



## **Draft Minutes RtD-E Conference Mondorf-Les-Bains September 2011**

- 1 Welcome and Introduction** to Agenda by Aycke Smook, President
  - 1.1 To vote on a proposed change to article 4.1 of the Constitution - a fundamental change to the basic principles of RtD-E which would enable RtD-E to accept any society that meets the eligibility criteria for the WF without that society being a member of the WF
  - 1.2 To consider NGO status
  - 1.3 To create better communication between societies in all European countries to achieve a compact and unified organisation.
  
- 2 Present**

See delegate list

Voting Delegates: ADMD-L, ADMD-B, De Einder, Dignitas, EVD, EXIT-Deutsch Schweiz, EXIT-Italia, Exit-ADMD Suisse Romande, FATE, FRVD, Libera Uscita, RTVD, SOARS.
  
- 3 Minutes of Frankfurt Meeting 2009**

Accepted by the meeting with amendments on p4 line 23 by J. Herremans and on page 5 line 28 by M. Irwin.
  
- 4 New Board Members**

Nathalie Andrews ADMD-B and Mireille Kies ADMD-L

An invitation was extended to Member Societies to propose a Board Member with financial skills

Karen Sanders (DID) was unable to remain on the Board as DID (UK) left WF

Liz Nichols (FATE) stood down due to other commitments.
  
- 5 NGO Status**
  - 5.1 Differing views expressed as to whether this would be possible; whether it would be costly financially and whether subsidies might ultimately be available.
  - 5.2 If achieved, perhaps the EF would be able to exert greater pressure.
  
- 6 An Independent RTE-Europe**
  - 6.1 The arguments against separating from the WF are summarised as follows:
    - 6.1.1 Risk of endangering WF and diminishing the world movement
    - 6.1.2 Strategically smaller associations are generally weaker
    - 6.1.3 The possibility that some societies might leave the WF with this change.
  - 6.2 The possible advantages for separating from the WF are summarised below:
    - 6.2.1 Being open to all societies with the same criteria for eligibility as for WF
    - 6.2.2 Not necessary to be a member of WF
    - 6.2.3 Arguably a greater possibility of gaining NGO status
    - 6.2.4 To strengthen RtD-E without paying more
    - 6.2.5 Relinking of DGHS to RtD-E.
  - 6.3 Relating to 1.3 above:

Countries/societies have different objectives and characters which need to be accepted and the new Board needs to re-unite the EF

**The vote to change Constitution 4.1 was passed** (3 abstained - ADMD-B, Libera Uscita, EXIT-DS)

## 7 Exit-Italia Proposals

Appreciation expressed for these proposals and the opportunity for wide reaching discussions

### 7.1 1<sup>st</sup> Proposal - Direction of EU Federation

**Rejected.**

### 7.2 2<sup>nd</sup> Proposal - Financial Arrangements

7.2.1 Exit-Italia proposed that 1% - 5% of Society income should be paid in fees - 60% to RtDE and 40% to WF

7.2.2 5% was considered too high a subscription for large societies so a cap of €2000 was suggested

7.2.3 ADMD-L suggested giving 2% to RTDE and 1% to WF

7.2.4 In 2009 B. Sutter put forward a financial model for RtD-E has this been looked at?

7.2.5 Will the WF cease to demand fees from European societies?

7.2.6 If EF gives money to WF would DGHS still rejoin EF?

7.2.7 What would the fees be used for?

7.2.8 How will the fees be organised in the future?

7.2.9 Will the new Board be responsible for collecting fees?

7.2.10 Are Societies prepared to pay the amount they usually give to WF to EF instead? and would the WF accept this arrangement?

7.2.11 How much do WF and EF need to do what they want?

7.2.12 Should Societies decide re own membership of WF and EF and pay separate fees?

7.2.13 Could Societies pay for nominated projects instead of a fee per member?

Following lengthy discussions during which the above questions were raised it was decided that **the President should negotiate financial arrangements with WF and put forward further propositions for member societies to consider.**

### 7.3 3<sup>rd</sup> Proposal - Biennial Meetings

**Part of this proposal was accepted:** ie if a small organisation would like to host a biennial meeting - perhaps in order to gain higher visibility in their country for the movement and the society, this should be put forward to the Board for consideration as a project proposal.

## 8 Projects

8.1 No projects in last two years. WF offered \$5,000 but no proposals received.

8.2 Should project proposals originate with the Board or Societies?

8.3 A suggestion put forward that each society should decide on a project.

Ideas - website, lobbying, education - eg with [www.kaospilot.dk](http://www.kaospilot.dk), legal campaigns.

8.4 Established societies should fund own projects.

8.6 FRVD, EVD, RTVD want to support the Baltic States – they will submit a project brief

8.7 Are there people prepared to speak at Medical Conferences?

8.8 Help and support is needed for the creation of new societies eg Portugal.

8.9 Project brief must include aims, objectives, outcomes and budget and the results should preferably benefit more than one society.

8.10 Invitation to Societies to submit projects for wider discussion and approval.

## **9 Press Releases and Communication**

- 9.1 RtD-E issued a statement supporting Exit Italia over the proposed new law which was circulated and available on the website.
- 9.2 A suggestion was made that support should be offered (not necessarily financial) when specific difficulties arise for member societies eg Libby Wilson and Michael Irwin.
- 9.3 Where relevant cases are brought to European Court of Human Rights - a request was made that all societies are notified of the key benefits of any decisions or rulings made.
- 9.4 Jacqueline Herremans (ADMD-B) offered to write a short accessible statement on the Haas and Pretty cases to be circulated to all societies.

## **10 World Federation**

- 10.1 Does the change to RtD-E Constitution go against WF by-laws?
- 10.2 What will be the new relationship with the WF?
- 10.3 It appears that the WF plan is to strengthen organisations on each continent, with a small WF Board and one representative from each continent on the Board
- 10.4 One reason for DGHS leaving was that Membership Fees go to WF and they did not receive anything in return.
- 10.5 It was reported by AS that the WF website cost \$17000 annually made up as follows:-  
Communications Director salary - \$1000 monthly Office \$500 annually
- 10.4 What are the WF projects?

## **11 Financial Report**

- 12.1 RtD-E Account - 1360 euros in credit
- 12.2 Acknowledgement of receipt of \$2000 from WF

## **12 Website**

- 13.1 Patrick Brücher – Secretary ADMD-L offered to set up a new website content management system (CMS).
- 13.2 Liz Nichols (FATE) will put current webmaster in touch with PB

## **13 AOB**

- 14.1 Email from WF President Ted Goodwin hoping for the strengthening of the European Federation and commenting on the innovative nature of EXIT-Italia proposals which merit consideration
- 14.2 Thanks offered by the President to Liz Nichols for her work as Secretary of RtD-E
- 14.3 Expression of thanks to Marthy Putz ADMD-L for her organisation of this Conference
- 14.4 Flemming Schollart (Denmark) highlighted Aycke Smook's film which can be seen on U-tube



## Presentations by Societies

- De Einder 50% patients applying for euthanasia receive a SCEN visit by independent doctor  
Many people “fade away” a week before the appointed date.
- Martijn Hagens Non-medical Suicide and the role of Counselling  
2005 - nearly 6000 of the 8400 requests for PAD were refused – a key reason is that doctors are not convinced of “unbearable suffering”  
In 2010 - 1600 suicides in Netherlands - 800 by hanging or choking  
Aim of counselling - autonomy and self-determination re end of life decisions  
At least 80% clients do not end their life  
KNMG (Dutch Medical Association) recent paper (available in English on internet) broadened role of physician in the voluntary termination of life. If patient doesn't meet “due care” criteria, physician can provide information on non-medical suicide.
- Exit Italia Expressed appreciation of knowledge gained from other societies  
Grateful to Dignitas and ExInternational for help given to their citizens  
Liaising with other Swiss Clinics to provide service in Canton Ticino on Italian border.
- Libera Uscita Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide are punished in Italy by 5-15 years in jail.  
Secret euthanasia exists. 67% citizens believe euthanasia should be legal.  
Italians have the right to refuse life-saving therapy, but this is not acknowledged by the present Italian government who are under enormous pressure from the Vatican. A bill against self-determination is likely to be passed in October 2011.  
A lobbying action has been initiated regarding Living Will Registrars in every area.  
The National Day of the Living Will will be celebrated in Udine - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011.
- RTVD Active for 40 years but very little progress.  
2011 - new guidelines “patient rights must be taken into consideration” “if less than 2 weeks to live, patient can be sedated for those 2 weeks”
- EVD Little activity through lack of funds and support; suggested that a student project could be created with [www.kaospilot.dk](http://www.kaospilot.dk) to see how RtD-E could become more effective. FS will produce project brief and submit to member societies for approval.
- Dignitas Aim - “to disappear”; emergency exit door until all countries implement own laws.  
Liberalism and self-determination are their key ideals  
36% of their work is counselling. Offer free internet forum -2600 contacts.  
In 2010 there were 98 assisted suicides at Dignitas. In Switzerland 98% suicide attempts go wrong.  
Pro-life/pro-choice - suicide preventative aspect  
More effort/funds should go into legal work - more effective than campaigning  
Human Rights Act Article 8: Right to Respect for Private and Family Life - the right to personal autonomy re end of life enshrined in law but without means to achieve it  
Continues to pursue test cases - see website.
- EXIT DS Preview of June 2012 in Zurich - see brochure  
Any society wanting to make a presentation - contact [bernhard.sutter@exit.ch](mailto:bernhard.sutter@exit.ch)
- ADMD-F World Euthanasia Day -2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011- provides way of mobilising media and politicians. Recommended that other countries initiate a similar event
- ADMD-L Invited delegates to accept a copy of their new publication - “Euthanasia and assisted suicide” explaining the legal framework resulting from the provisions of 2009 law.