



General Assembly 2006

Warsaw, Poland, Friday 3 November 2006

15.30 – 18.00

ANNUAL REPORT 2005 – 2006

From Munich to Warsaw

1. Introduction

The General Assembly / Together We Are Stronger meeting (GA/TWAS) took place in Munich from 14 – 16 October 2005. The TWAS meetings were both plenary and in simultaneous workshops and were very inspiring.

In 2006 the Polish Diabetes Association celebrated its 25th Anniversary which was for them one of the reasons why they invited IDF Europe to come to Poland and to be the host of the 2006 GA/TWAS in Warsaw from 3-5 November 2006.

It should be mentioned that the oldest diabetes association in the world (the Portuguese Diabetes Association) celebrated its 80th Anniversary in May 2006. Congratulations to these two very active organisations!

When looking through the IDF Newsletters that were published in 2005 and 2006 and taking into consideration the many contacts of the Board members and the office with our member associations one can only conclude that most of the work of what IDF Europe stands for is being done by the member associations at their own national level.

Apart from the Board's activities on the level of the European Union, the World Health Organisation, the Council of Europe, the Corporate Partners and the sub-regions of the Federation, the work at national level has a much more direct impact on the lives of people with diabetes. For that reason the Board would like to thank the ten thousands of volunteers within the member associations for their continuous efforts to improve the lives of people with diabetes in order to realize that every person with diabetes can manage his/her disease and will be recognized as a full member of society. Special thanks to the healthcare professionals who give so much spare time for the sake of diabetes and diabetes associations.

The Board consisted of the same persons as in the previous period (2004-2005) as Max Hansen was re-elected as member of the Board and appointed by the Board as treasurer. Unfortunately in February the Board had to make the decision to appoint Chris Delicata as its acting treasurer, because the physical condition of Max Hansen no longer allowed him to fulfil the necessary duties.



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International Diabetes Federation
European Region

The main tasks are (summarized):

Wim Wientjens (President)

spokesman, Corporate Partners,
office, member Board of management
IDF Global

Tony O'Sullivan (President-Elect)

deputy-president, contents meetings

Max Hansen (Treasurer, Secretary)

finances (until February 2006)

Vida Augustiniene

Central European Countries

Chris Delicata

insurances, discrimination, finances
(as of February 2006)

Michael Hall

EU Affairs, National Diabetes
Programmes

Helmut Henrichs

EASD, EURADIA, editorial committees

Laszlo Madacsy

Central European Countries, DEPAC

Marjatta Stenius - Kaukonen

EU Affairs, Council of Europe, Eastern
European Countries

Itamar Raz

country representative IDF Global

The way of working has not been changed, meaning:

- shared responsibility
- according to individual, approved portfolio's
- no exclusivity on the individual portfolio's for anyone.

The effectiveness and efficiency has been proven and a continuation of this working method will undoubtedly be the case.

2. EU and other European Affairs

During the first six months of 2006 it was Austria's government that had to fulfil the duties of the EU Presidency. IDF Europe was very fortunate with the specific attention for diabetes, which resulted in the Vienna Conference on the Prevention of type 2 diabetes (Vienna, 15-16 February 2006). The Organising Committee of the Conference included participants from IDF Europe, FEND and EASD. One of the preparatory actions of IDF Europe and FEND was the realization of an Audit among the 25 European Union states, which gave an overview of the situation in the respective countries on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diabetes.

The final conclusion of the Conference was that the European Union should call for a specific strategy for diabetes, and called on the European Health Ministers to request the European Commission to identify diabetes as a public health challenge in Europe. They were very positive and promising conclusions after a successful conference. On the other hand we should not forget to mention that the revised draft EU budgets as far as public health is concerned were very much reduced, and this would not be beneficial to the Commissions development of the Conclusions on Diabetes.



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Together with the European Heart Network, FEND and the European Cancer Society IDF Europe has taken the necessary actions (Press release and other actions towards the European Parliament in order to improve the proposed budgetary revision).

The first Written EU Parliamentary Declaration that was tabled in 2006 was the initiative of four Members of Parliament (John Bowis, Dorette Corbey, Karin Scheele and Georgs Andrejevs) and was a Declaration specifically about diabetes. The Declaration was signed by a large majority of the 732 MEP's within the timeframe of three months (a total of 423 signatures were counted). This will enable MEP's to follow up the issues about diabetes and ask the Commission and the Council of Ministers what actions have been taken with regards to the specific recommendations of the Declaration.

In order to make sure that more than 50% of all MEP's would sign the Declaration, IDF Europe organised a special EU training workshop for its member associations in Brussels on 22-23 March. Part of the training was lobbying MEP's in the Parliament, which was very successful and effective.

Much of the preparation for the Declaration, the Austrian Expert Conference and the behind the scenes work with the officials of the Council of Ministers was co-ordinated by a small working group of IDF Europe representatives and other key European groups such as the Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes and the European Primary Care Diabetes group. This group will continue to work together to ensure that diabetes remains a priority on the EU agenda.

Finland has taken over the EU Presidency from Austria on 1 July 2006. An important theme of this presidency is "health in all policies", which has a direct relevance to diabetes: a workshop on diabetes and heart disease was organised in September and our president was asked to chair one of the meetings. In addition Finland focussed on the new EU Public Health programme, medical devices, diet and physical activity and the 7th EU Research Framework programme. These activities will give IDF Europe a basis to continue to push for a clear EU Diabetes Strategy and a Council Recommendation for diabetes prevention, diagnosis and control.

In February 2006 IDF Europe was recognised by the Council of Europe (this is an institution that stands apart from the European Union, and represents delegations from 46 European National Parliaments) as a so called INGO (an International Non Governmental Organization) which enables IDF Europe to take part in future meetings on matters that are related to health and social issues.



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IDF Europe is a very active member in the very important discussions about ensuring that patients are better informed. The president of IDF Europe is part of the EU Working group on information to Patients on Pharmaceuticals, a working group chaired by DG Health and Consumer Protection and by DG Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission. Our president is also member of the EMEA/CHMP Working Group with Patients' Organizations. EMEA is the European Medicines Agency, the Evaluation Unit of Medicines for Human Use.

The Geneva Social Observatory (GSO) asked us to be involved in two Round Tables of GSO. One on Diabetes in the Workplace; a second one on The Global Impact of Diabetes on Children and Families. One of the goals of GSO is better co-operation and co-ordination between several institutions in Geneva.

In February 2006 consultations took place under the umbrella of the World Health organisation (WHO) as preparation for the Conference of European Ministers of Health. The aim was to bring Non Governmental organisations (like IDF Europe) together to establish what, from an NGO perspective, should be the primary focus and priority for actions Health Ministers should agree upon during the Ministerial Conference in Istanbul from 15-17 November 2006. It will be focussing on the prevention of obesity and its related disorders.

3. Sub regional activities

a. Nordic Countries Meeting

The Nordic Countries Meeting (for the first time officially endorsed by IDF Europe and IDF President in attendance) was held from 8-10 June in Torshavn on the Faroe Islands (the Faroe Islands have applied for IDF membership as of December 2006). Although some parts of the programme could not be realized because of the late arrival of some of the participants due to the bad weather it included topics such as the effect of physical activities, insulin pump, action plans, new ideas and publications and psycho-social aspects. The next meeting will be held in Copenhagen, 16-19 August 2007.

b. DEPAC and Central European Countries Meeting(CEC)

The fifth Diabetes Experts' Panel from Accessing Countries (DEPAC) meeting was held on 30 March – 1 April 2006 in Riga (Latvia). Some 27 representatives from IDF member associations in Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Slovakia participated in the conference. Presentations from the various organizations for people with diabetes were made, the development of Action Plans was discussed and there was a discussion on financial consequences of high quality diabetes care. Contradictions in the short- and long-term interest and lack of accurate data



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are both characteristic in DEPAAC countries at the moment. The sixth DEPAAC meeting was held 26-28 October 2006 in Budapest (Hungary).

Within IDF Europe we consider 16 countries as the Central European Countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

The CEC meeting in 2005 took place in October and was held in Prague. The next CEC meeting will be held on 11 November 2006 in Belgrade, Serbia. Two main topics will be discussed: education of diabetes patients and prevention of type 2, through lifestyle changes.

c. Eastern European Countries Meeting (EEC)

Within IDF Europe we consider 9 countries as the Eastern European Countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The fourth Eastern European Countries (EEC) meeting was held in Tbilisi (Georgia) on 12-13 May 2006. The event, very well organized by the Georgian Diabetes Association with the support of the East European branch of Novo Nordisk A/S, was a big success. The First Lady of Georgia, Mrs Sandra Roelofs, was present at the official opening and received from the president of IDF Europe the official pin of the UN Resolution on diabetes 2007.

Topics during the meeting included : diabetes in disadvantaged communities, paradoxes of diabetes diagnostics and management, therapeutic patient education, burning issues, Model Law and CIS developments, the UN Resolution on diabetes, needs for self monitoring of urine glucose and its limitations, the Global DAWN Summit and the Therapeutic Patient Education meeting in Florence, April 2006.

After evaluation of the 4th EEC meeting in Georgia the Board was of the opinion that more specific attention should be given to the Eastern European Countries of our Region, by means of a special Task Force on Eastern Europe under the direct leadership of Tony O'Sullivan and with the support of other organizations such as FEND, PCDE and WHO Europe.

The first meeting of the Task Force will be held in the second part of 2006.

The fifth EEC meeting will be held in Kazakhstan in 2007.

4. Prediabetes

IDF Europe started the initiative of Gluco-forum in July 2004. A steering group, chaired by Michael Hall, also involving other organisations, such as FEND and the EU Diabetes Working group initiated a lot of activities. A survey was held in awareness and understanding pre-diabetes in five European countries. The paper "Pre-diabetes essential action: A European perspective" was published in "Diabetes and Metabolism" in December 2005. This paper included an algorithm which is intended to help in the management of pre-diabetes.



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The website www.glucoforum.org was launched and included public and healthcare professional sections, dedicated to the identification and management of pre-diabetes.

A poster, leaflet, information cards and colour-coded waist measurement tapes to show risk are now available. The initiatives of Gluco-forum were brought to the attention of the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and health as one of IDF Europe's baseline activities.

5. Communication within IDF Europe

The success of the Association Village in Athens in September 2005, during the EASD Conference was followed by another Association Village in September 2006 in Copenhagen. Also during the IDF Congress 2006 in South Africa a big Association Village will be organized once again.

Other activities which are worth mentioning include:

- the activities organized for World Diabetes Day, and about which we reported in our Newsletters
- the Press Conference in the European Parliament on the occasion of the Written EU Declaration, on 19 April 2006.

The IDF newsletters (editions 10, 11 and 12) were published in October 2005, January 2006 and July 2006 (with 28 different contributions from our member associations), and the third edition of the EU Newsflash appeared in June 2006. The newsletters have been translated into Russian and published on the website of Idf Europe.

Upon the initiative of IDF Europe the official publication of the IDF, Diabetes Voice, will be published in Russian shortly and made available electronically.

6. Office IDF Europe

The Office of IDF Europe (Lex Herrebrugh, Regional Office Manager and Lala Rabemananjara, assistant to the ROM) facilitated the activities of the Federation. Besides these activities of the Federation the necessary contacts were maintained with other Non Governmental Organizations, mostly based in Brussels, in order to follow up on activities that were related to the European Union (Written EU Parliamentary Declaration, Vienna Conference, EU Platform on Diet, Health and Physical Activity) and regular contacts with the Corporate Partners were scheduled.

The office was assisted by three external consultants (Anja Strootker, Debra Lord and Louise Fox) who, with the financial support of some of our Corporate Partners, were able to assist on EU Affairs, Glucoforum activities and the European activities that were directly related to IDF Global's mission to achieve a United Nations Resolution (UNite for Diabetes) by November 2007.



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In 2006 a small Task Force was formed in order to look at the future needs for the office as far as manpower is concerned (related to the Vision and Mission of the Federation). The Task Force, which consisted of managers from the UK, Finland, Denmark and Lex Herrebrugh advised the Board on this issue. Final decisions will be made after the General Assembly in Warsaw, Poland.

7. Finances

During the General Assembly in Warsaw, 3 November 2006, the financial report 2005 was presented separately. IDF Europe ended the year 2005 with a positive balance of € 124.848 (the year 2004 ended with a surplus of almost € 28.000).

The conclusion at the end of this triennium is that the financial situation of IDF Europe is stable and that we can expect a balance of income and expenses in the next triennium as well.

IDF Europe receives a yearly payment of € 15.000 from IDF Global and fees from its Corporate Partners. We are also very happy with the direct support from a small number of member associations, and we hope that in future more member associations will support IDF Europe directly for its increasing activities.

8. Partnerships

From the former paragraph it is apparent that IDF Europe's activities are very much dependent on the support of our member associations and Corporate Partners. IDF Europe did not receive any financial support from governments nor from the European Union.

That means, that without the (financial) support from our Corporate Partners (from their headquarters as well as from their affiliates) we would have been extremely restricted in our activities.

At the end of this triennium the following 15 companies were Corporate Partners of IDF Europe (in alphabetical order):

AstraZeneca, Bayer, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, LifeScan, Medtronic, Merck Santé, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pernod Ricard, Pfizer Europe, Roche Diagnostics, Sanofi Aventis and Servier.

Since the General Assembly in Munich in October 2005 three meetings with the Corporate Partners were held: 1 December 2005, 28 March 2006 and 22 September 2006.

We are all of them very thankful for making our activities possible.



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9. Closing remarks

From the previous paragraphs we conclude that 2005-2006 was once again an extremely energetic and positive year.

Another IDF triennium is almost completed, also within the European region. In Cape Town IDF Europe's chair will change hands from Wim Wientjens to Tony O'Sullivan.

It is the Board's opinion that in the past three years many things have changed:

- the financial situation has improved considerably, thanks to an increase of the number of our Corporate Partners
- IDF Europe has become a stable and trusted partner of many (mainly Brussels based) non governmental institutions
- Intensified sub-regional activities and actions in the direction of the member associations, especially those who still have to cope with a lack of basic needs and skills

The Board of IDF Europe wants to say thank you

- in particular to its President Wim Wientjens for his leadership, his endurance and patience and
- also in general to all those who have worked so hard (volunteers and office) for the benefit of all people with (pre-) diabetes in Europe.

The Board of IDF Europe