

Minutes of the ESN Membership General Business Meeting, Innsbruck August 25, 2005.

Begin: 6.30 p.m.

End: 7.30 p.m.

Attendance: 19 ESN members (the quorum would have been 10 members).

The Meeting was called properly and fulfilled the legal requirements.

Agenda:

President's Report

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Changes in the Constitution

Any other business

Before entering the agenda the outgoing president reported the early death of Volker Bigl, former ESN Secretary. Volker Bigl was pivotal in reconstructing neuroscience in the former DDR. As President of the University of Leipzig and as a scientist of international standing he played a central role in academia as well as in neuroscience. Being a strong and warm hearted personality his loss hurts especially much.

The outgoing president also announced the unanimous decision of council to elect Gianfrancesco Goracci from Perugia as the new ESN Honorary President. Juan Bolanos from Salamanca was elected new Honorary Secretary, John Clark, London was elected but did not accept on personal grounds to serve as Honorary Treasurer. The position of ESN treasurer will be filled by council action very soon.

The new President had asked the outgoing president to head the Business Meeting.

President's and Treasurer's report were given by Ferdinand Hucho and Gianfrancesco Goracci, respectively. In absence of the outgoing secretary Ferdinand Hucho read the secretary's report. The reports were approved by the assembly.

The following two changes of the ESN Constitution of (A) Clause H.1 and (B) Clause H.2 were accepted unanimously:

A) The number of council members shall be reduced to a minimum of 10, not exceeding 15 (by election, plus members co-opted by council). Consequently the new Clause is:

H.1 - "The Council should consist of European members, not less than 10, nor more than 15 being:

(a) the Honorary Officers specified in the preceding clause;

(b) not less than 7 members elected at the Annual Business Meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting; (unchanged)"

B) The second change accepted unanimously by the Business Meeting eliminated the requirement to announce the ballot for election of council members in J. Neurochem. in addition to the News Letter. Thus, the new Clause H.2 is:

"Elections to the Council should be by postal ballot. The Honorary Secretary should advertise for nominations in the Society Newsletter and ESN web-site. (unchanged)".

The General Business Meeting discussed the next ESN meeting to be held in 2007 at the latest. The outgoing president will contact Jaak Järv who had shown interest in organising an

ESN Small Conference in Tallin/Estonia. Juan Bolanos also had shown interest in organizing an ESN Meeting. And finally Elisabeth Bock and Christiane Richter-Landsberg offered to organise a joint meeting.

Finally it was recalled that we owe Volker Neuhoff thanks for his endowment making the ESN Young Scientist Lecturer Awards possible.

F. Hucho, outgoing ESN president