

FORE MEETING – MADRID

Key issues for the EFO board and EFO members

1. Membership of FORE – 20 applications from 15 countries
2. What are criteria for membership? There is concern that some FORE members may be more physiotherapy than osteopathy. So, a change to membership conditions is required. The FORE membership working group proposed a rewording for a requirement to have a majority membership of osteopaths, 75%, with a possible view to move to full osteopathic membership over a given time frame. New applications for membership still needs to be agreed but could include a commitment to adopt the aims and objectives of FORE. This remains a work in progress with the working group and they will report back at next meeting of FORE.
3. EFO and FORE possible merger – views of FORE – the presentation outlined a very detailed approach that would need to be taken to achieve a merger. This would probably entail the employment of project manager and or a project management team. The costs would be high. It might also divert each organisation from its normal activities as action was focussed on merger issues. View seems to be that we continue under MOU but look to develop the MOU into a more detailed agreement and look to work on more joint projects so we understand each other more clearly. Needs to include a note that merger would only be considered at a future date if future working projects between EFO and FORE work out successfully. FORE will recommend formation of joint working group at next EFO/FORE meeting in London on October 2010 to consider a more detailed MOU (memorandum of understanding)
4. SOPE – Feedback was collected by Ton Kouwenberg for consideration
5. CEN – Considered costing proposals from Bulgaria, Austria, Switzerland and Sweden. Costs in Sweden and Switzerland are prohibitive. Bulgaria lacks experience but Austria has significant experience and credibility in Europe. Costs for Austria are expected to be Euros 12,100.00 plus VAT per annum over an estimated 3 years. Some FORE members seem interested in pursuing this project others less so. We will consider at the EFO/FORE meeting on October 18 in London. My view is that if we can keep costs at the Euros 12,000.00 per annum we should support a project to tackle this. We then have to consider how this is paid for and that is a very difficult discussion.
6. EROP – I outlined the discussion we had with EROP and that the EFO and EROP were sharing documents to see if there was common ground for future working relationships. I then outlined that EROP had agreed that I should extend such an invitation to FORE. I did this and FORE would like to open discussions with FORE. I shall now introduce Jean Michel Bernard to the FORE secretariat.

We will need an EFO board meeting before October 18 to discuss our position on key issues. We will also need to agree an agenda for that meeting. I suggest the following

- a) EROP
- b) CEN
- c) Scope of practice
- d) Updates from EFO and FORE
- e) Possible merger of EFO and FORE