

The 10th General Assembly of the Balkan Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Surgery was held on Saturday, June 4, 2016, between 14.00 and 15.00, in HALL BSALLA ABRET during the 10th Balkan Congress of ORL-HNS in Tirana, Albania.

The President Dr. Suela Sallavaci, the General Secretary Dr. Cem Uzun, Board Members Dr. Vladan Knezevic, Dr. Jasminka Alagic-Smailbegovic, Dr. Adem Limani, Dr. Stefanos Triaridis, Dr. M. Tayyar Kalcioğlu, Dr. Rajko Jovic, Dr. Rumen Benchev, Honorary President Dr. Eugene Myers, Honorary Member Dr. Dan Fliss, Dr. Vasileios Danielides, Dr. Iordanis Konstantinidis, Dr. Michael Katotomichelakis (Greece), Dr. Frodita Jakimovska (Skopje), Dr. Milan Stankovic (Serbia), Dr. Mario Milkov, Dr. Pavel Dimov (Bulgaria), Dr. Taner Erdag, Dr. Babur Kucuk (Turkey), and Dr. Sekib Umihanic attended to the meeting.

According to the agenda:

1. Welcome and confirmation of the agenda of the General Assembly

The General Secretary Dr. Uzun opened the meeting welcoming all participants attending 10th General Assembly of the Balkan Society of ORL & HNS and gave information about the agenda. The General Assembly unanimously elected Dr. Uzun as President and Dr. Triaridis as Secretary of the Assembly. The Assembly confirmed the agenda and added as additional topic to be discussed, the proposal of the PanHellenic Society of Otolaryngology to honor Prof. Helidonis Emmanuel as Honorary Member of the Balkan Society of ORL & HNS.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 9th General Assembly & Board Meeting held during 2014 Balkan Congress in Budva

The General Secretary Dr. Uzun summarized the minutes of the 9th General Assembly & Board Meeting in Budva (registration of Society was assigned to Prof. Onerci, election of Prof. Uzun as General Secretary for 8 years, History of Society by Prof. Muhlfay, each National Society 100 Euros per year to Balkan Society, if Congress profitable → 1000 Euro to Society, Slovenia, Croatia and Moldavia as attached countries, Balkan School, ect). Minutes of the 9th General Assembly & Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Board Meetings held during 2015 European Congress in Prague and Turkish National Congresses 2014 & 2015 in Antalya

The General Secretary Dr. Uzun summarized the minutes of the 2014 Balkan School (change of bylaws, next congress, recommend UEMS, website, exchange programs, 2 round tables at Prague, Board Meeting, Dr. Kalcioğlu replaces Dr. Uzun as Board member of Turkey after his election as General Secretary) of the Board Meeting during 2015 European Congress in Prague (Balkan School, Dr. Kalcioğlu was assigned the webpage of the Society, Honorary membership to Prof. Onerci, lecture established to the memory of Prof. Karcev, Journal committee was introduced to prepare the proposal for Balkan ORL journal) Antalya 2015 Balkan School (webpage, facebook page). Minutes of the 2014 Balkan School, Board Meeting in Prague and 2015 Balkan School were unanimously approved.

4 & 5. Report of the President, describing the activities of the Society in the period June 2014 – 2016 and Report from the Secretary & Treasurer.

Dr. Sallavaci and subsequently Dr. Uzun, described in details the activities of the Society over the preceding two years (collaboration between national societies, registration of the Balkan Society of ORL & HNS as an international society, participation at the Balkan school 2014 & 2015 in Antalya, Bosnia & Greek national congresses, Istanbul live surgery course). These reports were both unanimously approved.

6. Demonstration of Society's website by Prof. Kalcioğlu

7. Demonstration of Society's FB page by Prof. Uzun

8. Presentations by candidate countries for the future Balkan Congresses (2018 & 2020)

No official presentation from candidate country was made as Bosnia and FYROM were reluctant to officially propose hosting of the next Balkan congress. Following proposal by Dr. Triaridis and detailed discussion it was unanimously accepted to set the minimum required criteria to guarantee success of future Balkan congresses in view of participation of all countries and scientific success. It was unanimously decided that every official proposal for organizing future congress should be accompanied by a detailed file/arrangements to fulfill all the proposed and unanimously accepted criteria:

- i. accessibility to the host town/city by an international road and an international airport,
- ii. infrastructure of the host town/city to support such event (hotels, conference center, ect),
- iii. agreement for financial support by the local Otolaryngology society/Ministry of Health to cover potential budget excess and guarantee financial viability of the event, thus avoid the possibility of future cancellation,
- iv. political stability to guarantee security of all participants,
- v. accessibility to a tertiary hospital if any participant needs medical attention during the event.

As Bosnia and FYROM were until the end of the Assembly reluctant to propose for the 2018 congress, it was unanimously decided for the hosting of future Balkan congresses that it will restart the sequence of the larger countries already hosted in the past the Balkan congress with the previous order (Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Serbia, Romania) starting from Bulgaria for the 2018 congress and Turkey for the 2020 congress. Bulgaria accepted to organize the 2018 congress and it was decided to wait until the end of June in case Bosnia or FYROM submitted an official proposal (initially was stated within two weeks and then extended till end of June). It was agreed that these national societies who have not organized the Balkan congress should not be excluded from hosting future congresses but for this to be feasible they have to submit an official detailed proposal/file to the Board to guarantee fulfilment of the mutually agreed minimum requirements.

9. Election of the new President and Vice-President

Election did not take place.

10. Prospect on the Society's activities (schools, journal, new members, next board meetings, etc)

The Assembly was informed by Dr. Kucuk for the planning of the Ankara Cadaver Center in Turkey that will facilitate hands on workshops for ORL & HNS.

11. Changes to the constitution for official registration (society to association; by laws to statute;...and previously approved changes at board meetings)

This was not discussed in the General Assembly but in the Board meeting on the previous day (3rd of June)

12. Any further matter to be discussed

The PanHellenic Society of Otolaryngology proposed the nomination of Professor Emeritus Emmanuel Helidonis as Honorary Member of the Balkan Society of ORL & HNS and this proposal was also supported by Albania, Turkey and Bulgaria (according to bylaws) and was unanimously approved by the General Assembly. The General Assembly also approved the proposed by the PanHellenic Society of Otolaryngology placement of Prof. Triaridis as the Board member of Greece in the Balkan Board for the next two years.

13. Closing of the General Assembly