

President's Report to the Council

29 April 2009

The ECCE Executive met in Paris on 25 April, and a COA meeting was also held at this time. The ECCE Executive welcomed Dr Arvid Thorkeldsen as Chair COA.

The ECCE is currently looking at the process of upgrading Candidate Member status of ENQA to full membership, as supported both by the ECCE General Council and by the ECU. We will complete our documentation for full membership in the next few months, and we should be in a position to undergo an evaluation event by ENQA in early 2010. The application fee for full membership is €30K, and the Executive will make the recommendation to ECCE Council in November that half of this amount is met by ECCE funds. This will leave a balance of €15K (less the DCA contribution) which, subject to approval of ECCE in contributing €15K, will mean a request to ECU for funds of approximately €13K towards late 2009/early2010. A formal request, if appropriate, will follow to ECU after the ECCE meeting in November.

The CCEI will hold its general meeting at WFC in Montreal in early May. The Executive were informed of the situation regarding the position of CCE-US. Given the uncertainty over this matter, the ECCE has not paid its annual subscription to CCEI. We await information of how this situation will be resolved, at which time payment will be made.

The ECCE intends to hold another training event for potential Evaluation Team members in early September in Paris. The associations through the ECU have been invited to send representatives. This is an important event to train personnel and ensure that we have sufficient people to draw on for the evaluation visits. As the number of institutions in Europe grows, and evaluation visits can take anything up to a week away from practice, we need to recruit enough people to share the load.

Following on from this, the work of the COA is steadily increasing and we have recognised the need to put aside more time for the COA to consider applications from institutions. At the COA in Paris, consideration was given to the re-accreditation of IFEC, and extension of accreditation to the site in Toulouse, application for accredited status by Durban University of Technology and an application for candidate status by the McTimoney College, Oxford, UK.

The ECCE has become aware of developments under the auspices of CEN to establish standards of chiropractic practice in Europe. The ECCE was however unaware that this included standards of undergraduate chiropractic education and training in Europe. The position of the ECCE is that there is, and in the future should only be one set of standards. Establishment of another set of standards is nonsensical, and would lead to confusion and a potential undermining of the ECCE standards.

Finally, there are a number of vacancies that will occur in ECCE in November 2009. Of these, my membership of ECCE will cease and I will step down as President of ECCE at the end of the year. The current Vice-President is Dr Tim Raven, and it is the intention of the Executive to nominate him as the next President. There may of course be other nominations from the ECCE Council, and the election to decide the next President will be held at the Council meeting in November. I will continue on ECCE Council and Executive for one year (2010) in the capacity of Past President.

As always, the ECCE expresses its gratitude and sincere appreciation to the ECU for its continued support for the ECCE. .

JE Bolton, ECCE President.