

# EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

**On: Saturday 27 October 2007, 09.30 – 15.20 hrs**

**Venue: Hotel Danube, Bratislava**

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING

(Approved by Exec 14.11.07)

Present: JG Alegria (SP), M Alvarez de Mon Soto(SP), AM Baptista (PT), W. Bauer(EC/CH), H Bitterman (IL), R Ceska (CZ), C Davidson (EC/UK), G Decaux (BE), C Dias(PT), A Dukat (SK), M Durusu Tanriover (YI/TK), JW Elte(EC/NL), F Ferreira (EC/PT), PHLM Geelhoed-Duijvestijn(NL), P Halvatsiotis(GR), H van Hulsteijn (NL), Ph Jaeger (CH), J Kellett (IE), S Kinova(SK), J Koeberling (DE), L Kotik(CZ), A Kotulska (PL), MHH Kramer(NL), E Kucharz (PL), S Lindgren (EC/SWE), E Nitelius (SW), R Palsson (Ice), A Porath (IL), T Raza (UK), D Sereni (EC/FR), Soupart(BE), S Unal (TK). Also attending: I Huis in't Veld (NL) and J Stevens(UK)

Apologies: I Bruckner(ROM), U Carcassi(IT), G Gasbarrini (IT), C Higgens(UK), K Horky (CZ), D Isacoff (ROM), N Katsilambros(GR), P de Leeuw (NL), G Licata(IT), K Lundin(NO), A Mesikepp(ES), K Manhem(SWE), J O'Hare (IE), S Olafsson (Ice), K Pettersson-Fernholm(FI), R Pujol(SP), S Raptis(GR), PM Schumm-Draeger (DE), M Valimäki (FI), V Vassiljev(ES), P Vidali(SLO)

1. Apologies & Welcome to new members/guests  
As noted above and at the preceding General Assembly.
2. Draft Minutes of Administrative Council, Lisbon, Portugal 23.5.07  
The Minutes of the last meeting were approved without amendment.
3. European Board of Internal Medicine (EBIM) / European Diploma (EDIM) (S Lindgren)  
EBIM is a coalition between EFIM and UEMS. The European Diploma exam was established in 2006 to define knowledge base amongst European young internists. Two exams have been held with the 3<sup>rd</sup> planned for December 2007 – British Council offices in several countries are host sites for the EDIM. The level of interest is disappointingly low and applicants are not forthcoming. The Board met on 26.10.07 to discuss the future of EDIM and agreed to continue in 2008 but if the number of applicants for the April 2008 exam remains low, the EDIM will subsequently be suspended until the majority of national societies are ready to respond more positively in promoting the exam through their young internist network. The Board will also have further discussions with the RCP London to decide on future planning of EDIM. SL invited comments from Council members present today: A Soupart (BE) announced their planned new curriculum which would include the EDIM as a requirement after 3 years common trunk; S Unal (TK) highlighted their budget constraints as the national society has previously paid all the expenses; E Kucharz (PL) suggested channelling information to the hospitals. SL emphasized that national societies would be responsible for liaising hospitals and forwarding information. Announcements via the EFIM and Young Internists websites will continue and he encouraged all members to respond similarly via their Society websites (where these have been established), and by Society newsletters to their members. It is important to obtain feedback from all countries on the level of interest for 2008 in order to provide an exam centre at British Council offices local to requirements. **Action: ALL to promote EDIM to be held 9-10 April 2008 and feedback to SL re level of interest per country e-mail: [stefan.lindgren@med.lu.se](mailto:stefan.lindgren@med.lu.se) (refer to EFIM or Young Internists websites for basic Information Sheet)**
4. EFIM-ISIM (S Lindgren)  
SL announced the Memorandum of Understanding that has been drawn up by himself (as EFIM President) and Rolf Streuli (President, International Society of Internal Medicine). The 2 organizations have mutual interests in developing internal medicine and have agreed to develop this liaison. ISIM has two yearly congresses and organizes postgraduate educational courses. Political issues is also a key area

for both parties. These are all activities where links can be strengthened. Two Liaison Officers have been appointed: Hans-Peter Kohler (ISIM Sec-Gen) and Werner Bauer (EFIM President-Elect). SL highlighted the benefits that this cooperation will bring to both organizations. The initiative was approved by Council. The process will therefore be taken forward and reported on at the next Council meeting in Rome. **Action: W Bauer/H-P Kohler**

5. Clinical Research Seminar (D Sereni)

DS reported on the continuing success of this important educational seminar held annually for the past 4 years in Paris thanks to the generous support of Servier International. Previous ESIM residents are invited to apply, and National Societies are also required to advertise the course for suitable young internists to apply. Up to 14 places are available, and residents are chosen by a Selection Committee (D Sereni, C Davidson, L Guillevin). DS gratefully acknowledged the grant from Servier that will enable the seminar to be held again in Paris: 3-5 April 2008.

The Clinical Research Seminar also seeks to establish and develop new contacts for the European Young Internists network which is important for the future of internal medicine. A new project for an epidemiology survey is currently being prepared by Loic Guillevin and it is anticipated that the protocol will be available in January 2008. DS encouraged Council to be supportive of the activities of the Seminar and to feedback to their national society Boards on this issue. **Action: All**

6. Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe (D Sereni)

As President of the Foundation, DS reported on the progress achieved by the Foundation Management Committee during the past year when several meetings had taken place including the annual Foundation Council meeting on 25.10.07. Nominations for a Foundation Council member from each European country should be sent to DS. In addition to the President, the structure of the Management Committee has been defined: 2 Vice Presidents (Ph Jaeger and S Lindgren), Secretary General (F Ferreira), Treasurer (I Hatem). A part-time Admin Secretary (J Stevens), and professional Webmaster (A Stevens) will assist. A new website has been set up: [www.fdime.org](http://www.fdime.org) Ideas and activities are being developed for projects in education and research, and announcements will be available on the website in the near future.

Sponsorship is a crucial issue if we are to ensure success in activating planned projects. The Foundation aims to provide a link with society (lay-people), and DS referred to the letter recently circulated to national Presidents and Council members requesting assistance in identifying members of society in each country who would be willing and able to help organize national fund raising events. It is important to establish reliable contacts who can actively respond to help achieve our goals. DS renewed his request for Societies to respond positively. Improving the public profile of internal medicine would encourage links with society.

Thanks to the considerable efforts of Ph Jaeger, Amgen Ltd has provided a grant of 250,000 USD to start the first Foundation project: A European Masterclass in Renal Physiology & Patho-physiology and Fellowship in Renal Physiology & Pathophysiology. This will be held 19-21 June 2008 at the Royal College of Physicians, London. The application process will be announced soon. DS reported his on-going efforts to secure funding from other local sources and anticipates a positive result by the end of the year. EFIM will donate 5000 euro to assist with some expenses. DS acknowledged the generous donations received from the Belgian Society. Other national societies are encouraged to respond similarly. SL thanked DS for his efforts and achievements and endorsed all the proposals. **Action: All**

7. EFIM-6, Lisbon 2007 Final Report (F Ferreira)

As EFIM-6 Congress President and EFIM Treasurer, FF presented the final report of the EFIM-6 Congress which realized a profit of 342,397 Euro. This will be shared 50:50 with EFIM. SL recommended that in the future we should aim to have congresses in conjunction with national meetings whenever possible. He thanked everyone at the Portuguese Society of Internal Medicine for their outstanding achievement. The EFIM-6 flag was then presented to SL, followed by unanimous and resounding applause.

8. ESIM-10 September 2007: Lisbon, Portugal - Report (A Martins Baptista)

As Director of ESIM, AMB presented his report on the European School held recently near Lisbon. 67 residents attended from 22 countries, and 23 speakers from 11 countries. Some countries who sent residents last year did not respond this year, but there were additional residents from China, USA, and Slovenia. In the *ESIM Course Evaluation*, Workshops (small group discussions) were the most popular

activity. Clinico-Pathological conferences (CPCs) were also highly rated: one expert presenting a case for the group to discuss with the expert. In the future, the number of CPCs could be increased to meet the need. Clinical case presentation by young internists was also very successful – one resident per country presenting, followed by discussion. In evaluating the effectiveness of ESIM-10, 99% stated that it fulfilled their expectations. Some countries had expressed a wish to send more residents, but the current funding does not allow for the number of places available to be extended beyond 70.

AMB circulated a 1 page document 'EFIM/ESIM working together to build internal medicine' outlining his ideas for consideration by Council. This had been prepared following feedback from ESIM and sets out ideas for future development. Feedback to AMB is invited after due consideration by members.  
E-mail: [ajgmb@iol.pt](mailto:ajgmb@iol.pt) **Action: All**

AMB expressed grateful thanks to all the speakers, particularly to C Davidson and S Lindgren, and acknowledged the valuable support of the Portuguese Society staff and doctors whose contributions were vital in ensuring the success of ESIM. He announced the ESIM-11 dates for next year to be held near Lisbon: 1.9.08 – 6.9.08 (Arrival date: 31.8.08; Departure: 7.9.08)

SL thanked AMB and everyone involved for their tremendous achievement in providing another highly successful School. CD praised the personal commitment of AMB throughout the course and the outstanding support of his team who responded so positively to the Director.

#### 8.1 The future of ESIM

- a) The question of whether ESIM should be held twice a year was raised. From an organizational perspective AMB considered that it would not be possible to do this in one country. He proposed the idea of selecting two countries to host ESIM in one year. This generated some debate. The response was generally favourable but cost was considered to be a prohibiting factor for some countries. SL invited everyone to discuss the proposal within their National Societies. According to demand, EFIM would aim to develop the structure to make this possible.

**Action: All**

- b) For political reasons the School will move to another country in 2009 for 2 years + an optional 3<sup>rd</sup> year, as agreed previously. National societies are now invited to submit their bids to host future ESIM courses. Depending upon the number of bids received, and the feedback from National Societies concerning the level of interest to organize more frequent ESIM courses, the EFIM Executive will plan for the future.

Bids to be received by JW Elte no later than 31.3.08 at e-mail: [j.elte@sfg.nl](mailto:j.elte@sfg.nl)

**Action: All potential ESIM hosting societies**

### 9. Future EFIM Congresses

#### 9.1 EFIM-7, Rome 7-10 May 2008: Progress Report (JWF Elte and Maria Cappellini, SIMI)

JWE reported that the EFIM-7 Steering Committee met in Rome on 20.10.07 and inspected the centrally located congress venue: Aurelia Convention Centre. They were reassured that the well-established and dedicated PCO Aristeia is taking care of all the arrangements. National Societies are requested to help with abstracts and to promote EFIM-7 through their websites, newsletters and announcements to encourage registration and participation.

JWE introduced the Italian representative Maria Cappellini (Sec-Gen SIMI) who attended today in the absence of G Licata and G Gasbarrini to provide a status report to Council: The scientific programme is progressing well but Chairmen and some Speakers are still required and MC urged national society members to respond positively to participate in these areas. The main topics include heart failure, medicine and community, new treatments in diabetes, lung diseases, controversies in hypertension, inflammatory bowel disease, geriatric medicine, controversies in anticoagulant therapy, metabolism and nutrition. Other lectures are planned relating to immigration and movement in Europe; new and old emerging infectious diseases (Avian flu, aids hep C - healthcare). Currently there are plans to obtain sponsorship for 6 satellite symposia. A short EFIM Council meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 7 May at 13.00 – 15.30 hr followed by the Opening Lecture at 18.00 hr. The Young Internists session has been scheduled for Thursday pm 8.5.07. A 3 hour session for YIs on Thursday is planned: 'ESIM Seminar for

Young Internists'. The deadline for receipt of Abstracts is 31.1.08. Details available at: [www.aristea.com/efim2008](http://www.aristea.com/efim2008)

J Koebberling recommended looking carefully at the timing of satellite symposia in order that these sessions be separated in the programme.

SL thanked Prof Cappellini for her informative presentation and advised her that the Steering Committee would provide assistance and support with the provisional programme. National Societies will then be contacted to advise them which sessions have vacancies for speakers and chairpersons. Spain and Portugal would be important contributors. JWE will write to all national societies to seek additional nominations for speakers/chairpersons after further contact with the PCO.  
**Action: JWE, Subsequently all national societies**

9.2 EFIM-8, Istanbul 27-30 May 2009 – Progress Report (S Unal)

A detailed report was presented at the last Admin Council meeting in Lisbon. Arrangements are progressing well, with 200 action points listed. The first flyer is available, the venue has been proposed (Grand Civahir Hotel & Congress Centre, Istanbul). The EFIM Executive will attend a Steering Committee meeting in Istanbul in November 2007 to inspect the venue. Pharmaceutical companies have been approached for sponsorship with encouraging results to date. On this occasion the congress will not be held in conjunction the the Turkish National Society meeting, but a high attendance is anticipated, aiming to achieve 1000 internists from Europe and 1000 from Turkey. Support from EFIM member countries is expected. Actions will be taken forward at the Steering Ctte meeting in November 2007 .

**Action: EFIM-9 Steering Ctte/Exec**

9.3 EFIM-9, Stockholm 21-24 September 2010 – Progress Report (E Nitelius)

Planning is underway and the website has been established: <http://www.efim2010.org/>

The conference will start on Tuesday afternoon and finish on Friday afternoon.

Prof Thomas Kjellstrom will be the Congress President. The steering committee will meet in Stockholm at the end of January 2008.

9.4 EFIM-10, Athens October 2011 – Progress Report (P Halvatsiotis)

The congress will be held during the week first week of October, in conjunction with the Hellenic Society of Internal Medicine annual meeting. English will be the official language.

Approximately 2000 participants from Greece are expected, and with delegates from EFIM and other countries a highly successful congress is anticipated.

SL thanked all contributors for their encouraging reports. Other countries have already expressed interest to host future congresses. It was agreed that a decision would be made 4 years ahead, and candidates for the 2012 congress should submit their bids to JWF Elte (Sec-Gen) by 29.2.08. The Congress Selection Committee will hear all presentations during the EFIM-7 congress and the decision for the 2012 congress will be announced in Rome.

**Action: All Societies bidding for 2012 congress  
e-mail to JWF Elte by 29.2.08: [j.elte@sfg.nl](mailto:j.elte@sfg.nl)**

10. Report from the Vascular Medicine Working Group (JWF Elte)

In cooperation with Bristol-Myers Squibb (B-MS) the first meeting of the Vascular Medicine Working Group was held on 5.10.07 in Brussels, Chaired by Prof Coen Stehouwer (Specialist in Vascular Medicine, Maastricht) with other members: Prof Denis Clement (Ghent), Prof Curt Diehm (Heidelberg), Dr Marc Lambert (Lille), Prof Daniel Sereni (Paris), Dr Chris Davidson and Dr Jan Willem Elte. The group will focus on peripheral artery disease (PAD), aiming to raise awareness and identify symptomatic and asymptomatic patients according to risk factors, and the role of the internist in the diagnosis and treatment of PAD and PVD. Although guidelines do exist, they are poorly applied and the group will aim to provide specific and relevant advice on risk factor control.

This announcement generated debate amongst Council members. The potential for conflict of interest was raised, and MKramer strongly advised caution in establishing a relationship with the pharmaceutical industry, questioning the funding issue, level of company involvement, and suggested an ethical charter.

The Executive Ctte highlighted the importance of taking forward the activities of the Working Group. This project is funded by B-MS, but the Chairman and members of the group have been selected by EFIM Executive, and it has already been agreed that everything they produce will be completely independent of B-MS. This has been accepted and agreed by the company. The aim now is to examine existing recommendations and produce a new Guideline document. To address the concerns of Council, it was agreed that EFIM would aim to establish an official charter to define Terms of Agreement with pharmaceutical companies who might approach the Federation with similar proposals in the future.

**Action: EFIM Executive**

11. Publication from the Medical Professionalism Project -The Alliance document (C Davidson)  
The publication of the Physicians Charter in 2002 raised the profile of EFIM in conjunction with the ACP and ABIM. The idea was first developed by Jaime Merino. However, the Charter only looked at the issue from the physicians point of view. There are 2 other components: society and the patients themselves. This is a wide subject, but the ACP and EFIM have now produced a follow up publication: 'Alliance Between Society and Medicine: The Public's Stake in Medical Professionalism' *JAMA* 2007; 298: 670-673 (circulated with the Agenda). It brings to a close the cooperation between ACP and EFIM, but it is hoped to look at these issues again possibly as a shared project with the Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine. This idea received support, particularly from H Bitterman (IS) and J Kellett (Eire). D Sereni (Foundation President) agreed this would be a worthwhile activity and will consider it for the future.  
**Action: D Sereni**
12. Finances (F Ferreira, Treasurer)  
The Financial Report was presented at the earlier General Assembly, but the Treasurer reminded Council members that there are still outstanding fees due from some national societies and he requested prompt payment to enable him to finalize the accounts for the year ending 2007. He also urged members to respond to his recent letter requesting the number of members per country. This information is important in order to prepare correct invoices for 2008.  
**Action: All**
13. EFIM Website [www.efim.org](http://www.efim.org) (C Davidson, Editor)  
Over the past 3 years, the Web Managers Santor have made considerable improvements in the appearance and overall content of the site. There are, however, ongoing problems in obtaining prompt updates with new material, in spite of a face-to-face meeting with the Director in May at their offices. 2211 internists have registered to the website, but national societies should ensure their websites contain a reciprocal link to EFIM. The I-media facility (recording parallel sessions at the EFIM-6 congress) proved highly successful and is still available online as a learning resource for all internists. We aim to offer this at EFIM-7 Rome. The level of interest in the European Diploma was lower than expected (4000 hits). EDIM sample questions will soon be added to the website. A new online learning programme is now available: 'Improvement the management of PAD'. CPD accreditation for this is expected shortly. National societies are encouraged to view and promote this new facility which is available to the 40,000 internists across Europe to further education. The Contract with Santor continues for a further 2 years, but if the service they provide does not improve other possibilities will need to be explored.  
**Action: SL/CD**
14. EFIM Young Internists Group (M Durusu Tanriover)  
The Young Internists website [www.younginternists.efim.org](http://www.younginternists.efim.org) launched in March has 297 registrants (27% France, 10% Algeria, 9% UK, 8% Portugal, 6% Spain, 5% Turkey). National societies are encouraged to raise awareness of the website via links from their society websites. YI contact names from countries that do not have representatives in the YI Group are still required. New material is required for the education section, neurology is an area that needs to be developed for interactive educational purposes. The European Diploma received the highest number of hits (729), the interactive section 674, and ESIM 583. Topic of the Month: contributions have been received from the EFIM Executive, but MDT requested contributions from other members to broaden the horizon. Santor is slow to respond to requests for regular updates etc and this is a continuing problem. The EFIM-7 congress in Rome will provide the opportunity for a separate Young Internists seminar to bring together YIs from across Europe. Publicity for this event is required through national YI society networks. The European Exchange Scheme is an area that is being taken forward by the YI Group in liaison with Jurg Schifferli (Chairman of this Scheme); they have recently received a positive response

from him to develop closer links and explore potential problems that may prevent YIs from pursuing this opportunity (language and funding have already been identified as important issues).

Research: 1 or 2 web-based surveys are planned for 2008 (following on from actions at the Clinical Research Course) and will be followed up at the YI meeting in Rome.

**Action: All to promote YI activities and website, and submit material for ‘Topic of the Month’**  
e-mail to: [mdurusu@hacettepe.edu.tr](mailto:mdurusu@hacettepe.edu.tr)

SL thanked MDT for her stimulating presentation and urged Council members to respond positively to the requests made. It has been agreed to set up a European Exchange Working Group comprised of YIs and EFIM Council members, coordinated by AMBaptista. Volunteers for this group are required. Contact: AM Baptista at e-mail: [ajgmb@iol.pt](mailto:ajgmb@iol.pt)

## 15. Reports from EFIM Working Groups

### 15.1 Political Issues (W Bauer)

The 2005 paper on Political Issues was translated into several languages and published by other national societies. Subsequently the group met in Copenhagen and again yesterday to assess the current situation. Members present were: S Unal(TK), J Koeberling (DE), H Bitterman(IS), M Kramer(NL), J Garcia Alegria(SP), A de Mon Soto(SP), and additionally JWF Elte (NL). An update of the original article is required, and it is proposed to develop the idea and produce an official EFIM document on the real core values of internal medicine in the healthcare system. Although this new approach will have links with the first paper, it will be different. The budget for this project has an upper limit of 5000 euro. In the event of costs exceeding the budget, the group has agreed to pay any additional amount themselves. The group will liaise by e-mail and has planned a meeting in Zürich on 29.2.08 to complete this mandate and WB plans to present it to Council in Rome for approval before submitting it for publication in EJIM and more widely, via websites and possibly with accompanying PPT presentations. These forthcoming activities were accepted and approved.

**Action: WB + group members**

### 15.2 EBIM: Competencies (R Palsson)

The first article published earlier this year was a Discussion paper defining core Competencies. These were: patient care, medical knowledge, communication skills, professionalism, ethical and legal issues, organizational planning and service management skills, as well as academic activities. To date, this has received no real feedback although it was discussed at the UEMS meeting in May.

The 2nd stage of the project is to Define what additional Competencies the internist needs. In different European countries there may be common issues or cultural differences. The EBIM agreed to circulate the Discussion paper to national societies requesting feedback and comments. J Kellett’s paper published recently in EJIM ‘*The diagnoses and co-morbidity encountered in the hospital practice of acute internal medicine*’ will also be circulated to invite feedback which will be helpful in defining the competencies. National societies will also be asked to outline the most common problems that internists face either in hospital or general practice. Responses received will help to define the work ahead. Subsequent discussion focused on the need to define what the internist is able to do with a list of the competencies that are currently practiced and training issues (the minimum requirement). R Palsson will Chair this project liaising with JKellett. Additional members are required and SL requested support from any members willing to participate to contact RP. E-mail: [runolfur@landspitali.is](mailto:runolfur@landspitali.is)

**Action: RP/JK and Potential new members of this group**

C Davidson spoke briefly at the White Book survey (the Structure and Practice of internal medicine) that was last circulated 5 years ago. Some details required for the Competencies project are available from that survey, but it is necessary to obtain up-to-date information. We therefore plan to examine existing data and request a review by national societies. CD urged Societies to respond positively and effectively when the new questionnaire is circulated. RP has identified a person at the University Hospital Reykjavik who will analyze the data. The estimated cost of this analysis will be 4000 euro.

**Action: RP**

15.3 Quality of Care (H van Hulsteijn)

Quality is the core business of internal medicine as defined by safety, effectiveness, efficiency and patient-centred medical care. Up to now, 3 quality instruments have been defined and published ([www.efim.org](http://www.efim.org)) for EFIM: peer inspection of practices ('rule of ten'), the Immediate discharge document ('rule of twelve'), and development of evidence-based guidelines based on the 'agree criteria' ([www.agreecollaboration.org](http://www.agreecollaboration.org)). A fourth instrument could be the measuring and checking of performance indicators for 'diabetes mellitus'.

However, a change of strategy is planned in order to define Quality and identify best practices. There followed some discussion about the need for this work to continue, but the general consensus was that the Quality group should pursue their objectives as the undesirable alternative would be for Governments to do it. It was proposed that the Competencies and Quality groups should liaise. SL suggested the involvement of Thomas Kjellstrom and also have this as a theme for a future congress. The plan and structure of activities will be discussed again at the Council meeting in Rome. There is an urgent need for new members of this group. Council members are requested to participate themselves or identify an appropriate person from their national society to join. New members to contact H van Hulsteijn at:

[L.vanhulsteijn@bernhoven.nl](mailto:L.vanhulsteijn@bernhoven.nl)

**Action: ALL**

15.4 Research L Guillevin (Chairman) will present his report at the next meeting.

SL announced the approval of the Executive to establish a new working group: 'Ethical Guidelines between EFIM and Industry' (see Item 10 above). M Kramer(NL) agreed to Chair the group and will be responsible for appointing members, including 1 from the Executive Ctte. He anticipates this will be a low budget exercise. MK will present his proposal in Rome. This action was approved by Council.

**Action: M Kramer**

Summarizing the activities of all working groups, SL agreed that all existing groups should continue as planned (in line with budget) and urged Council to provide the necessary support. Annual reports will be required from each group, and the Executive will decide when each has achieved their target and can be concluded. The Quality of Care group will continue after Rome if a sufficient number of new members can be appointed by the time of that meeting.

16. EFIM Meeting Locations and Events in 2008

16.1 Council members were asked for their input concerning the location of future Council meetings. The consensus view indicated a preference to rotate meetings and visit different countries, but accessibility and cost are important issues to consider. Dublin (Ireland) and Amsterdam (Netherlands) have both submitted bids to host the EFIM Council meeting in Autumn 2008. Tallinn(Estonia) and Reykjavik (Iceland) have both expressed interest to host the 2009 meeting. The Executive Committee will consider and decide on the locations.

**Action: Executive Ctte**

16.2 *Events in 2008:*

- Clinical Research Seminar Paris 3-5 April 2008
- Administrative Council at EFIM-7. Rome Wednesday 7 May 2008, 13.00 – 15.30 hr
- European School of Internal Medicine Portugal 31 August - 7 September 2008
- Administrative Council September/October 2008 – venue & dates to be announced

**Action: Executive Ctte**

17. Amendment to EFIM Bye-Laws

The following amendment to item 13.2 of the Bye-Laws was approved:

*The Executive Committee may decide to allocate an annual budget to active working groups who need expenses to cover the cost of telephone or face-to-face meeting. The necessity to reimburse these expenses should be assessed on an annual basis.*

The President thanked everyone for their contributions and support for the future of internal medicine. The meeting closed at 15.20 hr.