



European Chapter
International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology
E.C. –I.F.C.N.



Dear Colleagues,

I am hereby writing you to present a problem we are facing in the European Chapter and to share with you some personal ideas on how to solve it, as well as additional reflections stemming from my new position of president-elect of IFCN for the 2010-2014 fiscal period.

As you might remember, 3 out of 4 members of the present EC-ExCo (Luis, Anders and myself) have been elected during the Stockholm meeting held in May 2005. This means that our 'natural' 4-year fiscal period has expired. The present Chapter's Statutes dictate the following rules:

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5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EC-IFCN (EC-EXCO)

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2. *At each European Congress and Advanced Courses of CN, relevant election of the EC-EXCO members... is performed by the EC General Assembly... at intervals of not more than 2 years. ...The chairman and one EC-EXCO-member is elected at one time and the Secretary/treasurer and the other EC-EXCO-member at the next election. Thus, half of the EC-EXCO-members will be renewed at each election.*

3. *Elected EC-EXCO officers will serve a term of 4 years and will be eligible for re-election once. The maximum term of office for EC-EXCO officers and members-at-large is thus 8 years no matter if served consecutively or in non-consecutive years.*

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7. THE EC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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3. *The EC General Assembly is bound to meet once every two years at the place and date fixed for the ECCN and Advanced Courses... The EC General Assembly elects the EC-EXCO in the following sequence: 1) Chairman or Treasurer/Secretary 2) one Member-at large.*

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8. *Amending of bylaws*

The bylaws can be modified by a majority vote of the EC-General Assembly and ratification of the bylaws by the IFCN Council.

The problem we are facing is that -- because the timing of the European Meetings has been profoundly modified in recent years in order to avoid overlap with other IFCN initiatives (i.e. Istanbul was held in 2008 instead of 2007 in order not to overlap with Edinburgh, Rome will be held in 2011 instead of 2010 in order not to overlap with Kobe etc.) -- the required 4 years cycle for having a vote at the EC General Assembly is no more available, nor it seems feasible to renew only two officers at each Congress. In the Statutes there is no mention on the possibility of launching a postal or email vote for the renewal of all the EC-ExCo and for modifying By-Laws on this matter, since it only dictates that they should be first accepted by vote at the General Assembly (which, again cannot be held before Rome 2011) and approved by the IFCN Council (this rule, actually, is completely obsolete because the IFCN has erased the IFCN Council which does not exist any longer).

Now, I only see two possibilities: 1) Modify two by-laws of the Statutes, one on the approval of Statutes changes and the other on the election procedures, accepting the idea in both cases of a postal or email vote for any number of officers, whenever the European Congress or Advanced Course cannot remain within the two-year cycle; we might vote on new By-Laws by postal or email ballot; 2) maintaining the present ExCo until the Rome Congress 2011 and vote there both for the new Officers and for By-Laws modifications.

My personal opinion is in favour of solution 1) because it would help to definitely clear-up a pending problem which otherwise will continue as a painful trigger in the activity of the EC. A further reason to favour the first solution is that I am considering retiring from my present chairmanship of the European Chapter in order to have a better view of the IFCN general situation for future actions to be launched in the period during which I'll have the honour to keep the IFCN presidency. These two concomitant factors (expired present ExCo and retired chairman) should be enough to launch a renovation campaign on all the above items.

The President and IFCN-ExCo Members have been duly informed about this problem. Prof. Shibasaki has kindly replied providing his personal opinion leaving the Chapter to take the final decision even by modifying the Bay-Laws. He further reminded that we will have to amend our Statutes By-Laws VIII anyway because the IFCN Council no longer exists.

At this point I would suggest to go through a step-wise procedures consisting in 3 separate phases:

Phase A) To explore whether Delegates would agree to a change in the Statutes in order to allow postal or email ballot in the EC. **This should be done within the end of june 2009.** After this step, we should move to the following phase

Phase B) The present EC ExCo will prepare and circulate **within the end of July 2009** a document proposing all the relevant Statutes modification to be discussed until the majority (hopefully a unanimous approval) is reached and a final vote is expressed (maybe this should then be approved by the IFCN Board I suppose) **within the end of setpember 2009.** After this step we should move to the following phase.

Phase C) Finally, we should launch the a nomination campaign in which Candidates will be nominated by the European Societies for the three available positions in the new ExCo. Nomination and email vote will probably take some time, but it might be reasonably carried out **within the end of November 2009.** I should hereby remind that Prof. Jonathan Cole from U.K. has been recently elected as Member-at-large and will continue to serve also in the next ExCo while both Prof. Luis Garcia-Larrea and Prof. Anders Fuglsang-Frederiksen have served only for one 4-year fiscal period and are therefore re-eligible according to the Statutes).

The whole procedure – if we decide to move soon - can be completed by the end of this year so that the European Chapter can start with a new Exby the end of 2009.

Waiting for your reply, opinions and suggestions, please accept my best personal greetings and deep thanks for having given me the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the European Chapter, which I tried to do with the best of my enthusiasm and dedication, fully supported by Teresa, Luis (great secretary/treasurer) Anders and Jonathan during these four years.

Truly Yours

Paolo

Rome, June 15 2009