I. Liaison Committee

During its 2013 – 2014 mandates, the LC worked towards the EAN and its roles within the new organisation that will be a reality from June 3rd onwards.

In lights of the LC’s cooperation with other committees and task forces, letters of recommendation to ensure the continuity of the ongoing work within EAN were written and submitted to the Transition Task Force as well as the EFNS/ENS Management Committee.

The letter to the new EAN President will be mailed on June 4th and will be complete of all letters of recommendation.

II. EFNS/ENS Transitional Task Force (TTF)

1. Meetings of the Transitional Task Force (TTF) took place on 21 September 2013 (Vienna, Austria), February 9 (Brussels, Belgium) and March 16, 2014 (Vienna, Austria). A last meeting of the TTF is scheduled to take place on June 1st, during the Joint congress of European Neurology in Istanbul, Turkey.

2. In brief:
   a. The byelaws for the new EAN have been completed
   b. the cooperation agreement about the collaboration of the two societies in the transitional time period was signed by EFNS and ENS in Budapest, Hungary during the EFNS congress;
   c. The time plan for the merge of the two societies has been advanced, and the EAN will be established as a new society on the last day of the joint EFNS-ENS conference in Istanbul in 2014.
   d. The TTF is worked together with the EOC – Election Organising Committee to select final candidates for the election to the EAN Board on June 3rd.
   e. A joint conference organizing committee have agreed on the structure of the 2014 joint conference, a structure which may be copied to the future EAN conferences.
   f. The TTF has completed the contracts and amendments to these for the PCO of the future EAN congresses for 2014, 2015 and 2016. The EAN congresses will take place in early June. The venue for the first EAN congress in 2015 will be in Berlin, Germany. The venues for the 2016 and 2017 conferences...
will be Copenhagen and Amsterdam. The procedure for selection of congress venues for the EAN congresses of 2018 and onwards will be determined by the new EAN board.

g. Following recommendation by the TTF, most of the matching scientific panels of EFNS and Sub-Committees of the ENS merged and are working together.

h. The TTF selected Wiley as the publishing company for the official scientific journal of the EAN “European Journal of Neurology”.

III. EAN Office in Brussels

At the March 2014 meeting of the EFNS Management Committee and of the TTF, the proposal for the EAN Brussels office was submitted and approved. A site visit of the office located within the University Foundation in Brussels took place on February 7th, 2014.

An agreement is being set up with EBC’s President with regard to a shared rent agreement.

IV. European Medicines Agency (EMA)

The European Medicines Agency is at the core of the European Union’s medicine and health system, and aims to protect human and animal health. To ensure that the system works effectively, the Agency works closely with its partners and stakeholders, and is a proactive member of important networks in Europe and beyond.

The Agency has been interacting with European healthcare professionals in various areas of its work since it was founded in 1995. As users of the medicines that the Agency evaluates, healthcare professionals are key stakeholders in the Agency’s work and have specific knowledge and expertise to offer. European neurologists frequently contribute to the following activities:

- being members of its scientific committees;
- responding to specific requests from the Agency’s scientific committees and working parties;
- taking part in scientific advisory groups;
- reviewing information on medicines prepared by the Agency;
- being involved in the preparation of guidelines;
- Regularly taking part in Agency conferences and workshops.

EFNS successfully applied to be part of the since 2011 established framework for interaction. This framework ensures that the Agency has direct contact with a wide range of healthcare professionals representing the needs and concerns of healthcare professionals across Europe.
It will be very important for EAN to maintain this cooperation.
Prof. Marianne De Visser is EFNS delegate to EMA.

V. **PR @ conferences:**
From October 2013 to May 2014, EFNS had printed materials on display at over 30 European and International congresses/meetings. Budgetary restrictions limited our effective presence with a booth at congresses. Printed materials were also made available at the Regional Teaching courses organised in Eastern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and the EFNS Spring School.

Eveline Sipido and Julia Mayer contacted the different scientific societies and/or congress organisers and the dispatching of the EFNS materials was organised through the EFNS Head Office. Very positive reactions with regard to this “exchange” of materials on literature tables have been received.
Marion Russ joined the team and will take over Julia Mayer’s responsibilities.

VI. **European Brain Council**
At the 2013 General Assembly, it was decided to revise the EBC statutes extensively so as to clarify the mission statement and reconsider the structure of the EBC. To assist with this task an interim executive director, Mr. Nicholas Deeming, was appointed from April to October 2013. In cooperation with all the EBC member societies, Mr. Deeming undertook an extensive review of the EBC, its mission and goal, the working structure, financial procedures, future priorities, and a planning exercise for the Year of the Brain. The Boston Consulting Group (BCG), a global management consultancy, assisted in the reviewing both the EBC and YOB on a pro bono basis. The review was presented at the General Assembly in October 2013.

At a Board meeting in January 2014 new officers were elected to serve until the next AGM in September 2014. Mary Baker stepped down as President and David Nutt (ECNP) took over as President. The new EBC Board officers Prof. P. Boyer (EPA) – Vice President, Mr P. Montellano (GAMIAN Europe) – Vice President, Prof. G. Moonen (EFNS/ENS) Secretary General. Prof. Manfred Westphal, EANS, was appointed Special Adviser to the EBC Board. Alastair Newton agreed to continue as Treasurer until September 2014. A financial controller, Mr Philippe Heymans, was appointed to assist the Treasurer. A small team consisting of the executive directors of the founding members of the EBC, including Lisa Müller, proposed revised mission statements, management structure and budget which were debated and approved at a Board meeting in April 2014. The budget requires a doubling of subscriptions from all professional and industrial members. The new annual subscription for the EFNS will be 20000 Euros instead of 10000 Euros.
The reorganisation is being supported by Peter Andersen as interim executive director working on a pro bono basis pending the appointment of a full time executive director.

Mary Baker, immediate past president, took on the chairmanship (Presidency) of the EBC project “Year of the Brain”. The project will be funded as a separate self-financing entity and will be supported by a senior administrator from Lundbeck, Susanne Aalborg, on a pro bono basis. The project has begun in 2014 and continues into 2015.

EBC welcomed as new members:
- European Society of Neuro-Radiology (ESNR), delegate Prof. Paul Parizel, Past President to ESNR
- European Confederation of Neuropathological Societies (EURO – CNS) as observer for one year
- European Stroke Organization (ESO), delegate Prof. M. Brainin, as observers

The EBC is involved in several EC funded as well as other projects. EBC’s involvement varies according to the project.

Advance HTA – Health Technology Assessment: is an FP7 funded project in cooperation with the London School of Economics (LSE) aiming at improving the HTA process. EBC’s role is to represent the patients’ perspective on the quality of life and other aspects of HTA.

Ox-Paq project aims at developing a theoretically informed generic patient reported outcome measure to assess the impact of ill-health on participation, activities and autonomy.

NERRI – Neuro Enhancement: Neuro-enhancement has ethical, economical, social, legal dimensions that require an in-depth investigation and analysis. The project considers these complexities in the framework of responsible research and innovation.

National Brain Councils (NBC) and National Action Groups (NAG): New guidelines for NBCs and NAGs as well as the expansion strategy were prepared and can be found here.

A policy paper describing EBC involvement in each of the above listed projects can be found here.

The EBC has encouraged formation of national brain councils and the following were founded in 2013:

- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Switzerland

A weekly report, the External Environment Report (EER), on important news EU Research Updates in European neuroscience is emailed all EBC members and an extensive mailing list.
At the Board meeting of 11 April, EBC’s new structure and strategy were presented and approved. This new structure and strategy can be found here.

EBC is undertaking a global revision of its statutes. Prof. Gustave Moonen is a member of the working group. The revised statutes will be presented and approved at the 2014 General Assembly on October 15th. The new structure implies that all present EBC executive positions are temporary until this new structure becomes functional.

VII. EFNA – European Federation of Neurological Associations:

Patient Training and Capacity Building

EFNA organised a workshop on ‘Pharmaceutical Pricing, Access and Reimbursement’ at the London School of Economics on May 13th and 14th 2014. Another workshop is scheduled for November 2014. EFNA also held its first national pilot on this topic in Ireland on April 16 2014. This workshop was based on the content of the LSE course but tailored for a national audience with representatives from the relevant national agencies involved in decision-making on these key issues. This pilot will be rolled-out across Europe in 2015.

Advocacy

EFNA now has a base in Brussels, with the appointment of our Coordinator, Georgiana Huiban. This will enable us to be more effective in our advocacy activities. However, we also need a national presence – currently lacking – if we are to be successful in much of our work. Therefore, EFNA has engaged the services of Punch Consulting to create a toolkit to encourage and support the formation of National Neurological Alliances to create a link from the European to the national platform. This will be launched at our Advocate for Neurology Workshop in September 2014.

In February 2014, EFNA hosted an official lunch in the Members Salon at the European Parliament to launch the ‘Out of Office’ report by the Economist Intelligence Unit. This report explored the cost of workplace absenteeism in Europe – a key issue for those affected by neurological disorders.

EFNA has been working closely with the European Patients Forum [EPF] on their campaign ‘Patients + Participation = Our Vote for a Healthier Europe’ in advance of the EU Elections. EFNA will focus its resources on reaching out to the re-elected/newly-elected MEPs as we work to develop an interest group on Brain, Mind and Pain within the Parliament. We are also aiming to host an event in the ENVI (health) Committee to present the results of a survey we are currently working on, which will assess the impact of brain disorders on those affected.
Outreach

EFNA continues to work closely with our health professional colleagues via EFNS. At the 2014 Joint Congress of European Neurology, EFNA enjoyed its biggest-ever presence with a large patient corner in the exhibition centre, a joint awareness session, participation of its members on twelve scientist panels/sub-committees and ongoing involvement in the training/education and liaison committees. EFNA hopes to build on this relationship as the European Academy of Neurology comes into being.

EFNA also maintains an ongoing dialogue with industry via involvement on the EFPIA Think-Tank, Patients Bio Forum and Patient-Med Tech Dialogue – as well as organising our own annual Corporate Partners Meeting to discuss areas of mutual interest and potential collaborative efforts.

EFNA is actively involved in the European Brain Council and is looking forward to the Year of the Brain in Europe 2014.

VIII. SBN UEMS – Section /Board of Neurology UEMS

The European Board examination in neurology will take place during the EFNS / ENS congress in Istanbul in June 2014. The examination has been a joint development of the UEMS/EBN with the EFNS and ENS with the contribution of questions in addition by the Movement Disorder Society, the European Stroke Organisation and several other societies and individuals.

Also e-Brain donated questions will be adapted and used in the question pool.

In addition to the European Board Examination, UEMS is finalizing a new European core curriculum in neurology. The intention is to expand neurology, improve and secure quality, and to facilitate cooperation with neighboring specialties. The perspective is European and includes all member and associated countries. EBN maintains a visitation program. Both EFNS and ENS have given strong support to continued cooperation with UEMS-European Board of Neurology, and intend to take it on also for the new EAN. This has been strongly confirmed in relevant policy documents.

IX. Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (ABRE).

Prof. Gustave Moonen was elected to the ABRE Board of Directors at the 2012 General Assembly.

The "update to members" posted on the EFNS website summarizes very well the Biomed Alliance activities in the past months and I enclose it.
ABRE proceeds through Executive Committee meetings (the next is scheduled for August 28\textsuperscript{th}), teleconferences and mails.

A major advance that has largely to be credited to the Biomed Alliance intense lobbying is the decision by the European Commission (EC) to create a Scientific Panel for Health Research (SPH). This important decision is the result of the involvement of the scientific community with EC policy decisions towards Horizon 2020, the EC’s major action of EU in financing research. There is currently, and will be, an interaction with the EMRC from the ESF- European Science Foundation and with Science Europe.

The nomination committee for the Scientific Panel for Health Research is currently being appointed by the EC authorities and nominations for the SPH will be asked for later in the year.

The Liaison Committee strongly recommends continuity in the work of EAN with ABRE ensuring thus an important role for neurology in the work towards better and more biomedical research.

X. Neurology and Africa – Prof. J.-M. Vallat & Schmutzhard

Mediterranean Associate Members - Prof. J.-M. Vallat

PAUNS: Associate Membership was granted to one more national neurological society bordering the Mediterranean. Palestine now holds associate membership to the EFNS/ENS. The delegates of these Associate Member societies will convene at the Joint Congress of European Neurology. Young neurologists from Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia and Palestine participated in the 2014 Spring School.

The organisation of joint sessions at the EFNS congress, on a yearly basis, and at the Pan Arab Union of Neurological Societies - PAUNS meeting every second year, is part of the working agreement.

The 8th Joint session of EFNS and its Associate Members from the Mediterranean area will take place during the EFNS Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. The topic to be addressed is: Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease.

Plans for the 2015 Joint session at the first congress of the European Academy of Neurology (Berlin, Germany – June 20-23, 2015) are well underway. The topic to be addressed is: Post—Stroke Sequelae
It is recommended that EAN becomes the overarching platform of excellence allowing the national neurological societies of the Mediterranean associate members – 9 countries so far and hopefully more will join in the near future - to access the wider European neurological stage through several educational activities such as participation in the Spring School, department-to-department programme aso.

Young neurologists from Egypt, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia will take part in the 2014 Spring School.

**EFNS/ENS Task Force – Neurology and Sub-Saharan Africa Activities 2013 – 2014**

The 5th RTC in Sub-Saharan Africa (July 11 - 13, 2013) returned to Dakar, Senegal and was hosted by Prof. A. Gallo-Diop at the Cheikh Anta Diop University.

This RTC was organised with the help of and in cooperation with several major scientific organisations:
- ENS - European Neurological Society
- WFN - World Federation of Neurology,
- IBRO - International Brain Research Organisation,
- WSO - World Stroke Organisation,
- MDS - Movement Disorders Society

Thanks to the unrestricted grants received, trainees from 17 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa other than Senegal could be invited to the RTC.

The meeting was organised to a very high standard, and the quality of the lectures was outstanding. However, the most striking aspects of the course were the quality of the questions, the lively discussion, and the very active participation of the trainees in both French and English.


**6\(^{th}\) RTC in Sub-Saharan Africa**

**Lusaka, Zambia 19 to 21 June 2014**

**Hosted by:** The University of Zambia in Lusaka in cooperation with the Zambian Ministry of Health and the Zambian Epilepsy Association.

Prof. Ngoma, Dean of the Medical Faculty will host the RTC and Mr. Anthony Zimba of the Zambian Epilepsy Association is our contact person on site.
Sponsored by:  The RTC is organized and sponsored by the EFNS. Co-sponsorship through unrestricted educational grants was obtained from the following major scientific organisations: WFN – World Federation of Neurology; IBRO – International Brain Research Organisation, MDS - International Parkinson Disease and Movement Disorder Society, WSO - World Stroke Organisation.

The AAN – American Academy of Neurology joined the consortium and will sponsor the RTC 2014 with the same grant as the other scientific societies.

EFNS successfully applied and obtained a grant from LINF – Lundbeck International Neuroscience Foundation.

Topics RTC 6:  The topics were selected from the list of requests compiled by the participants to the 5th RTC in Dakar, Senegal in 2013.

In 2014 the following will be addressed:

✓ Peripheral Nerves and Muscle
✓ Infectious Diseases and the Nervous System

Each RTC has an “Open session” allowing interactive discussions of the RTC participants with the RTC faculty.

The programme of the RTC in Lusaka, Zambia can be found at: http://www.efns.org/Regional-Teaching-Course-in-Sub-Saharan-Africa-Zambia.1268.0.html

Faculty:  The co-sponsoring societies delegate one faculty member and separately take on the costs of flight and accommodation of their delegate. The Zambian data of the WHO Global Campaign “Lift The Burden” will be presented at the RTC. African faculty members from Zambia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania and Tunisia will take part in the RTC.

Trainees:  Thanks to the additional funding, 25 trainees from 17 Sub-Saharan countries have been invited to come to Lusaka and attend the RTC. Their flight and 4 night hotel stay will be paid for.

XI. Neuropenews

NEUROPENews has been published on the 1st of every month from 2012 through 2014. In order to give the EAN Board enough time to plan and finalise eventual changes, all issues until the end of 2014 have been planned.

A letter of recommendation for the future EAN News blog was previously sent to the Transition Task Force. The editorial Board of Neuropenews:

Editor-in-chief: Gian Luigi Lenzi (Italy), Co-editors: David Vodusek (Slovenia), Jose Ferro (Portugal), Christian Krarup (Denmark).

The full Neuropenews report has been distributed separately.
EAYNT was represented at the 15th EFNS Spring School (former EFNS Academy for Young Neurologists) in Stare Splavy (Czech Republic) by Orsolya Györfi who gave an overview of the EAYNT and the scientific opportunities within the EFNS. An update about the EBN examination was also provided.

At the 23rd Meeting of the ENS in Barcelona the EAYNT Special Session entitled: ‘Emerging clinical and career prospects for junior neurologists’ attracted more than 100 participants. A range of topics including useful career tips, proficiency in neurogenetics and advice on subspecialisation were covered. The speakers were M. Filippi (Italy), M.J. Molnar (Hungary) and E.T. Varga (Hungary). The ENS-EAYNT Session ‘Translational Neurology – a challenge for clinician-scientists’ was attended by more than 200 participants. This initiative of EAYNT aimed to demonstrate the contribution of research in the development of new neurological diagnostic procedures and therapies. The concept of translational research were described and discussed within various areas of neurology, including coma by S. Laureys (Belgium), vertigo by M. Dieterich (Germany) and neuroimaging by F. Fazekas (Austria). Thankfully to the kind invitation by the Congress President Prof. Xavier Montalban, EAYNT members were offered the opportunity of visiting the Department of Neurology-Neuroimmunology of Vall d’Hebron University Hospital in Barcelona. The renowned department welcomed 63 young neurologists. Junior neurologists were also contributing to the ENS Meeting as poster chairs.

The programme of the 2013 World Congress of Neurology in Vienna included a free half-day teaching course organized by the International Working Group of Young Neurologists and Trainees (IWGYNT) in collaboration with the EAYNT. Speakers from all around the world provided insights to worldwide junior neurologist initiatives and neurology training in their respective continents. A traditional hospital visit was arranged as per the kind invitation of Prof. Eduard Auff at the renowned General Hospital of Vienna.

Danube Symposium
News on the Danube Symposium can be found at: http://www.klinikaikozpont.uzeged.hu/neur/danube/Newsletter22.pdf

22 May 2014
Gunhild Waldemar / Eveline Sipido