauma Society in Lithuania, or Israel.

The number of members a national society has does not equal more or less power in the new society – it will be a democratic system based on countries, not numbers.

All people active in acute trauma care and surgery can become members, also paramedics and nurses (but they have no passive voting right, i.e. they can not be elected in officer functions)

Only individual members can become members of the Board. The input of individual members helps create an active society.

As Otmar Trentz puts it, "One man, one vote".

All who are in the Founding session are invited to participate actively!

Prof. Vécsei thanks attendees for their co-operation, and the meeting is adjourned at 12:45.

At 13:10, participants of the Founding Meeting will gather at *Stefaniensaal*.