

# **International Society of Doctors for the Environment**

## **Directing Board meeting, Vienna, 18 February 2017**

Present: Hanns Moshhammer, chair; Lilian Corra; Milena Gruber; Cathey Falvo, minutes

Present via Skype: Mahmood Khwaja, Sofia Lindegren, Zia Rahman Farooqi, Peter Kalin, Agostino Di Ciaula

Excused: Roberto Romizi, Peter van den Hazel, Matilda van den Bosch, Erik Petersen, Dominique Belpomme, Philippe Irigary

The meeting started at 9:00. Participants were welcomed by Hanns Moshhammer as host. Because Mahmood Khwaja could not participate due to visa problems he had asked Hanns to chair the meeting. The agenda was accepted, introductions of members present in Vienna and on Skype were made.

Item 3: Member's activity reports and the financial report are attached. **N.B.** We need all current member annual reports this year for our application to continue official relations with the WHO and next year we will have to do a quadrennial report for the United Nations ECOSOC recognition. Please, if not already received, send your report ASAP. **N.B.** Lilian will investigate the formal requirements and formats for the reports.

Item 4: President elect: Dr. van den Bosch has requested relief from the position due to family issues and their move to Canada. Her resignation was sadly accepted. The president will send an official letter of acceptance.

The procedure for electing a replacement will be that followed for the original nomination, the nominating committee chaired by the immediate past president Roberto Romizi will make a new nomination to start at the end of the next general assembly (as well as another one for the president elect for the next term-2017-2019), Suggestions from national member organizations are open – send to Roberto Romizi at [isde@isde.it](mailto:isde@isde.it) (note this is a new email address)

Item 5: Vice president for Europe (our Irish member organization has ceased to exist): Italy has nominated Dr. Agostino Di Ciaula who has been working within their organization for many years. He is also the current ISDE Italy Scientific Committee Coordinator. His nomination has been accepted by the DB and Dr. Di Ciaula has agreed to serve.

Item 6: All requests from potential new members will be circulated along with their documentation to the DB. An opinion is expected within one week. If no objections are received within the week then the request will be approved. A letter and certificate of acceptance will be sent by the president. A Certificate of Membership for organizations and

individuals is being formatted and will be circulated shortly. It is needed by many of our members to enhance their local work. (Cathey and Hanns are formatting the certificate).

The one week reply will also be used for all proposals made by members. **N.B.** no reply to email discussions officially will be considered acceptance! The outcome of some proposals made by email over the past year is not clear. The proposal author is asked to clarify. A list of e-proposals was sent before the meeting by Hanns. The proposal about climate change was revised and is under editorial review at the moment. It will be re-circulated shortly and the one week response will apply. Also, the request for membership from Sri Lanka was sent back to them for clarification of several points.

Item 7: No comments were received about the minutes from the previous DB/GA meeting and thus they are accepted as such.

Item 8: Our members from Serbia have asked for help with legal obligations they can request of their government to deal with disposal of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. At the moment there are not safe disposal methods for many of these products so the manufacturers are made responsible (reduce production to correspond to demand, etc.).

Item 9: Expand membership is the responsibility of everyone on the DB. Personal contact is probably the best method. Please, use it at all times especially at professional meetings. We can also increase use of our ISDE and personal Facebook accounts and other social media.

Item 10: See note under item 6. Dr. Corra is working with WHO to improve use of social media to enhance recognition and use of WHO information on Children's Environmental Health.

Item 11: Mahmood points out that we need to exchange information regarding funding opportunities for ISDE work/activities, whenever these are announced and submission of proposals asked for. (For instance some time back EC under SWITCH Asia funding program asked for submission of proposals and later on the dead line for the same was extended to Feb. 22, 2017. Now it is too late to develop a concept note for a proposal.) Above (and other relevant) would have been a good opportunity for joint work/activities by ISDE partner organizations from Asia and Europe.

Item 12: Next GA-2017, adjacent to the UNEP meeting on mercury in Geneva 24-29 September. ISDE GA would be Saturday 23 September. Hanns has circulated the proposal and the one week rule to answer applies.

Item 13: Mahmood made two proposals:

(a) Holding an ISDE side event or putting up an "ISDE Stall" at international meetings like ones on mercury issues 24th April - 5th May, 2017 or the one in last week of September,

2017 (good opportunity as ISDE members could also contribute in more than one way)  
**N.B.:** more detailed plans are needed and also a quote for the costs of presentation and display material.

(b) On behalf of ISDE/ISDE-DB acknowledging contributions of ISDE-DB members who could not continue as DB members & resigned, e.g. Philip and the member from Ireland. If agreed by DB, a line or two can also go in the meeting minutes, to reflect the same. **N.B.:** This proposal was heartily and unanimously accepted. The DB wants to express its gratitude especially to Philip and to Matilda for their services.

The meeting ended at 17:00