



ANNUAL REPORT

2006

European Association of Radiology
www.ear-online.org

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EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGY (ESR)

President's Address

by Nicholas Gourtsoyiannis, EAR President



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the last edition of the EAR Annual Report featuring the Association's tasks and the amount of work that has been done by the respective EAR Executive Bureau members in the past year along the lines

of our discussions and decisions. From March 2007 onwards EAR and ECR will no longer issue separate annual reports, but provide updates on their activities in one single ESR Annual Report.

We are proud to announce that the Annual Leadership Meeting held in December 2006 in Vienna was a big success also in terms of attendance as we witnessed a considerable increase compared to last year, and this at a time when we have peace and calm waters. The figure of nearly 90 participants demonstrates that the time chosen is right, that the meeting has an identity of its own and thus has become appreciated and established. For these reasons ESR foresees to continue organising this meeting as it proved to be vital in maintaining and strengthening ESR's communication links with the European national and subspecialties societies. For the first time the Leadership Meeting was combined with an ESOR Course on Management which went away from the traditional concept of courses on management and was well received. A second ESOR in-house course on molecular imaging is planned for the Annual Leadership Meeting 2007.

In 2006, our major task was definitely the official launch of a single house of radiology, a milestone firmly based on the founding societies EAR and ECR and driven by the decision of the general assemblies of the respective constituencies. The new ESR statutes were presented at the Annual Leadership Meeting and approved by the society delegates in an indicative vote. The statutes will be ratified at the GA of the present ESR at the ECR 07.

It is with pride that a document was also endorsed at the Annual Leadership Meeting which represents the final result of 18-month discussions between an Ad Hoc Committee of the European Society of Radiology (ESR) and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine

(EANM). The indicated direction foresees ways to come closer and to provide the best possible solutions and services in view of the new approaches using hybrid systems. The purpose of the document is to become a joint white paper for approval of the GAs of both associations.

ESR's aims are manifold and joint initiatives will certainly constitute the main focus of this new, stronger institution, including the development of a new research institute. The European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research (EIBIR) gains momentum and enjoys continuous support from our constituencies as well as the industry. A legal framework has been created which will allow additional European organisations committed to the support of biomedical imaging research in Europe to become involved in EIBIR.

As discussed on various occasions, the EU Physical Agents (EMF) Directive 2004/40/EC seeks to define safe levels for equipment operators' exposure to electromagnetic fields. The limits proposed are huge extrapolations from largely hypothetical possible conditions and are an overcautious interpretation of very limited experimental data. The Directive has consequences for clinical MR imaging as well as for the scientific development of magnetic resonance, both of which, while apparently unintended, are potentially disastrous. Therefore the society representatives at the Leadership Meeting were asked to join forces to try to achieve an amendment with respect to the use of magnetic resonance. A press conference transcending the borders of Austria will be organised at the ECR 07 to escalate the issue and go public.

Apart from undertaking numerous tasks and challenges to fulfil the mandates bestowed upon us, we also pioneered initiatives to raise the profile of radiology and promote our activities in the fields of education and research.

Two surveys were conducted among our national member societies to obtain a more profound knowledge of the different situations radiologists are confronted with in Europe and to thus be able to better represent and assert their views and interests.

An extensive online questionnaire covering most aspects of professional and society activities was a major success as far as participation was concerned as all national mem-

bers responded. However, it appeared to be necessary to revise the results because certain weaknesses and inconsistencies biased the survey. A preliminary report on the returned data, results of the evaluation, plans for future use and conclusions was forwarded during the Annual Leadership Meeting where the national society delegates were asked to check the relevancy and correctness of their data as a rephrased questionnaire will soon be sent out to better serve the achievements of the survey.

The second survey provided vital information on the CME situation around Europe. The form which was returned by a majority of the national members included questions on general information, country-specific determinations, national accreditation systems, CME accreditation for meetings, online/electronic continuing medical education, implications of the CME process, CME for trainees and experience with CME.

Another major mission will be the extension of teaching activities throughout Europe as well as to places beyond European boundaries, optimised in the European School of Radiology (ESOR). ESOR is best described as a programme that aspires to extend teaching resources in Europe and worldwide and to raise standards in the field of scientific radiology through global e-learning initiatives.

ESOR is an ambitious endeavour which will certainly meet with great response and approval throughout the radiological world and help young radiologists to achieve knowledge and skills to fulfil tomorrow's requirements.

I am pleased to report that within the framework of ESOR the GALEN project, focused on foundation courses and scheduled to facilitate the implementation of the European training Curricula, has already been in operation since November 6, 2006. Four visiting schools within the GALEN project are scheduled for 2007 and I invite those of you in training to visit the ESR website for further information and detailed course programmes.

I am additionally pleased to announce that the first ESR fellowship structured jointly with the European Society of Cardiac Radiology (ESCR) and the first AIMS programme organised jointly with the Chinese Society of Radiology are to be kicked off immediately after the ECR 07.

As outgoing EAR and ESR President, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all officers of the EAR/ESR Executive and co-opted colleagues

who have made all this happen through their continuous commitment. I would also like to pay tribute to the national and subspecialty societies for their cooperation and support.

It was a privilege and great honour to work with you and to lead EAR and ESR through a time when European radiology faced great challenges.

Thank you for all your support.

With best wishes,



Nicholas Gourtsoyiannis
EAR / ESR President

Report of the Vice-President

by Iain W. McCall, EAR Vice-President



The year has been dominated by the discussions regarding the future of the ESR, EAR and ECR. It is with great pleasure that we have now achieved agreement on the future structure: The new ESR structure is designed to preserve the involvement and influence of the national and subspecialty

societies in the ESR while recognising the change to individual membership of the society. It is very important for the unified organisation that the national and subspecialty societies are heavily involved in the workings of the society as the development of policies must be practical and successful implementation is frequently dependent on the support and commitment of the societies particularly in training curricula and programmes, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accreditation and the delivery of services. The focus of EAR will continue within ESR by the institutional members enhancing all the achievements that have been made over the last few years by EAR.

Globalisation continues apace with at least one European government outsourcing radiological reporting by direct contract with international companies with little direct involvement of local radiologists. EAR therefore has reiterated its policy on teleradiology in a short document which will be distributed widely to those responsible for European policy-making. The European Union Commission has also issued a consultation paper on a future directive on Community action on health services. EAR has responded with ESR to this consultation emphasising the importance of proper quality control of cross-border diagnostic imaging studies and radiological interventional procedures and of appropriate qualification and continuing education and registration of those providing cross-border radiological services.

EAR and ESR have been in discussion with the European Society of Nuclear Medicine regarding hybrid imaging systems. These deliberations have been very constructive and held in a spirit of goodwill. It is recognised by both organisations that hybrid systems must be examinations

managed and reported by properly trained individuals and must have proposed a template for closer cooperation and training for radiologists wishing to undertake nuclear medicine examinations and nuclear medicine clinicians performing radiological examinations. This policy document has been endorsed by the Leadership Meeting and is now being presented to EANM and the outcome is awaited.

The EAR and ECR computer-based self-assessment programme mentioned in last year's report was launched at ECR 2006 and although there were some minor technical problems the programme was very successful and well-received by the participants at the meeting. The software has been further refined and will be used by the cardiac foundation course at ECR 2007 and hopefully at CIRSE meetings. A steering committee of a representative from each subspecialty society is being formed to take this project forward to provide a web-based self-assessment tool for trainees and in the future for CME.

Finally it has been a great privilege and honour for me to serve EAR previously as POC chairman and for the last three years as your Vice-President. I would like to pay tribute and to thank all the officers of the Association with whom I have worked and the presidents and officers of all the national and subspecialty societies who have supported me and the activities of the Association.

It is essential that the radiological community embraces new techniques, explores new technologies and provides a high-quality service to the patients. I believe that working together within the unified ESR this will be achieved.



ECR Chairman's Report

by Andreas Adam, ECR Chairman



This is a historic document. However, this has nothing to do with the quality of the prose within it (or, indeed, the lack of it) and everything to do with its timing. What you are reading is the last Chairman's Report from the last ECR Chairman. Last November, the Executive Committee of ECR voted unani-

mously to dissolve the Society, on the same day that the Executive Bureau of EAR decided to dissolve the Association. These decisions are subject to ratification by the General Assemblies of these organisations in March 2007, but I anticipate that they will be endorsed enthusiastically, as they mark not an end but an exciting new beginning for our specialty on this continent.

The European Society of Radiology (ESR) came into existence in March 2006 and has operated in parallel with the organisations that created it for the past year. This had been a busy and productive period during which ESR has dealt with many important issues facing European radiology.

As from next March, ESR will be the only professional body representing individual European radiologists at a European level. I am confident that it has the experience, the expertise and the resources to deal effectively with all the challenges ahead of it. It will need all these qualities because this is a time of momentous change in our specialty.

It must be obvious to all that have eyes to see that radiology will be of pivotal importance in 21st century medicine. Its significance is encapsulated in a simple concept: 'it helps if you can see what you're doing'. Of course, the technology that makes this possible is anything but simple. The advances in image resolution, multi-dimensional computer reconstruction, molecular imaging and electronic data transmission are staggering in their pace and scope. They hold the promise of precise visualisation of disease sites and accurate targeting by minimally developed invasive means that will bring untold benefits to patients.

Of course, whenever anything good happens, everybody wants to be part of it and have a share of the gains it brings. Therefore, radiology will be challenged by other specialties. In order to maintain its position and justify its existence it will have to continue proving that it brings great benefits to patient care. As the volume of information in medicine increases exponentially, it will be necessary for radiologists to understand the pathophysiology of individual organ systems to a greater extent than ever before. This will probably necessitate a degree of integration with clinical teams and may entail substantial changes in our pattern of practice. How this can be done in the most effective way, in order to safeguard standards in our specialty and enable us to continue contributing to the care of our patients, is the main challenge that will face the European Society of Radiology in the years to come. I am confident that European radiologists will be more than equal to this challenge.

Report of the Secretary-General

by Guy Frija, EAR Secretary-General



During the last year, EAR's activities were mainly devoted to organizing the transition of two bodies into a single house, the European Society of Radiology, as well as maintaining and developing specific activities.

Preparing new statutes required a tremendous effort. Since one of our goals was to keep the "spirit of EAR" in ESR, the new statutes incorporated the concept of the national societies' representation and the statutory committees which correspond in general to the respective committees of EAR. The process of appointing committee chairmen as well as the structure of the committees were homogenised including two important principles: The committee chairmen are elected by the General Assembly and there is no possibility of immediate re-election. This is intended to lead to an open house attracting those who are interested in becoming involved in it in the future. However, in the upcoming years one of the main difficulties will be to manage both experienced people and newcomers to ensure the good functioning and continuity of ESR.

During the past year new chairs were elected to all statutory EAR committees and new committee boards were appointed holding regulatory meetings. The committees' main achievements will be presented separately in their activity reports of this publication.

In the meantime, new horizons have emerged for EAR with the aim to be transferred into ESR: the establishment of working groups on safety, information and communication technology (ICT), and molecular imaging.

Safety is an increasing concern among patients and healthcare providers. The development of a safety policy is becoming a critical issue. In our discipline we have focused on contrast agents, radiation and devices. Contacts will be established with ESCVIR, ESMRMB, the radiation WG and the POC so as to benefit from their expertise and their involvement.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are among the most important fields funded by the European Commission (EC). The challenge of inter-operability remains a major issue involving different fields of applica-

tion: standardization (IHE, DICOM, HL 7), health electronic record, and semantics (thesaurus). Moreover, teleradiology, technological developments (PACS) and the management of information are also of increasing concern for our discipline. For all these reasons, EAR/ESR decided to set up an ICT group. Contacts are being established with the relevant experts and associations.

More generally speaking, each of these WG is intended to integrate education (ESOR, ECR), management (POC sub-committee), professional aspects (POC) and publications (updates, guidelines).

Regarding molecular imaging, a specific group will be organised as part of the EAR/ESR Research Committee and in connection with EIBIR. Identifying fields of common interest, networking and education will be key factors.

All these items were extensively discussed with the national and subspecialty society delegates and strongly supported by them during the Leadership Meeting in December 2006.



EAR Statutes

approved by the EAR General Assembly at the ECR 2005 Congress

PREAMBLE

The European Association of Radiology (EAR) was established under the name of "l'association européenne de radiologie" in Strasbourg on December 15, 1962, as a Europe-wide association of national and subspecialty radiological societies of unlimited duration.

With regard to the intended transfer of its registered office to Vienna, the Association shall now be constituted according to the Austrian Association Act 2002 ("Österreichisches Vereinsgesetz").

§ 1 NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE

The name of the Association shall be "European Association of Radiology" (EAR), known in Austria as "Europäische Radiologenvereinigung".

The Association shall have its registered office in Vienna and extend its activities throughout Europe and beyond.

§ 2 PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The EAR shall promote and coordinate the scientific, philanthropic, intellectual and professional activities of radiologists in all European countries without intention of profit. Its aim is to serve the general public through the support of science, teaching and research in the field of radiology.

In the statutes of the Association the term "radiology" shall mean "diagnostic and interventional radiology and medical imaging". A radiologist is a qualified medical practitioner who has undergone post-graduate training in diagnostic and interventional radiology and medical imaging, if possible, in accordance with the EAR guidelines for Postgraduate Training in Radiology.

The EAR shall in particular aim at:

1. Furthering the progress of radiology and related sciences by fostering education, research and management skills to improve the quality and accessibility of safe radiological services for European patients;
2. Informing the authorities and populations of all member countries about radiology;

3. Maintaining the unity of radiology;
4. Co-ordinating and adjusting teaching and examination programmes to provide, in the different countries equivalent training for: (a) radiologists and (b) other staff working in radiology departments;
5. Establishing and promoting good relations between radiologists and other physicians as well as other scientific, professional and industrial organisations with a shared interest in and common goals for the development of radiology; in particular, the EAR shall aim at having close working relations with the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) Radiology Section.
6. Representing the interests of European radiologists to public authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), e.g. the European Community, national governments, World Health Organisation (WHO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) etc.;
7. Promoting the exchange of information between radiologists in Europe and beyond;
8. Enhancing the quality and quantity of research in the field of Radiology;
9. Promoting and supporting the European Congress of Radiology and the journal "European Radiology";
10. Representing the interests of European radiologists by improving the ethical, technical and material conditions of their practice in close collaboration with the UEMS Radiology Section;
11. Promoting the improvement of technical equipment and management techniques to provide efficient and effective management of radiology departments and practices throughout Europe.

§ 3 ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the Association shall be achieved by the following activities:

1. Organisation and co-ordination of scientific meetings (conferences, seminars, symposia etc.);
2. Support and promotion of the European Congress of Radiology;
3. Co-operation with scientific societies whose activities have to do at least in part with radiology or allied disciplines;
4. Encouragement of international exchange between fellow workers, both medical and non-medical;

5. Support of prizes, allowances, grants etc. and all other means considered useful to the aims of the Association, including:
 - a. the Boris Rajewsky Medal awarded to radiologists who have made a major contribution to the development of radiology in Europe,
 - b. the Certificate of Honour awarded to persons who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of radiology in Europe and
 - c. the Diploma awarded to retiring officers of the EAR;
6. Organisation of committees with regard to specific areas of interest, e.g. research, education and training standards, outcomes, management and professional issues, radiation safety etc.;
7. Support and promotion of the journal "European Radiology" for the publication of scientific papers and other suitable articles;
8. Provision of a regular newsletter and a website in order to improve communication with members;
9. Fund-raising other than by taxable trading, e.g. accept subscriptions, donations, devices and bequests for the promotion of the objects of the Association;
10. Acquisition or disposal of property of any kind (in accordance with the charity status);
11. Award of grants and the setting aside of funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure.

§ 4 METHODS OF RAISING FUNDS

- A. The national and subspecialty radiological societies shall pay fees whose amount shall depend on the number of full members of the societies (full members shall be radiologists and shall not include honorary members, physicians in training, physicists, radiographers, radiobiologists, engineers, and industry representatives). The total fee for every national and subspecialty society shall be determined by the Executive Bureau of the Association. In November of each year the Treasurer shall contact the member societies indicating the amount payable, per capita, for each full member of the national or subspecialty society for the following year. In January of every calendar year, the fees are to be paid in advance to the Treasurer for the current year with a deadline of the 18th of February. Failure to pay the due amount and/or any arrears on or before that date will lead to loss of voting rights at the General Assembly of that year. In the case of withdrawal or expulsion from the EAR, the fees for the current year are still to be paid. Sustaining members shall pay an annual contribution amounting to 10,000.00 Euro for Gold Members or 5,000.00 Euro for Silver Members.

- B. The national and subspecialty radiological societies shall raise funds other than by taxable trading, e.g. accept subscriptions, donations, devices, properties and bequests for the promotion of the objects of the Association.

§ 5 ACQUISITION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Acquisition of membership:

The EAR shall consist of full members, associate members and sustaining members. The Executive Bureau shall decide on the admission of members, and the General Assembly will then approve the admission.

1. Full members:

Full members shall be (a) the national societies of radiology of European countries (In the event that there is more than one representative body for radiologists in a European country these bodies are encouraged to reach agreement on which radiologists will represent that country at the General Assembly. The maximum number of delegates will be three. The names of the voting members should be notified in advance to the Secretary-General.), (b) European subspecialty societies of radiology whose activities are associated with radiology or an allied discipline, as accepted by the Executive Bureau and approved by the General Assembly or (c) such societies or legal persons that are accepted by the Executive Bureau and approved by the General Assembly.

Full members shall have voting rights at the General Assembly.

2. Associate members:

Associate members shall be (a) national societies of radiology of countries from outside the boundaries of Europe accepted by the Executive Bureau and approved by the General Assembly, and (b) European scientific societies whose activities are at least in part related to radiology or an allied discipline and which are accepted by the Executive Bureau upon prior approval by the General Assembly. Associate members shall have the right of participation but no voting rights at the General Assembly.

3. Sustaining members:

Individuals or bodies which provide sponsorship and/or support for EAR activities as accepted by the Executive Bureau and approved by the General Assembly. Sustaining members shall have the right of participation, but no voting rights at the General Assembly.

Termination of membership:

Membership shall be terminated by

- a. The loss of legal personality in the case of legal persons or partnerships having legal capacity or the loss of the representative status or death of persons;
- b. Resignation - which shall only be possible as per December 31st of every calendar year. The Executive Bureau has to be notified in writing at least three months in advance. In case of late notification, resignation shall become effective as of the next withdrawal date only. The postmark shall be decisive for the date of notification;
- c. Expulsion, which may be decided by the Executive Bureau and approved by the General Assembly on serious grounds, such as behaviour harming the Association or non-payment of membership fees.

§ 6 RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Every year, each national and each subspecialty society of radiology has to send a list of its full members, the three names of its certified official delegates and official substitutes to the Secretary-General of the EAR and has to provide details of amendments to its statutes. Every year, all national societies of radiology should report to the Education Committee of EAR about their existing educational and training programmes as well as on the progress achieved in these areas in the past year.

Members shall be entitled to attend all events of the Association and to make appropriate use of its facilities. Only the certified official delegates of full member societies who have paid their subscription for the current year and accumulated arrears shall have a vote in the General Assembly as well as the right to vote and stand for elections.

Members shall be obliged to further the interests of the Association to the best of their abilities and to refrain from any action which could harm the reputation and the objects of the Association. They are to observe the statutes of the Association and the resolutions of its executive organs.

§ 7 ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THEIR COMPETENCES

The EAR shall have the following organs:

1. General Assembly (§ 8);
2. Executive Bureau (§ 9);
3. Auditors (§13);
4. Committees (§12);
5. Arbitral tribunal (§14).

§ 8 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly shall be made up of the delegations of each of the European national and subspecialty radiological societies which are full members of the EAR. Only the delegates of full member societies which have paid their annual subscriptions shall have the right to vote on behalf of the said full member society. Each full member society is represented by a delegation of three, made up of certified official delegates (usually the elected officers or alternatives) of the society whose chosen head of delegation has the right to vote on behalf of the society.

All delegations have at least one vote. Additional votes are allowed on the basis on the number of eligible individual members paid for by each national or subspecialty radiological society. National societies with up to 200 such members as well as subspecialty societies with up to 100 such members will have one vote. National societies with 200 - 1,500 such members as well as subspecialty societies with 100 - 200 such members will have two votes. National societies with 1,500 or more such members as well as subspecialty societies with more than 200 such members will have a maximum of three votes.

The Secretary-General of EAR has to be notified by the president or secretary of the national or subspecialty societies about details regarding the voting members (name, address) no later than 14 days prior to the General Assembly.

The agenda for the General Assembly is laid down by the president and Secretary-General of EAR, and sent to the President and Secretary-General of each member society not later than 1 month before the date fixed for the meeting, together with details of the time and venue.

The item "suggestions by the member societies" on the agenda of every General Assembly will allow the societies to raise matters of general interest for discussion and decision. These suggestions must be submitted in writing at least one month before the General Assembly.

Competences of the General Assembly:

- a. Receive the report of the Executive Bureau on the administration, management and financial status of the Association; receive and approve the activity report and the statement of accounts presented to the auditors;
- b. Elect and relieve the members of the Executive Bureau and the two auditors, who are obliged to audit the accounts of the EAR on an annual basis;
- c. Approve the annual accounts and bookkeeping of the past financial period (calendar year) and of all relevant documents;
- d. Take decisions regarding all acquisitions, exchanges or transfers of buildings, settlement of mortgages, leasing contracts with a duration of more than nine years, transfers of property relevant to endowments and loans required to pursue the aims of the Association;
- e. Take decisions on amendments to the statutes and the voluntary liquidation of the Association;
- f. Advise and decide on other items on the agenda;
- g. Adopt rules of procedure regulating internal matters of the Association.

The General Assembly shall be the "members' assembly" according to the Austrian Association Act 2002 ("Österreichisches Vereinsgesetz"). The ordinary General Assembly shall be held every year at the same time as the "European Congress of Radiology".

An extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within eight weeks if decided by the Executive Bureau, the ordinary General Assembly or upon written request by at least one tenth of the members or upon request by the auditors.

Invitations to both ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies shall be extended to all members in writing, via fax or via e-mail (to the fax number or e-mail address indicated to the Association by the member society) at least one month prior to their date. The invitation to the General Assembly shall be accompanied by the agenda. The General Assembly shall be convened by the President and the Secretary-General.

The General Assembly shall reach a quorum, if half of the full members of the EAR are present. All resolutions passed by the General Assembly shall require a relative majority of the valid votes cast, except for amendments to the statutes or in the case of liquidation of the Society, which shall require a two-third majority of the valid votes cast. In case of a tie at a vote requiring a relative majority, the President shall have the casting vote.

Valid resolutions, with the exception of those regarding a motion to convene an extraordinary General Assembly, can only be passed on items that are part of the agenda.

The General Assembly shall be presided over by the President. In his absence, the General Assembly shall be chaired by the Vice-President and, if the latter is also absent, by the Secretary-General.

§ 9 EXECUTIVE BUREAU

The Executive Bureau shall consist of

- the President (elected)
- the Vice-President (elected)
- the Secretary-General (elected)
- the Treasurer (elected)
- the Chairman of the Professional Organisation Committee (POC) (elected)
- the Chairman of the Educational Committee (elected)
- the Chairman of the Subspecialties Committee (elected)
- the Chairman of the Research Committee (elected)
- the Representative of the European national radiological societies (elected)
- the Chairman of the Board of the European Congress of Radiology (by virtue of his office)
- the Editor of the Journal "European Radiology" (co-opted without voting right).

If the Chairman of the Joint Commission EAR/UEMS Radiology Section is not the Chairman of the POC, he/she will be co-opted to the Executive Bureau. As far as possible there should be a balanced geographical and subspecialty spread of members. All members of the Executive Bureau (with the exception of the President of the European Congress of Radiology [member by virtue of his office] and the Editor of European Radiology [co-opted member without voting right] who are members by virtue of their offices) shall be elected by the General Assembly of EAR. Holders of the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and Treasurer shall not be eligible for re-election to these offices. If an elected member withdraws, the Executive Bureau has the right to co-opt another eligible member, which requires the subsequent approval by the following General Assembly.

The term of office of the President and Vice-President shall be two years. The President cannot be re-elected but he/she will be automatically replaced by the Vice-President on completion of his/her term of office. The term of office of the Chairmen of the Committees shall be three years without the possibility of re-election to the respective office. The term of office of the Representative of the

European national radiological societies shall be two years without the possibility of re-election. The term of office for the Secretary-General and Treasurer shall be four years without the possibility of re-election to the respective office. The Executive Bureau shall be convened in writing (as it is done for the General Assembly) or, if necessary, orally by the President or, if he/she is absent, by the Vice-President. If the latter is also absent, it may be convened by the Secretary-General. The Executive Bureau has to hold a meeting two months before a proposed General Assembly.

The Executive Bureau shall hold at least three meetings per calendar year.

The Executive Bureau shall reach a quorum, if all its members have been invited and if at least six members are present at a meeting.

Members of the Executive Bureau who are not able to attend may not send a proxy.

All decisions of the Executive Bureau shall be taken by a simple majority of votes of the members present, with the exception of decisions related to amendments of the statutes or proposals regarding amendments to the rules of procedure. Such decisions and proposals shall require a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast. In case of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

Executive Bureau meetings shall be presided over by the President and, in case he/she is absent, by the Vice-President. If the latter is also absent, the Secretary-General shall chair the meeting.

Apart from death and the expiration of the term of office, the office of a member of the Executive Bureau shall come to an end, if the member is relieved of his office by the General Assembly or in the case of resignation.

In exceptional circumstances (e.g. financial, ethical, professional misdemeanours) the General Assembly may remove the entire Executive Bureau or any of its members from office; such a removal shall become effective with the appointment of a new Executive Bureau member or a completely new Executive Bureau. For such decisions a quorum (presence of half of the full members) is needed in the General Assembly and a two-thirds majority regarding the removal of one or more members.

The members of the Executive Bureau may at any time submit their resignation in writing. The resignation shall be submitted to the Executive Bureau or, in the case of the resignation of the entire Executive Bureau, to the General

Assembly. The resignation shall become effective only upon election or co-option of a successor.

Members of the Executive Bureau shall not receive payment for attending the meetings, but documented expenses arising in connection with the meetings will be reimbursed.

The Executive Bureau shall be responsible for the management of the Association. It shall be the "managing organ" according to the Austrian Association Act 2002 ("Österreichisches Vereinsgesetz"). It is to perform all functions not allocated to another organ of the Association by the statutes. Its responsibilities shall include:

- a. Preparation of the estimated annual budget as well as of the report on activities and of the balance of accounts (rendering of accounts);
- b. Preparation of the General Assembly;
- c. Convocation of ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies;
- d. Administration of the assets of the Association;
- e. Monitoring the compliance with the statutes and the rules of procedure, the management of the overall administration of the EAR and its real estate properties as well as the authorisation of the budget for presentation to the General Assembly, which is prepared by the Treasurer. The Executive Bureau shall monitor the observance of the budget;
- f. Admission and expulsion of members of the Association;
- g. Employment and dismissal of employees of the Association;
- h. Preparation of the minutes of the General Assembly and the Executive Bureau.

§ 10 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEMBERS

At least four months prior to the scheduled date of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General shall invite all full members to submit proposals for the offices of the Executive Bureau open for election (except 1. for the office of the President which is automatically filled by the Vice-President at the end of the term of office of the President, and 2. for the offices of the Committees' Chairmen who are nominated by the respective Committees according to § 12 below). The nominations have to be received by the Secretary-General at least four weeks prior to the election date - a later nomination is not possible. Nominees who should preferably have experience in the management of parts of EAR, shall sign a declaration of their candidature, provide a short CV and have the written support of the president or secretary-general of the European national

or subspecialty radiological society which is a full member of EAR. All nominees are presented to the General Assembly and the offices are filled on a simple majority vote. This is taken at a secret ballot, supervised by an auditor, during the General Assembly.

§ 11 SPECIAL DUTIES OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU

The President of the EAR shall at the same time be President of the General Assembly and of the Executive Bureau. His/her term of office shall be two years. In the event of death, resignation or expulsion of the President during the two-year term of office the Vice-President will assume the duties of the Presidency for the residual duration of the term of office of the President. When the new President takes over his/her office, the previous President shall resign and is not eligible to hold office thereafter. The President shall be responsible for the ongoing business of the Association and shall be assisted by the Secretary-General and the other members of the Executive Bureau.

The President shall represent the EAR in all matters. Written documents of the Association, with legal value, shall become valid upon signature by the President and the Secretary-General; documents regarding financial matters are to be signed by the President and the Treasurer.

The President, when absent, shall be represented by the Vice-President. When the term of office of the President ends the Vice-President automatically succeeds to the Presidency.

In case of extraordinary circumstances, the President shall be entitled to take measures independently, even in matters falling within the competence of the General Assembly or of the entire Executive Bureau; such measures shall, however, require the subsequent approval of the competent organ of the Association.

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for carrying out the general correspondence of the Association, organising meetings and preparing the minutes of the General Assembly as well as the Executive Bureau provided that the Executive Bureau does not appoint another member as Secretary.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the proper financial management of the Association.

§ 12 THE COMMITTEES

Committees (e.g. Education, Subspecialties, Research or Professional Organisation Committees) and working groups can be set up within the Association to promote its fundamental activities. These committees and working groups are established by the Executive Bureau and are approved by the General Assembly. Each full member with the right to vote in the General Assembly shall nominate a member for the Educational, Research as well as Professional Organisation Committee. Each subspecialties society shall nominate a member for the Subspecialties Committee. The Committee Chairmen are elected by the General Assembly out of the two candidates proposed by the above-mentioned committees. The President and Vice-President are full voting members of all committees. Working committees may be established by the Executive Bureau and approved by the General Assembly for the purpose of dealing with specific matters that are of a short-term nature or do not require a complete committee structure.

§ 13 AUDITORS

The General Assembly shall elect two auditors for a period of two years. Re-election shall be possible once. The auditors may not be members of an organ whose activities are the subject of auditing – with the exception of the General Assembly.

The auditors are to check the current business and the financial management of the Association for the proper character of accounting and to examine whether the funds are used as provided for in the statutes.

Legal transactions between the auditors and the Association are subject to approval by the General Assembly.

Apart from death and the expiration of the term of office, the office of an auditor shall come to an end, if the auditor is removed from his office by the General Assembly and in the case of resignation.

The General Assembly may at any time remove the auditors or individual auditors from office, which shall take effect upon appointment of a new auditor.

The auditors may at any time submit their resignation in writing. The resignation shall be submitted to the Executive Bureau. The resignation shall become effective only upon election or co-option of successors. The Executive Bureau has to ensure that new auditors are appointed immediately.

§ 14 ARBITRAGE OF DISPUTES

All disputes arising from the associative relationship shall be settled by the internal arbitral tribunal of the Association.

The arbitral tribunal shall be composed of three delegates of the last General Assembly. One party to the dispute shall nominate in writing to the Executive Bureau one member as an arbitrator. Within seven days, the Executive Bureau shall request the other party to the conflict to also nominate an arbitrator within 14 days. Informed by the Executive Bureau within 7 days the two appointed arbitrators shall elect a third ordinary member from the above-mentioned delegation members as chairman of the arbitral tribunal. If the votes are equal, a decision shall be reached by drawing lots. The arbitrators may not be members of an organ whose activities are the subject of the dispute - with the exception of the General Assembly.

The arbitral tribunal shall render judgement after hearing both parties in the presence of all its members by a simple majority of votes. It shall decide to the best of its knowledge and belief. Its arbitration awards shall be final internally.

§ 15 VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION, UTILISATION OF THE ASSETS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The voluntary liquidation of the Association may only be carried out with a two thirds majority of the valid votes cast in an ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly convened for this purpose. If the necessary majority is not achieved, the General Assembly shall convene anew after a 30-minute break and shall decide on the liquidation of the Association with relative majority.

This General Assembly shall also pass a resolution concerning the assets of the Association, if such assets exist. The General Assembly shall appoint a liquidator and pass a resolution to whom it is to transfer the assets of the Association remaining after the payment of the debts.

In the case of liquidation of the Association the remaining assets shall be transferred to a non-profit organisation pursuing similar aims for the promotion of non-profit purposes in accordance with Section 34 ff of the Austrian Tax Order (Bundesabgabenordnung). The same shall be valid in case the Association ceases to promote its non-profit purpose.

§ 16 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATUTES

The statutes take effect immediately after their registration and adoption by the General Assembly.

EAR Internal Rules Based on the EAR Statutes

approved by the EAR General Assembly at the ECR 2006 Congress

RULE 1 – LANGUAGE

The official language is English. Either French or German may also be used during meetings. Only the English text has official standing.

The journal "European Radiology" is the official organ of the Association.

RULE 2 – ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Applications for admission to the Association from Societies eligible to become members as outlined in the statutes 5 should be addressed in writing to the Secretary-General, for the attention of the President of the Association, by the president of the society, or the representative of the group applying for admission.

The application should be accompanied by a copy of the charter of the society and a list of members. The societies applying for membership of EAR should provide an overview of their structure and function. The application and documents should reach the Secretary-General at least four months before the General Assembly meeting.

RULE 3 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The delegates are chosen by their society according to their own rules. Unless the society nominates the head of delegation, the delegation will elect its own head.

It is desirable that after a period of four years, delegations are renewed in part.

If the head of delegation is prevented from attending a meeting, the second member, or in his absence, the third member, replaces him.

Details of the composition of the delegation, including their names and addresses, should be sent to the Secretary-General of the Association not less than fourteen days before the General Assembly.

If modifications to the charter are proposed, the revised text should be reproduced in full and enclosed with the agenda. Following each meeting of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General will prepare draft minutes, which will be sent to each society with a request for comments within one month.

RULE 4 – EXECUTIVE BUREAU

The President has the privilege to invite to the Executive Bureau Meeting a suitable person to handle an ad hoc problem.

A summary of the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Bureau will be sent as soon as possible to full members of the Association.

RULE 5 – ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEMBERS

The Secretary-General will announce the name of the successful candidate. In the case of a tie a re-ballot of the two candidates with the highest number of votes will take place by the same process. Should there still be a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

RULE 6 – COMMITTEES

The Committees are created by the Executive Bureau and approved by the General Assembly.

Nominations for the offices of the Committees' Chairmen are sought from the committee members four months prior to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General. If more than two nominations are received a postal ballot of all committee members should be undertaken by the Secretary-General immediately after the close of nominations. Voting should be completed two weeks prior to the General Assembly. The names of the two candidates with the greatest number of votes will be submitted during the General Assembly to a secret ballot. The Secretary-General will ask all voting members to vote for one candidate, fold the paper and hand it to the teller. The Committee Chairmen are elected by a simple majority. At the General Assembly after the ballot, the Secretary-General will announce the name of the successful candidate.

The Committee Chairmen

- call and run committee meetings,
- coordinate committee activities, and
- report appropriately to the Executive Bureau and to the General Assembly.

RULE 7 – EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. The Education Committee is created by the Executive Bureau and approved by the general assembly. Each full society member of the Association will nominate a member to the Education Committee to serve for three years, and the Executive Bureau will approve the membership. The President and Vice-President are full members of the committee. The Chairman is elected by the General Assembly. The Committee may elect a Vice-Chairman and Secretary for the Committee if required from their membership. The Vice-Chairman will not have voting rights at the Executive Bureau.

2. Aims and Objectives

The Education Committee will advise on all educational matters within the Association, establish a structure for pregraduate and postgraduate education in radiology, including continuing medical education, in collaboration with the Professional Organisation Committee and the Subspecialties Committee.

3. Administration

The administrative office of the Education Committee will be based at the office of the European Association of Radiology.

4. Board of the Education Committee

4.1 The Board of the Education Committee shall consist of five representative academic radiologists from European training departments, nominated by the Education Committee and appointed by the Executive Bureau and two representative radiologists each affiliated with a European Radiology training department nominated by the UEMS Radiology Section National Representatives and approved by the President of the UEMS Radiology Section and the EAR Executive Bureau. The Chairman of the Training Assessment Committee will be a member of the Board. The Board will advise the UEMS Radiology Section on educational matters. The Board together with members of the Committee is responsible for matters relating to radiological education. The Chairmen of the Subspecialties Committee and of the Professional Organisation Committee are ex officio members of the Board.

4.2 The elected Chairman of the Education Committee will chair the Board. The Chairman will serve for a fixed period of three years, which is non-renewable.

4.3 Other members of the Board will serve for a fixed period of two years, and are eligible for re-election for one further period of one year.

4.4 One member of the Board will be designated by the Board to serve as secretary during his/her period of office.

4.5 Meetings of the Board will normally be held twice yearly.

4.6 The Board will coordinate the strategy for continuing education, curriculum development, and assessment programmes in European radiology.

RULE 8 – PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

1. The Professional Organisation Committee (POC) is created by the Executive Bureau and approved by the General Assembly. Each full society member of the Association will nominate a member to the Professional Organisation Committee to serve for three years, and the Executive Bureau will approve the membership. It is advisable that the representative of an EU country may also be one of its UEMS representatives. The President and Vice-President are full members of the Committee. The Professional Organisation Committee will nominate from among those members the Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Committee, and the Executive Bureau will approve them.

2. The Professional Organisation Committee will advise the Association on matters relating to the structure and practice of the speciality of radiology, including service delivery and professional issues. The POC will consider initiatives related to the issues of manpower, medico-legal aspects, distribution of equipment, including "heavy" equipment, reimbursement for radiology, relations with technical staff, implementation of the Treaty of Rome, continuing professional development, harmonisation and ethics. The POC will prepare responses in regard to radiation regulations, issues of justification and delivery of radiological services, however funded. The POC will consider initiatives related to subspecialisation in radiology and education in radiology, in conjunction with the Subspecialty Committee and the Education Committee respectively.

The POC will co-operate with the Congress Committee in the preparation of the programme of ECR, with particular reference to possible topics in the programme and possible speakers, seminars, session chairmen, and members of discussion groups.

3. The POC will address issues of management in radiology through its subcommittee on management in radiology. The constitution of this subcommittee is approved by the EAR Executive Bureau.
4. The POC will work closely with the Specialist Section and Board for Radiology of the UEMS. That collaboration will be co-ordinated through the Joint Commission EAR-UEMS (see Rule 13).

RULE 9 – RESEARCH COMMITTEE

1. The Research Committee is created by the Executive Bureau and approved by the General Assembly. Each full society member of the Association will nominate a member to the Research Committee to serve for three years, and the Executive Bureau will approve the membership. The President and Vice-President are full members of the committee.

The Chairman is elected by the General Assembly. The Research Committee may nominate from among those members a Vice-Chairman and Secretary to the Committee, and the Executive Bureau will approve them.

2. Aims and Objectives

The Research Committee will advise on all research matters within the Association and establish a structure for research in radiology in collaboration with the Education Professional Organisation Committee and the Subspecialties Committee.

3. Administration

The administrative office of the Research Committee will be based at the office of the European Association of Radiology.

4. Board of the Research Committee

4.1 The Board of the Research Committee shall consist of five research radiologists from European radiology departments, nominated by the Chairman and members of the Research Committee and appointed by the Executive Bureau.

4.2 The elected Chairman of the Research Committee will chair the Board. The Chairman will serve for a fixed period of three years, which is non-renewable.

4.3 Other members of the Board will serve for a fixed period of two years. At the establishment of the committee members are eligible for re-election for one further year to maintain continuity.

4.4 One member of the Board will be designated by the Board to serve as secretary during his/her period of office.

4.5 Meetings of the Board will normally be held twice yearly.

4.6 The Board will coordinate the strategy for the development of research programmes in European radiology.

RULE 10 – SUBSPECIALTIES COMMITTEE

1. The Subspecialty Societies Committee is created by the Executive Bureau of EAR and approved by the General Assembly.

2. It is required that the rules and regulations of each of the Subspecialties Societies represented must be compatible with those of the Association.

3. The term of office of each representative is two years and can be renewed once.

4. It comprises one representative appointed by each of the European subspecialties societies in radiology. The appointment of the representative is not dependent on his/her responsibilities within the Board or Executive Committee of the Subspecialties Societies during their term of appointment.

5. Each subspecialty society shall be responsible for arranging a suitable deputy in case its representative is unable to attend a meeting.

6. The members of the Subspecialties Committee will elect two nominees for the role of Chairman, as outlined in statute 12. One of these nominees is elected Chairman by the General Assembly. The Chairman will not act as the representative of his/her subspecialty society during his/her term of office, so that the subspecialty society will appoint another representative.

7. The President and Vice-President are full members of the Committee. The Secretary-General, Chairman of the Education, Professional Organisation and Research Committees of EAR will be ex-officio non-voting members of the Committee.

8. The Chairman of the Subspecialties Committee is an elected member of the Executive Bureau of EAR. The term of office of the Chairman is three years and cannot be renewed.

9. The Chairman of the Subspecialties Committee is ex-officio member of the Board of the Education Committee and the Professional Organisation Committee of EAR.

10. The Committee will normally meet at least once a year at the European Congress of Radiology.
11. The administrative office of the Subspecialties Committee will be based at the office of the European Association of Radiology.
12. The Aims and Objectives
 - 12.1 The aims and objectives of each subspecialty society represented in the Committee should include reference to the promotion of the subspecialty within the unity of radiology.
 - 12.2 The Committee will advise the Executive Bureau on matters relevant to the subspecialties of radiology.
 - 12.3 The Committee will co-ordinate all initiatives related to issues of subspecialties in radiology, in co-operation with the Education Committee of EAR for specific educational issues and with the Professional Organisation Committee of EAR for specific professional issues.
 - 12.4 The Committee will assist the European Congress of Radiology Programme Committee in the preparation of the educational and scientific programme of the ECR.

RULE 11 – RADIOLOGY TRAINEES FORUM

1. Trainee radiologists are defined as radiologists in training.
2. The purpose of the Radiology Trainees Forum is to provide a communication link with the executive of the EAR with particular reference to education, career development and research.
3. It comprises a representative of each national society member of the Association. The Radiology Trainees Forum may elect from its members a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

RULE 12 – AD HOC COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

1. Ad Hoc Committees and Working Groups may be created and cancelled by the Executive Bureau to advise it on particular areas of interest.
2. The members of Ad Hoc Committees and Working Groups are appointed by the Executive Bureau. They will not necessarily include persons from each national society, and they may include persons who are not members of those national societies.

3. Working Groups are allowed to co-opt additional members to the Board or to open to membership, subject to the approval of the Executive Bureau.

RULE 13 – JOINT COMMISSION

Liaison and joint projects between the UEMS Radiology Section and EAR will be coordinated through the Joint Commission EAR/UEMS. The President of EAR and the President of the Radiological Section of UEMS will alternate the chair of the Joint Commission annually. The Joint Commission also includes the Chairman of the Education Committee and one other member of the Executive Bureau of EAR, and two executive members of the UEMS Radiology Section. The organisation of the Joint Commission will be through the EAR office.

RULE 14 – ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The Executive Bureau may create an association office and employ staff as appropriate for the function, the aims and responsibilities of the Association.

RULE 15 – AMENDMENTS

Changes to these internal regulations require a two-thirds majority vote by the Executive Bureau and a relative majority decision by the General Assembly.

Treasurer`s Report

by Lorenzo Bonomo, EAR Treasurer



The spreadsheets below as well as those on pages 18 and 19 give you a detailed overview of the financial report for the year 2006 as per December 31, 2006. In cooperation with our tax consultants I tried to give you a clear insight into the EAR finances. The charts thus reflect

the present status of the EAR assets, income as well as expenditures. As you can see from the table below the year 2006 closes with assets in the amount of € 626,960.72. This reflects the good health of EAR in its last year of existence. The operative loss accounts for € 59,959.64. On pages 18 and 19 you will find detailed information on the income and expenditures that occurred between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006.

Financial Report

as per December 31, 2006

Assets

ASSETS	Account No.	Accounts total in Euro	
31.12.2006	Bonds	463,042.00	
31.12.2006	284-01529500	159,521.98	ERSTE Bank
31.12.2006	235-318506.01K	653.14	UBS CHF
31.12.2006	235-318506.61A	2,343.60	UBS EUR
31.12.2006	Cash	1,400.00	
		626,960.72	

2006

Income	301,937.63
Expenditures	351,513.10
Excess expenditures over income	-49,575.47

Loss in value of shares -10,384.17

TOTAL – Excess expenditures over income -59,959.64

Income

Annual subscriptions, National Societies for 2006	165,809.00
Annual subscriptions, National Societies for 2007	33,593.00
Annual subscriptions, Subspecialty Societies for 2006	13,692.00
Annual subscriptions, Subspecialty Societies for 2007	6,447.00
Interest and exchange profit	196.63
Support from Bracco for EURORAD	50,000.00
Support for Graz Tutorials	32,200.00
TOTAL	301,937.63

Expenditures

MEETINGS

Remaining Meetings 2005	
Ex. Bureau Meeting, January 28-30, 2005 (Munich)	340.66
Executive Bureau, June 26, 2005	3,586.67
Brainstorming Meeting, July 1-3, 2005 (Venice)	283.01
UEMS/EAR-POC Meeting, November 5, 2005 (Paris)	642.80
MIR Congress, October 7-9, 2005 (Copenhagen)	1,469.47
MIR Meeting, November 2005 (Chicago)	441.50
EAR Meetings, October 28-30, 2005	13,463.77
Annual Leadership Meeting, December 10-11, 2005	21,384.14
Other meetings 2005	1,867.48
Total	43,479.50

Meetings 2006

Ex. Bureau Meeting, January 27, 2006	8,361.26
JRF Board Meeting, June 2-4, 2006	2,364.18
Ex. Bureau Meeting, May 31-June 2, 2006	5,185.70
ESR Brainstorming Meeting, July 7-9, 2006	2,216.94
Expert Group on MRI, July 4, 2006	447.25
MIR-Management in Radiology, October 5-7, 2006	879.42
Joint EANM/ESR Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, October 10, 2006	1,364.38
Ex. Bureau Meeting, November 9, 2006	518.78
RTF Weekend Workshop, November 18, 2006	1,172.08
Annual Leadership Meeting, December 8-9, 2006	976.78
Other meetings 2006	2,412.03
Total	25,898.80

All meetings on the occasion of ECR 2006	26,666.34
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Graz Tutorials	33,845.43
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PRINTING COSTS

Brochures	19,702.86
Annual Report	9,047.01
Various costs	152.00
Total	28,901.87

OFFICE COSTS

Postage and freight	14,531.22
Office supplies	1,320.74
EAR Head Office	81,406.03
Total	97,257.99

EURORAD	48,670.00
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INTERNET

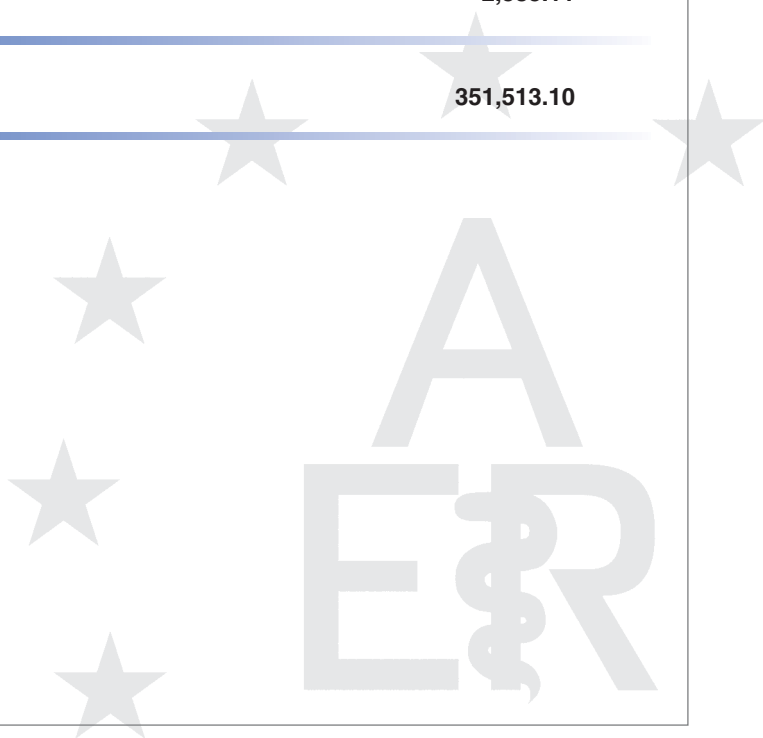
Self assessment tool	30,000.00
Survey	4,021.67
Total	34,021.67

EIBIR - will be refunded in 2007	10,186.39
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OTHER EXPENDITURES

Bank charges and exchange loss	1,814.95
Legal advice	770.16
Total	2,585.11

TOTAL	351,513.10
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EURORAD Report

by Albert L. Baert, Editor-in-Chief



EURORAD (European radiological database) is the educational electronic publication of ESR devoted to diagnostic and interventional imaging containing clinical cases with specific educational value. Cases are submitted, peer-reviewed and accessed through the internet only.

Until December 2004 EURORAD was technically supported by EUROMULTIMEDIA (Luxembourg). In January 2005, EAR took over all rights for this educational venture. ESR as successor to EAR is now entirely responsible for the global funding and steering of the programme.

The Vienna-based WEBGES informatics company is responsible for the software programme and the electronic handling.

Other features of the EURORAD programme are:

- regular language editing, which ensures a more correct use of the English language and will facilitate and improve the daily routine activities of section editors and reviewers;
- All published EURORAD cases are qualified for Digital Object Identification (DOI). This means that all published cases can be cited correctly in other publications according to the specific policies adopted by all international publications.

I am strongly convinced that these features are much appreciated by all authors who consider submitting their scientific material to EURORAD for electronic publication.

During the past year the number of submitted cases has remained stable (around 40 per month). The rejection rate is approximately 10 % (graph 1).

Graph 2 displays the number of unique users, the number of visits, pages and hits. The very high figure of hits in March 2006 is explained by the ECR congress which was held during that month.

These figures illustrate very well the high interest among radiologists from all over the world for this unique ESR educational venture which is freely available.

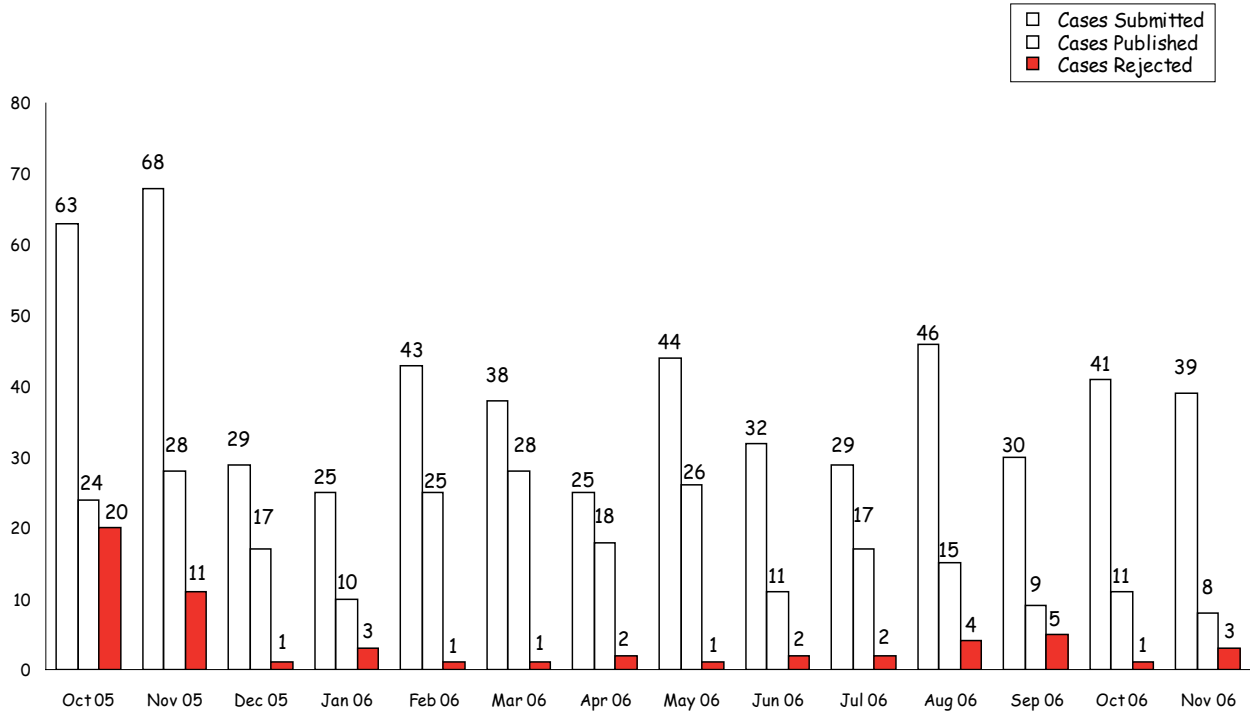
I take this welcome opportunity to express my most sincere gratitude to all section editors and reviewers for their superb support to ensure a qualified and prompt peer-review of the submitted cases.

I acknowledge also the help of Prof. Davide Caramella (Scientific Director), Mr. Rainer Pühr (EURORAD Publication Support) and Dr. Richard Rettenbacher (WEBGES) for their engagement and unrelenting support.

On January 1, 2007 Prof. Dr. J.L. Bloem, an internationally well-known radiologist, has taken over as Editor-in-Chief. I wish my successor great success and I am confident that EURORAD will grow, flourish and reach new scientific heights under his leadership.

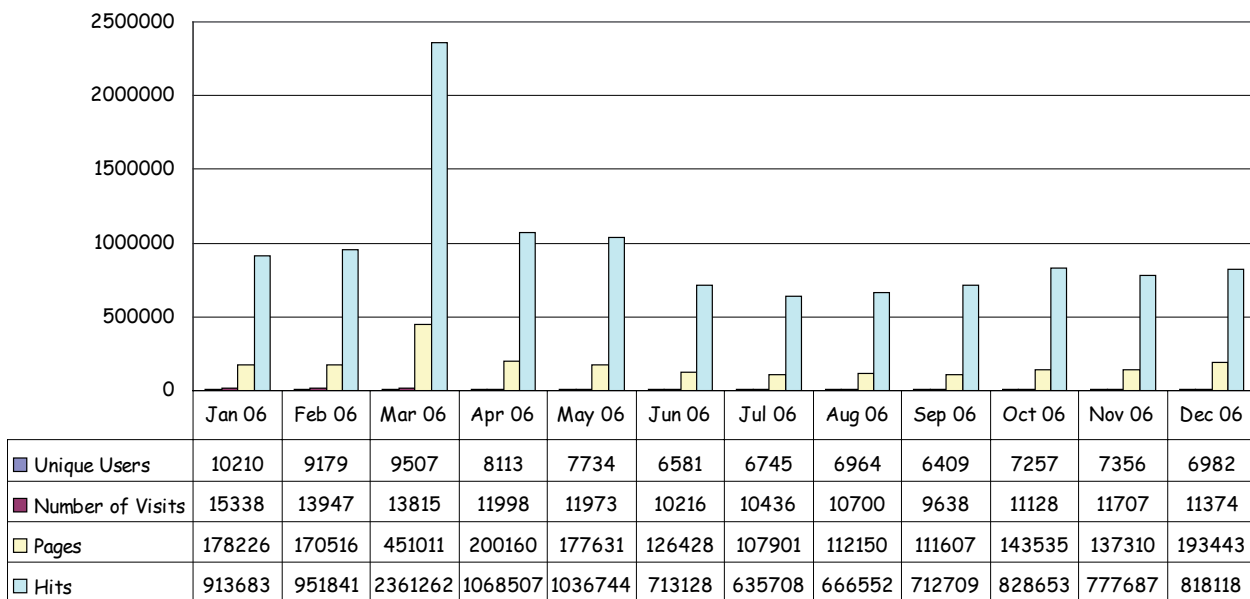


EURORAD Traffic Year 2006



Graph 1

EURORAD Case Statistics (October 2005 – November 2006)



Graph 2

EAR Executive Bureau Members



PRESIDENT
Nicholas Gourtsoyiannis



VICE-PRESIDENT
Iain W. McCall



SECRETARY-GENERAL
Guy Frija



TREASURER
Lorenzo Bonomo



**EDUCATION
COMMITTEE**
Éamann Breatnach



**PROFESSIONAL
ORGANISATION
COMMITTEE (POC)**
Bruno Silberman



**RESEARCH
COMMITTEE**
Gabriel P. Krestin



**SUBSPECIALTIES
COMMITTEE**
José I. Bilbao



NATIONAL MEMBERS
András Palkó



EUROPEAN RADIOLOGY
Albert L. Baert



ECR CHAIRMAN
Andreas Adam

Subcommittee



**MANAGEMENT
SUBCOMMIITTEE OF POC**
Georg Bongartz

Working Group (WG)



WG ON SAFETY
Peter Vock

Ad Hoc Committee



IT AD HOC COMMITTEE
Davide Caramella

Radiology Trainees Forum (RTF)



CHAIRPERSON
Anagha P. Parkar



VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Christiane Nyhsen



SECRETARY
Sasa Popovic



TREASURER
Pradeep Govender



MEMBER/PR OFFICER
Annika Kits



Activity Report of the Education Committee

by Éamann Breatnach, Education Committee Chairman



As incoming Chairman of the Education Committee I wish to pay tribute to my predecessor, Philippe Grenier and all previous members of the EAR Education Committee for their commitment and efforts on behalf of educational standards within European radiology.

The Education Committee of the EAR has now become the Education Committee of the ESR and again I wish to pay tribute to my colleagues in both previous EAR and ECR who have achieved this union.

At the Education Committee Board Meeting in March 2006, nine nominations for appointment to the Education Committee were made. The subsequent EAR Executive Bureau Meeting on June 1st ratified five of these. P.A. Grenier, previous Chairman of the Education Committee, was included in the ratified nominations and new members of the Committee include A. Karantanas, M. Laniado, M. Midiri and K. Rickland.

1 - European Training Charter for Clinical Radiology, Detailed Curriculum for the Initial Structured Common Programme, Detailed Curriculum for Subspecialty Training.

The new Committee fully endorses this publication and supports its principles which include:

- (i) Reiteration that radiologists are clinicians, with a clinical expertise which extends from diagnostic investigation through interventional radiology to active therapy.
- (ii) The duration of training in diagnostic radiology should be five years.
- (iii) The content of the first three years' training should be a structured programme to include radiological anatomy, disease manifestation and core radiological skills.
- (iv) The 4th and 5th year of training should serve individual needs either in subspecialty training, or a continuance of general radiology.

The Committee has undertaken to evaluate the impact of the European Training Charter document throughout Europe. In order to objectively assess this, a survey will soon be conducted to identify the reception, applicability, and cohesion between the document and local training.

It is also planned that the detailed curriculum for subspecialty training content will be reviewed by the subspecialties' organisations working through the Subspecialties Committee in order to consolidate their input, and ensure that the document remains timely and appropriate for ever-changing developments within radiology.

The Committee wishes to see the immediate and wide dissemination of this Charter within Europe, and can report that the curriculum document was published as a pdf file on 75% of the websites of the EAR member societies. The brochure was also sent in a printed format to 80% of the key academic centres in Europe. As a result 1,119 academic radiological heads as well as heads of radiological hospital departments have so far been provided with printed copies.

The publication has also been promoted in the 11th edition of the electronic ESR newsletter (July 26 2006) which was sent out to over 60,000 people world-wide.

In addition, the document has been translated for local use in a number of countries. Through these steps it is hoped that the document will become an integral reference for all stakeholders responsible for radiological training throughout Europe.

2 - Continuous Medical Education (CME)

The Committee is aware of concerns regarding the administration of CME in radiology education within Europe. Heretofore CME has been administered through a committee of UEMS in association with the National Authorities. On foot of these concerns a survey on the present status of CME vis a vis radiology was carried out amongst 40 countries and the following is a summary of the major points reported:

1. CME is regulated by law in 50% of the respondents.

2. Attendance at international meetings is required for CME accreditation in 17% of the respondents' countries whereas attendance at national meetings is accepted in 72% of the countries.
3. There are legal consequences in relation to the radiologists' proof of sufficient CME activity in 38% of the respondent countries. The Committee anticipates that this number will increase significantly over the next years. The legal consequence is mainly in relation to re-certification, but may also extend to medico-legal insurance in 14% of the countries.
4. CME certificates have to include:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| each session/hour attended | 24% |
| Each day a person has attended | 21% |
| Only registration and payment | 14% |
| General number of possible credits | 24% |
5. Registrants have to provide assessment of each lecturer to obtain CME credits:
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 31% |
| No | 52% |
6. Financial (or other) support for the continuing education exists:
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 52% |
| No | 28% |
7. Online CME (eCME) is
- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| Accepted | 38% |
| Not accepted | 34% |
| Required | 0% |
8. The national system for CME works to my/our satisfaction:
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 55% |
| No | 24% |
9. The system is handled strictly by the responsible authority:
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Yes, very strictly | 31% |
| More or less | 28% |
| No, not at all | 24% |
10. The cooperation with the UEMS – EACCME is
- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| Very good | 10% |
| Bad | 3% |
| OK | 45% |
| Not existing | 38% |

The Committee continues the discussion with UEMS and other interested stakeholders in order to maximise the ef-

iciency, credibility, transparency and applicability of CME structures for radiology education in Europe.

3 - Other matters

(a) Reference Centres:

Criteria for reference centres are being refined, and applications for this status will be requested from European education bodies in the forthcoming months. It is intended that such centres will be identified as being suitable for 6–12 month-rotations within specific radiology subspecialties. This process will be rolled out in association with the subspecialty societies, and through the good offices of the national societies.

(b) European Training Assessment Programme (ETAP) – L. Johnston (chairman):

During the autumn of 2006, the radiology training programmes at the University of Chieti (Italy), the University Hospital of Heraklion (Crete) and the University of Rennes (France) were visited.

The visit to the University of Chieti was led by D. McInerney (Ireland) who was accompanied by A. van Gils (The Netherlands) and M. Moffessanti (Italy). They formed a very favourable impression of the hospital and its training scheme. The quality of patient care is high, the radiology staff and residents are on excellent terms and are dedicated to their work. The scheme is an excellent example of the best of traditional Italian radiology training. The staff members are fully aware of requirements for change. Residents are both students of the university and employees. However, there is a reluctance to rotate out and the department is losing control of residents. The poorly paid residents expressed a desire for further English language teaching. Furthermore there were deficiencies in some rotations. There is no formal management training. The programme could be enhanced by more formal documentation of trainee progress including interviews, examinations, assessments, logbooks and a final end examination.

The visit of the training programme at the University of Heraklion (Crete) was led by P. L. Allen (Scotland) who was accompanied by P. M. T. Pattynama (The Netherlands). Radiology training in Greece is fragmented with each of the training programmes organising their own training courses, assessments and final examinations. There are no national training criteria or standards. The programme is well organised and provides a high standard of training that largely conforms to the requirements of the EAR/UEMS regulations. The trainees are very positive about

most aspects of the programme. Nevertheless it has to be recognised that the national regulations relating to the appointment of trainees, which do not allow selection, and their subsequent appointment to specialist posts make development of a coherent and co-ordinated cohort of trainees more difficult. Although there is no recognised training committee, the head of training and the assistants co-ordinate a structured training programme with regular assessments and generally good results. Interaction between trainers and trainees in relation to training is informal but efficient. The structure of the department is modality based and the training programme reflects this. However, options for subspecialty training, as defined in the regulations, can be arranged for those trainees who want this opportunity; although it is recognised that the nature of radiology in Greece encourages general experience, rather than specialisation.

The visit to the University Hospital Rennes (France) was led by M. Szczerbo-Trojanowska (Poland) who was accompanied by A. Rydh (Sweden). Rennes has a very impressive and well structured modular training scheme. The trainers are enthusiastic and the relationship between trainers and trainees is excellent with good communication and first class support. The facilities within the department are impressive. The department could easily increase the number of trainees in the scheme and would benefit from such an expansion. The training scheme is exemplary and could become a model for training schemes within France. However, it would benefit from formal documentation of processes and a more formal structured and documented approach to assessment. It was felt that an exit exam would strengthen the specialisation process in France.

(c) Education and Training of Medical Physicists in Radiology

A request for representation from the ESR Education Committee to sit on the EFOMP Working Group on "Guidelines for Education and Training of Medical Physicists in Radiology" was accepted. A draft version of these guidelines have now been prepared.

4 - European School of Radiology

N. Gourtsoyiannis, President of ESR, reported on developments within the European School of Radiology to the Education Committee. A full report from N. Gourtsoyiannis appears elsewhere.

At the time of writing I have been made aware of the recent death of J. Lissner. He was recognised to be an outstanding leader in European radiology and will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Education Committee I wish to extend my sincerest sympathy to his family on their sad bereavement.

Activity Report of the Professional Organisation Committee

by Bruno Silberman, Chairman of EAR/POC and UEMS Radiology Section



The year 2006 marked the first stage of the interim period ending in 2008 when ESR and its POC Committee will have established their new structure.

As re-elected chairman of this committee and outgoing president of the UEMS Radiology Section, it was my duty to tackle

issues such as teleradiology and to launch new projects together with the new committee board and delegates. At the same time a new way of working within ESR/POC aimed at keeping the traditional and important links with the UEMS delegates in full respect of both organisations.

As the situation in the UK started to get worse with regard to teleradiology, that issue was addressed in an ESR/UEMS white paper entitled "Teleradiology in the European Union", which was formally approved by ESR and will soon be sent as a brochure to the EU Commission as well as all members of the European Parliament. The paper was also presented during the Annual Leadership Meeting.

A joint ESR/UEMS response to the public inquiry of the EU Commission on the discussion paper entitled "Community Action on Health Services" was submitted at the end of January 2007.

Initial training in clinical radiology has been achieved through the EAR/ESR Education Committee and formally approved by the POC & UEMS section, as this is an issue that should integrate principles such as the quality of care in radiology and the reality of practice of the so-called "ground radiologist" all over Europe.

The Subcommittee on Management in Radiology (MIR) organised a successful congress in Budapest as well as its winter workshops. The first ESOR Course on Management was held in combination with the Annual Leadership Meeting in December 2006 thanks to the efficient organisation of G. Bongartz, who is in charge of this subcommittee which has now received also the support of the ESR Office in Vienna.

The 6th Annual POC/UEMS November Meeting with all delegates in Paris included the following new items of discussion:

Improvement of EACCME: This issue is regarded as important by all European radiologists. Therefore, the acquisition of CME credits should be facilitated and CPD for accreditation or re-accreditation should be furthered if it is mandatory, as it is in an increasing number of European countries. POC will closely work together with the Education Committee and function as a link to the UEMS-EACCME organisation, which needs to be improved considerably as it has been recently admitted after many specialist sections such as radiology or cardiology had voiced criticism. A task group was set up to propose a strategy to ESR this year.

Collection of data in Europe: Due to the ongoing discussions of radiological professional issues (e.g. real initial training, local opportunities such as subspecialty teams according to our new curriculum, the manpower and role of radiologists and radiographers, workload, equipment, financial costs and fees) ESR needs to start an on-going process of collecting reliable data to stay up-to-date. After I.W. McCall's attempt as POC chairman and the very last endeavour of A. Palkó and G. Frija to conduct surveys, it has become clear that the collection of data around Europe is a very difficult task. This is why POC decided to dedicate a lot of its time to this issue this year in cooperation with A. Palkó and to collect data through the national POC and UEMS delegates. A realistic approach needs to be chosen to be as efficient as possible. The initial questionnaire discussed during the November meeting will be reformulated and simplified to make all questions easily understandable for everyone. During this year a POC/UEMS working meeting should be dedicated to check the answers and see if there is anything missing or contradictory. In the years to come new questions/issues will be added to establish this data collection as an on-going process. In the future this should be a regular task of POC in cooperation with the very efficient support of the ESR office.

This year will be dedicated to the preparation of the future of POC from 2008 onwards and to maintenance of the close links to the UEMS Radiology Section. For the first

time, the offices of the POC chairman and the president of the UEMS Radiology Section will not be presided over by one and the same person. However, the ESR statutes and rules of procedure succeeded to integrate the necessary evolution of the new single house of radiology (ESR) and the strong link to the UEMS Section in full respect of both organisations.

POC's issues and tasks as well as its close relation to the UEMS are sometimes not sufficiently known among national societies. To prepare the future of POC, I regard it as my duty to raise all these issues in the best possible way by providing explanation and meeting the national societies if required.



Activity Report of the Research Committee

by Gabriel P. Krestin, Research Committee Chairman



A dream has become reality. For three years, we have dreamed, brainstormed, planned and – especially – followed a lot of discussions and presentations. Finally, the European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research was established as a non-profit, limited-liability company in January 2006, with its office

in Vienna. The visionary idea of ESR President Nicholas Gourtsoyiannis received and continues to receive support from all constituent bodies and members of ESR, the national radiological societies and subspecialty societies in Europe as members of the EAR, and the individual membership of ECR represented by its leadership. ESR provided the necessary funding and structure for the establishment of EIBIR Limited and is currently its sole shareholder.

As the recently elected chair of the EAR Research Committee, I am extremely grateful for the massive and continuing support that our idea has received from the constituencies of our association. None of this would have been possible without the input and advice of all the committee members, and a special note of thanks goes to the Board of the Research Committee for their involvement. The nomination of Mr. Peter Baierl as Executive Director of EIBIR guarantees high quality, professionalism and continuity in all organisational, administrative and financial activities of the Institute. A legal framework has been created which will allow additional European organisations committed to the support of biomedical imaging research in Europe to become involved in EIBIR. To this end, proposals were recently sent to the European Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology, the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, the European Federation of Organisations of Medical Physicists, and the Coordination Committee of the Electromedical Industry. We hope that these organisations will join ESR's effort to create an active, multidisciplinary service organisation facilitating biomedical imaging research in Europe. In the future, we hope to enter into partnerships with the European Society of Molecular Imaging, the European Association of Medical Bioengineering Societies, and many more.

I am especially appreciative of our industrial partners. Companies involved in medical imaging business welcomed our initiative and provided valuable input into the creation of the EIBIR Industrial Panel. Most of our industrial panel members have expressed their commitment towards and support of EIBIR as an organisation that intensifies cooperation and effectiveness in research.

The EIBIR initiative has received financial support from the European Commission. A grant proposal describing the benefits of a European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research was submitted to the Commission in November 2005 and accepted and endorsed in June 2006. Coordinated by the Vienna office of EIBIR, research institutions in 13 different European countries joined forces for the preparation of this grant proposal. These institutions represent the condensation points around which regional transnational activities will be coordinated in the future. Representatives of the 13 institutions presently constitute the Scientific Advisory Board of EIBIR. Among them is Professor Jürgen Hennig, an eminent scientist and supporter of collaboration between radiologists and other disciplines involved in imaging research. Prof. Hennig has been appointed as EIBIR's first Scientific Director.

Although the first year of any new entity is primarily concerned with establishing itself, EIBIR has nevertheless initiated some of its activities. With the help of Professor Myriam Hunink as coordinator, a project called EuroAIM is being set up. EuroAIM will be the European centre for technology assessment in diagnostic imaging and image-guided interventions and will facilitate the organisation and performance of multicentre clinical imaging trials across Europe. Other initiatives currently in the preliminary stages include a chemistry platform for the development of new probes, soon to be formalised, and an image processing network for the development of imaging biomarkers. Last but not least, a network of expert centres involved in MRI-based cell imaging is being established and will prepare the submission of a grant proposal within the EU Framework Programme 7.

Our extensive lobbying and informational activities have led to recognition of the importance of biomedical imaging in technological development, innovation and research. Also important in this respect was connecting the ESR with other organisations involved in imaging,

with the European Commission, with the European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructures, and with the European Science Foundation. We expect that within the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission, as well as within other policy statements, imaging will receive a much larger acceptance than in past years.

The launching of the EIBIR website creates a basis for the continued spread of our message to the scientific community in Europe. Our members — indeed, the entire community — will receive updated information on activities, strategies and ideas on these pages. So please visit www.eibir.org regularly. Also, if you have not applied to become a member institution of EIBIR yet, then please do so as soon as possible. The larger the group of active members, the better we can serve the needs of our community.



EAR

Activity Report of the Subspecialties Committee

by José I. Bilbao, Subspecialties Committee Chairman



The Subspecialties Committee met twice during the year 2006 which was marked by several other fruitful meetings as you can see in the outlined meeting schedule of 2006/2007 at the end of this brochure. This excellent situation of sharing aims and objectives led to an increase in communication and

feedback thus facilitating ESR activities and accelerating the achievement of different projects in which ESR and the ten subspecialty societies are involved for the benefit of European radiology. All of the projects and activities that are summarised in this annual report reflect the great amount of work completed by many different people leading an entirely open dialogue.

According to the ESR survey conducted for the purpose of evaluating the radiological training programmes in Europe (details can be found in a separate brochure), subspecialties in radiology are officially recognised in 13 countries and specific training programmes are available for these subspecialties in 12 countries. The number of recognised subspecialties varies between the countries from just one (neuroradiology) to all subspecialties. The most frequently recognised subspecialties are neuroradiology and paediatric radiology. It is interesting to see that four or more subspecialties are recognized in only four European countries.

Subspecialisation is the reflection of an increase in the complexity of modern medicine and responds to the needs of high-level and accurate patient care and facilitates the personal (professional) desire to enhance one's knowledge and research. A main objective of this Committee is to promote the implementation of a well-organized subspecialisation training programme, structured societies or task forces for that purpose in each European country. Partial or complete subspecialisation, a reality in the near future of radiology, should be undertaken and understood as an increase in clinical competence and skills that will be that will be vital for the entire field of radiology. Training and organisational activities must be spread to all countries in a flexible way to acknowledge every country's or hospital's peculiarity and to adapt to all circumstances.

Together with all the subspecialty societies this Committee needs to find ways of improving and implementing subspecialisation.

As you know, ESR has established the European School of Radiology (ESOR) to create courses and programmes, to incorporate and accommodate existing programmes and to coordinate ESR's huge educational endeavour. The three-month visiting scholarships on modular training are useful to complete the five-year training and might trigger decisions on subspecialisation as well as synergies and co-operations. ESOR will be an excellent way to provide direct teaching in specific programmes tailored to the local needs.

The concept of subspecialisation and local flexibility needs to be counterbalanced by the harmonisation of training programmes in Europe. There might be places with a lack of expertise in certain topics or techniques, where people in training need a complementary teaching programme. This modular training (2-4 months) could be provided by specific centres or institutions to residents in their fourth or fifth year of residency. The objective of this idea, although it is complementary and does not explicitly correspond to long fellowship programmes, is to identify so-called centres of reference, i.e. departments where programmes for modular training are already offered. To be able to compose a homogeneous list of such centres the EAR/ESR Education Committee is working on the definition of the prerequisites that are to be fulfilled by these centres as well as of the practical steps that are to be taken by the centres for their identification. All subspecialty societies are asked to work together with ESOR and the EAR/ESR Education Committee for this purpose.

The ESR publication entitled European Training Charter for Clinical Radiology, Detailed Curriculum for the Initial Structured Common Programme, Detailed Curriculum for Subspecialty Training elaborated in cooperation with the UEMS Radiology Section has been a major step for the European radiology allowing the harmonisation of the different national teaching programmes on a flexible basis. The subspecialty societies were involved in the composition of the document detailing the knowledge and skills needed for each specific part of the training programme. Due to the rapid expansion of radiology, the continuous

evolution of techniques or the appearance of new fields of research and clinical activity, the curricula need periodical update. Along these lines the subspecialty societies will be asked to revise in detail their sections and modify subjects or include new topics.

During the ECR 2006 ESR presented a new e-learning tool called self-assessment system. Based on the information acquired during a foundation course, congress attendees were allowed to evaluate their knowledge in that particular field. The system initially comprising only musculoskeletal radiology cases will be enlarged to cardiac imaging (ECR 2007) and interventional radiology (ECR 2008). Basically it consists of the presentation of clinical cases or quizzes with questions performed in different manners through which the examinee can actively evaluate his/her knowledge and clinical skills in that field. Some subspecialty societies are also working on similar systems. ESR would like to obtain clinical cases covering the entire field of radiology by establishing a representative group of experts that will include all subspecialties. ESR aims at adapting the electronic tool to the specific needs and requirements of the different subspecialties. Together with the EAR/ESR Education Committee the EAR/ESR Subspecialties Committee will be working on the composition of the general characteristics and requirements.

One of the major items the EAR/ESR Subspecialties Committee is confronted with is an increasing reduction of subspecialists in Europe. This trend could be defined as dramatic in some cases with paediatric radiology being the best example. The European Society of Paediatric Radiology (ESPR) has presented precise and informative documents in which they outline the situation and propose solutions that are under discussion and that require joint action by different groups.

By way of conclusion, I would like to emphasise that the EAR/ESR Subspecialties Committee has been functioning as an interface of information flow between the ESR Council and the subspecialty societies as well as among themselves through an open dialogue and exchange.

There are some topics that require prompt action, among them the identification of centres of reference and the nomination of representatives from the subspecialty societies for the further development of the self-assessment tool.

Report of the Representative of National Members

by András Palkó, Representative of National Members



1. Representation of national societies

One of the major tasks of EAR and ESR was the finalization of the statutes and rules of the new common house of European radiology. The new structure is based on individual membership, nevertheless it was an issue of primary importance to

maintain and preserve the representation of the national societies within the new society. This effort resulted in a correctly balanced text of the draft statutes which were well received and unanimously supported by the participants in the Annual Leadership Meeting 2006. The rules of the society follow the same principles allowing the appropriate level of influence for the national societies by being represented directly both in the executive council and the most important committees on the level necessary.

2. Survey conducted among national societies

After the 2005 survey, EAR conducted another survey among its members in 2006 being part of the contribution of the national societies to the promotion of the case of radiology in Europe. This time the online questionnaire was more extensive and covered most aspects of professional and society activities. It was a major success as far as participation was concerned as all member societies found it important and useful and responded accordingly to provide the data requested from them. Nevertheless, as it was agreed upon at the Annual Leadership Meeting in 2006, it appears to be necessary to revise the results of this survey because certain weaknesses and inconsistencies biased the survey.

A preliminary report on the returned data, the results of the evaluation, the plans for further use as well as the conclusions was forwarded during the Annual Leadership Meeting in 2006 upon which the EAR Executive Bureau asked the leaders of the national societies to take further efforts to revise and check the relevancy and correctness of their data with respect to the rephrased questionnaire to better serve the achievements of the survey.

The success of the revision would allow us to build up a relevant dataset which will be available for all authorized bodies of ESR, including the Committee of the National

Societies, thus becoming very useful in the process of decision-making in the future.

3. Radiology Trainees Forum

It was an important task to maintain and improve the communication and cooperation with the Radiology Trainees Forum (RTF). The quality and intensity of the activities of the Forum (see RTF report) confirm the appropriateness of this mechanism allowing both the EAR Executive Bureau and the RTF Board to be fully aware of each others views, considerations and actions.

As a result of this cooperation the existence of RTF is now going to be regulated by the ESR statutes while its activities are going to be described in the rules of ESR and the RTF charter. ESR will support the ongoing activities of RTF during the next ECR congresses in the form of highlighted sessions and the cocktail parties. The "Invest in the Youth" programme remains a great help for the national society representatives to participate in the general assembly of RTF during the ECR, thus this form of support shall be preserved.

Nevertheless RTF should extend its activities beyond these actions. Two training options (exchange programmes vs. weekend in-house meeting) received equal support from the members of the RTF Board, i.e. both of these activities might go simultaneously. It is strongly recommended to keep these inventions within the framework of the European School of Radiology (ESOR), which might address some of its activities to trainees in the form of the proposed programmes. Joint RTF-ESOR efforts would benefit a lot from the organizational skills and professional support of the ESR office and possess more transparency in terms of budget and communication.

The committee structure of ESR and composition of the ESR Board required the reconsideration of potential routes of communication between the ESR and RTF boards. RTF is supposed to have a close relationship with the Education, Subspecialties and Professional Organisation Committee and to maintain a specifically close cooperation with the National Societies Committee and the Executive Council. These considerations also need to be reflected by the established communication links between these bodies within the structure of the new society.

Report of the Radiology Trainees Forum

by Anagha P. Parkar, RTF Chairperson



RTF is the forum for trainees within EAR/ ESR. This has been the second term of the first RTF board.

In the past year the number of the RTF national representatives has increased from 27 to 36 members including an associate member. The "Invest in

Youth" programme helped RTF to reach an all time high attendance for the 2006 RTF general assembly. The support programme is rated very important by the RTF delegates and the majority stated that they could not have attended the ECR and our general assembly without the support of the programme.

The activities during the ECR 2006 were successful and the feedback from the attendees of the RTF regarding the highlighted lecture session and other RTF events was positive.

During the general assembly a number of changes to the charter which were put forward jointly by the EAR tutor A. Palkó and the RTF board were accepted unanimously in a secret ballot. The implementation of these changes has modernised RTF and the new format has led to increased activity levels. During the past year the board worked further on familiarizing themselves with the needs of the RTF delegates in order to improve the service of RTF and to increase the interest in the Forum.

NEW ACTIVITIES 2006

As it was clear that we needed more information about all aspects of training in the EAR member countries and also about the structure of the forums at national level, several new surveys were conducted in the past year.

The first one was about the effect of teleradiology and outsourcing on training whose results caused some concern. In a sampling of 30 European radiology training centres 25% indicated that teleradiology and the outsourcing of examinations were affecting training (negatively). MRI and CT examinations were the modalities that were most often performed outside a training centre depriving the trainees of examinations to report on and to gain experience from. Outsourcing usually consulting teleradiology centres in

the same country. If this trend continues, radiology training will suffer and the quality of training will decline which will weaken radiology as a speciality in the long term.

Management in radiology is another major topic and we consider it important that radiologists take an interest in the political circumstances locally and nationally also at a junior level. A small survey sent to national representatives regarding this topic revealed that there is great variation in management training offered to radiology trainees. In 23% of the sampled countries the management courses were obligatory for trainees, and in another 34% they were voluntary, but not obligatory, while 30% report no availability of management courses at all.

Further we surveyed how trainees were appraised in their countries. The response rate was 84% (of 33 sampled). We asked if there was a national system of appraisal, whether trainees had a tutor, whether they had to keep logbooks to record the type and number of examinations performed, and whether they could give their feedback to a national organ anonymously. The results indicated that appraisal is handled very differently in our member countries. We are far from harmonisation in this matter. National systems and tutors are the rule in many countries (75%, and 60% respectively). Logbooks are used in a majority of states (64%), but only half register both the number and the type of examinations. The possibility for trainees to give feedback about their training programme anonymously is low (28%).

We realise that all technological changes in radiology do affect training at some level. Awareness about these effects must increase. The EAR training charter is a guideline, which many countries try to fulfil, but social and financial causes do hold implementation back. RTF will continue to keep a strong focus on quality and other aspects of training in member countries.

Understanding how national RTFs work is essential for the board, especially in order to better serve and represent the member countries within ESR. Therefore, we conducted a survey about them, enquiring about their experience as national RTF delegate and how their national forum works. The response rate was 84%. We discovered that most countries do not have a strong trainee organisation. 68% are appointed national delegates by their radiological societies. Email is the most common method of

contact. The extent of contact varies between 10-100% of all national trainees, the mean being ~44%. The problem on how to disperse information within a country is a continuing challenge. Although most of the work is voluntary and there is practically no extra credit given to the RTF delegates, 64% consider it an attractive job.

Trainees often contact the RTF board for information about fellowship possibilities in other countries. We realised that there was no single website or place one could obtain such information from easily. A survey about grants and fellowships in our member countries was conducted, and we compiled information from 20 of our member countries to date. This list will be available on our website shortly.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME OR WEEKEND MEETING?

The RTF 2006 general assembly was divided on whether we ought to restart the exchange programme from 2000 or whether we should opt for a "political" weekend meeting. An extensive exchange programme would not have been viable at this stage so the board decided to organise a small trial. This was done successfully in June when a trainee from the Netherlands visited a centre in the UK for a week. We drew up recommendations and guidelines in order to expand and to have a viable exchange programme in the future, if the new board decides to do so.

In the past, continuity has been a problem in the RTF work. In order to improve this we held an informal meeting in November 2006 at the ESR office in Vienna. The meeting informed the trainees on RTF activities and on how the RTF functions within ESR. It was attended by 13 national representatives. Many of them were newly appointed national delegates and very pleased to receive in-depth information. The weekend meeting increased awareness about the RTF amongst national delegates.

FUTURE PLANS

RTF will for the first time be included in the statutes. This vote of confidence from the ESR Executive Committee is noted and highly appreciated by us. In order to enable a smooth transition and efficiency of the new RTF boards in the future, a few ideas have been put forward:

1) A schedule/plan of the two years' term of office outlining the work and projects of the RTF as well as important deadlines for RTF will always be handed over to the new board. The schedule will be a guideline only, which is meant to ease a new board's workload, especially in the first year.

2) A biannual budget will follow the board starting anew with every new board.

3) A weekend meeting will be held every two years in the winter before a new board is elected to summarize the RTF work and inform new RTF representatives on the workings of the RTF, thus ensuring continuity.

The RTF will elect a new board in March 2007. The well-established work such as organising RTF events during the annual congress and updating the website and dispersing information throughout the year to the national delegates will continue. The extensive database we have obtained through numerous surveys will be maintained and updated regularly. The exchange programme will probably also be reinstated. The next board will face new challenges in the future and I am confident that RTF will rise to the occasion.

I wish to thank EAR and ECR for all the help and support I have experienced in my years on the previous junior and RTF board.



Minutes of the EAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Monday, March 6, 2006; 4 pm – 6 pm

Austria Centre Vienna, Room B

Participants (130)

National Societies (38 out of 41)

ALBANIA	Cela M.	IRELAND	Breatnach É. McCarthy P. McInerney D. Bonomo L. Del Maschio A.
AUSTRIA	Imhof H. Mostbeck G. Pärtan G.	ITALY	Akhmetov E. Epermane M. Migals A. Zvigule L. Demuth R.
BELGIUM	Avni F. Baert A. Rausin L. Verschakelen J.	KAZAKHSTAN	Zrinzo S.
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Dalagija F. Lincender L. Merhemic Z. Hadjidekov V. Totev M. Velkova K.	LATVIA	Bloem J.L. Krestin G.P. Laerum F. Sandbaek G. Baron J. Urbanik A. Walecki J. Madureira A.J. Ramos I. Georgescu S.A. Zaharia C.
BULGARIA	Brkljacic B. Kanakas A. Tziakouri-Shiakalli C.	LUXEMBOURG	Prokopenko S.P. Zubarev A. Belan V. Bilický J. Dolenšek M. Pecaric-Meglic N. Zupančič Z. Bilbao J.I. Donoso Bach L. Jiménez J. Åhlström Riklund K. Aspelin P. Rydh A. Hodler J. Roeren T. Arkun R. Balci P. Basak M. Dykan I. Medvedev V. Rogozhyn V. Markham G.
CROATIA	Mechl M. Skovajsova M. Zizka J. Berg V. Nazarenko S. Ross P. Blanco R. Haapamäki V. Manninen H. Frija G. Grenier P. Silberman B. Baramia M. Gachechiladze D. Razmadze M. Todua F. Hamm B. Laniado M. Reiser M. Stringaris K. Palkó A. Benediktsson H.	MACEDONIA, REPUBLIC OF	
CYPRUS		MALTA	
CZECH REPUBLIC		NETHERLANDS, THE	
DENMARK		NORWAY	
ESTONIA		POLAND	
FINLAND		PORTUGAL	
FRANCE		ROMANIA	
GEORGIA		RUSSIA	
GERMANY		SLOVAKIA	
GREECE		SLOVENIA	
HUNGARY		SPAIN	
ICELAND		SWEDEN	
		SWITZERLAND	
		TURKEY	
		UKRAINE	
		UNITED KINGDOM	

Not represented

BELARUS
SERBIA & MONTENEGRO
UZBEKISTAN

Subspecialty Societies (10 out of 10)

CIRSE	Lammer J. Peregrin J. Reekers J.
EUSOBI	Helbich T. Salvador R. Schreer I.
ESCR	Hahn D. Oudkerk M. Rees M. Sinitsyn V.
ESGAR	Bartolozzi C. Marincek B.
ESHNR	Golding S. Imhof H. Mack M.
ESNR	Sundgren M. Thurnher M.
ESPR	Avni F. Owens C. Willi U.
ESSR	Bloem H. Cassar-Pullicino V. Cotten A.
ESTI	Neuwirth J.
ESUR	Barentsz J. Derchi L. Heinz-Peer G.

EAR Executive Bureau

President	Gourtsoyiannis N.
Vice-President	McCall I.W.
Secretary-General	Frija G.
Treasurer	Bonomo L.
Education Committee	Grenier P.A.
Professional Organisation Committee (POC)	Silberman B.
Subspecialties Committee	Bilbao J.I.
Research Committee	Krestin G.P.
Representative, National Members	Palkó A.
Editor in Chief, "European Radiology"	Baert A.L.
ECR Chairman	Chiesa A.

ECR Executive Committee

ECR Chairman	Chiesa A.
Congress President 2006 First Congress	Adam A.
Vice-President 2006 Second Congress	Herold C.J.
Vice-President 2006 Honorary President	Reiser M. Lissner J.
EAR President Editor-in-Chief, "European Radiology"	Gourtsoyiannis N.
Member	Baert A.L.
Member	Marincek B.
Member	Menu Y.
Member	Szczerbo- Trojanowska M.

Others

Auditor	Wolf K.J.
Auditor	Jiménez J.
IT Ad Hoc Committee	Caramella D.
WG Functional Imaging	Cuénod C.A.
WG Radiation Protection	Vock P.
European Training Assessment Programme	Johnston L.
Radiology Trainees Forum	Nyhssen C.
EAR Past-President	Koivisto E.
EAR lawyer	Loibner G.
EAR/ECR Office	Adams A. (minutes) Ädel K. Grabensteiner I. (minutes) Hutterer A. Mally A. Rubelli D.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of the minutes of the EAR General Assembly, March 7, 2005 (see also EAR Annual Report published in September 2005, p. 38-47)

Approval of the minutes of the EAR Annual Leadership Meeting (December 10-11, 2005)
3. Presidential report
4. Committee reports: Education Committee
Professional
Organisation Committee
Research Committee
Subspecialties Committee
5. Treasurer's report: Accounts for the year 2005
Budget for the year 2006
6. Report of the Finance Commissioners/Auditors
7. Approval of the amendments to the EAR Internal Rules
8. Elections of the Committee Chairmen
9. European Society of Radiology (ESR)
10. Closing message by the EAR President

1. WELCOME

In his function as EAR President N. Gourtsoyiannis opens the General Assembly (GA) of the European Association of Radiology. He is very pleased to see how many delegates were sent to this GA by the EAR member societies. This signifies the importance of the times and the processes that one is going to go through.

Pursuant to the EAR statutes the GA has reached its quorum, if half of the full members are present: Since 47 out of the 49 full member societies are represented, the legal requirements are fulfilled by far.

N. Gourtsoyiannis welcomes all delegates with great pleasure and goes right into the agenda by introducing its items. His proposal to take up item 8 "Elections of the Committee Chairman" just after item 4 "Committee

Reports" to ensure sufficient time for the counting of the voting sheets and to discuss other items in in-between is accepted by the participants.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE EAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY (MARCH 7, 2005; SEE ALSO EAR ANNUAL REPORT 2005, P. 38-47)**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE EAR ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING (DECEMBER 10-11, 2005)**

Both minutes are approved unanimously.

3. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

N. Gourtsoyiannis gives a brief report on EAR's activities during the year 2005. He emphasises that the objectives the EAR Executive Bureau had set itself at the last General Assembly have been achieved during the past year: EAR was re-established according to the new statutes, the officers of the Executive Bureau were renewed and a number of tasks and challenges have been undertaken to fulfil the mandates given to them.

He stresses that the second Annual Leadership Meeting held in December was well attended (70 participants) which renders the decisions taken very valuable. A number of important issues were discussed and agreed upon. The most essential ones were:

- the formal establishment of the European Society of Radiology (ESR);
- the introduction of the EAR Publications;
- the European School of Radiology;
- turf battles with Cardiology and Nuclear Medicine;
- the Physical Agents Directive on the Safety of MR.

As the European Society of Radiology will be discussed in detail under item 9, N. Gourtsoyiannis continues with the introduction of the four EAR publications which were handed out to the participants at the Annual Leadership Meeting as well as at this Assembly:

He points out that the ongoing efforts of the elected officers, especially of G.P. Krestin, for the development of the environment and infrastructure that will promote biomedical imaging research in Europe have resulted in the physical creation of EIBIR, the European Institute of Biomedical Imaging Research. A newsletter was published explaining the new concept. He is pleased to inform the audience that industry has been proactive and adopted the whole

idea; their support can be expected which is a big gain for a new idea.

In addition, N. Gourtsoyiannis stresses that the work on the EAR Training Curricula was concluded. The main role of this document is to provide services to EAR's members as they are the leaders and mentors. EAR will revisit the issue before the Annual Leadership Meeting next year to see in how far the guidelines have been implemented in the respective European countries. He expresses his sincere gratitude to P.A. Grenier and I.W. McCall who have efficiently worked together to complete this document.

The EAR President defines the European School of Radiology (ESOR) as a new endeavour. Radiology is in the forefront of the trend of the internationalisation of medical resources. Through ECR, European Radiology is becoming more and more an international force of radiological education; innovative tools have been developed to allow the transmission of radiological education worldwide and at a low cost. The harmonisation of radiological education in Europe has yet to be accomplished and the desperate needs for radiological education in developing countries need to be addressed. The European School of Radiology is based on a number of goals which are as follows:

- To develop the ECR tools to the international language of radiological education,
- To expand the "ECR meets" programmes into long-term educational support,
- To identify and serve the needs of individuals, groups and national societies through specific educational programmes,
- To cooperate with and enhance already existing educational programmes on a world scale.

N. Gourtsoyiannis stresses that a variety of courses could be held in-house at the ECR Office in Vienna. ESOR would incorporate and enrich existing programmes. From the discussions with industry he can report again that there are many opportunities and that the idea was adopted favourably. Hopefully the structure will be in place before the end of this year.

As a natural end-result of the discussions held during the Annual Leadership Meeting on turf battles, another initiative, the creation of ESR fellowships, was taken. An Ad Hoc Committee was set up to establish the first ESR Fellowships on Cardiac Imaging in order to support the training of radiologists in cardiology and to prevent more cardiologists from invading the field of radiology and doing cardiovascular imaging. A draft curriculum has already been elaborated; the fellowship programme will probably

start before the end of this year. Its main objective is to educate a certain number of people in a certain number of institutions for free.

Last year, a dialogue was opened up with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM). The first Joint EANM/ESR Ad Hoc Committee Meeting was constituted of officers of both associations and held in October 2005. The second meeting was convened this morning. The first results are as follows:

- Minutes of the meetings held were distributed among the executive board members of both associations.
- A white paper will be published on the way hybrid systems between radiology and nuclear medicine should be worked out. A draft has already been elaborated.
- ESR has extended an invitation to EANM to join EIBIR.
- ECR has forwarded an offer to EANM to provide them with the EPOS system for free.
- A semi-political and semi-scientific joint session will be held tomorrow as well as during the ECR 07.
- ESR has been invited to this year's EANM Annual Meeting like last year.

As far as the EU Directive on the Safety of MR is concerned, N. Gourtsoyiannis summarises that this law was passed by the EU Parliament making it necessary for each EU member state to incorporate it into its domestic law by April 30, 2008. He reminds the audience that this Directive is too restrictive, i.e. that it would become illegal for any anaesthetist to lean into the bore even for a moment to check a patient or for a radiographer or nurse to hold an anxious patient's hand. The incorporation of the limits set into law will make many interventional MR procedures illegal in Europe, closing off the development of a field with tremendous clinical potential. This again indicates that ESR is a star-known entity within the EU. ESR has to gather all its strengths and forces to discuss this issue with EU officers in a favourable way for European Radiology. ESMRMB has already responded to this Directive very critically by issuing a press release which was sent to the competent Commissioner Spidla and made public on behalf of ESR. A decision was taken to do inter-connected lobbying, i.e. lobbying between the various societies. Not even industry was able to avoid the implementation of this Directive. Thanks to J. Sprindrich, ESR was able to set up a meeting with Commissioner Spidla on March 9, 2006 in Brussels to discuss in what way this Directive could be altered.

N. Gourtsoyiannis gives an update on EURORAD and thanks R. Passariello, A.L. Baert and D. Caramella for their work. The numbers are amazing: There are over

1,600 radiological cases online and 5,500 unique users per month. An all-time high of 10,000 unique users was reached in January 2006. Even though there is still a backlog of cases to be reviewed due to the transformation from the old to the new system, EURORAD can now be referred to as one of the most valuable databases ever created.

Touching upon the Radiology Trainees Forum (RTF), the EAR President stresses that assigning a mentor for this group was probably the solution: He thanks A. Palkó for his great work and underlines that the RTF GA was much better attended this year than previously. RTF is a group now that is getting into a shape that is appreciable; they are conducting surveys which can be used by EAR as a starting point for further surveys.

N. Gourtsoyiannis finishes his speech by asking the Committee Chairmen to give a brief report on their activities in the year 2005.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION

RESEARCH

SUBSPECIALTIES

=> EDUCATION COMMITTEE

P.A. Grenier underlines that the EAR Education Committee has worked in conjunction with the EAR Subspecialties Committee, the EAR POC and the UEMS Radiology Section on the new version of the European Training Charter for Clinical Radiology and the elaboration of the Detailed Curriculum for the Initial Structured Common Programme and the Detailed Curriculum for Subspecialty Training. The Curricula should be regarded as some kind of appendices to the Charter as they provide more detailed information.

The document stresses that training in radiology is five years: The first three years are dedicated to general radiology, the fourth and fifth year to subspecialty training or further training in general radiology. The brochure was approved in December 2005 during the EAR Annual Leadership Meeting and yesterday by the UEMS Radiology Section. This represents an important achievement.

The main objectives of this new format and the Charter are (1) to attempt harmonisation in training programmes in Europe and (2) to avoid fragmentation of radiology. In

order to reach these objectives one has to ensure diffusion and maintenance. The diffusion of the Charter can be done in two different formats (printed and electronic) through the national societies as well as the heads of departments of radiology of all academic centres in Europe. The national delegates and members of the Junior Trainees Forum have been asked to serve as liaisons with their national societies. Since the maintenance of this document is very important, the members of the Education as well as Subspecialties Committee have already agreed to start revisiting the Curricula at the beginning of 2007.

The EAR Education Committee has also continued to support the European Training Assessment Programme chaired by L. Johnston. Three academic centres were visited in 2005 and six other centres have already accepted to be visited in 2006. The most important role of this Programme is to contribute to the harmonisation of training in Europe. Unfortunately, the means are not sufficient to increase the number of visited centres every year. For this reason the Education Committee has suggested to transfer this process step by step to the national societies according to the European guidelines and procedures. Next year, a national delegate will be designated by the national society of the country where the centre visited is located to join the group of visitors and assessors.

The EAR Education Committee has also continued to support the self-assessment programme conducted by I.W. McCall. The first experience of an electronic examination organised on the occasion of the foundation course on musculo-skeletal radiology was gained during this ECR. This examination was organised electronically connected to EPOS and the participants in the foundation course were asked to take the examination that consisted of multiple choice questions, short cases and long cases. Afterwards there was an interactive discussion. This experience should be repeated during the following ECRs on the different fields of radiology according to the topic selected for the foundation course. This immediate self-assessment procedure needs to be extended to all fields of radiology as soon as possible. For this reason the Education and Subspecialties Committee need to cooperate closely to establish a permanent self-assessment platform. This database could not only be used by trainees from all over Europe via the website, but also for the purpose of CME assessment with the possibility to get credits, for the maintenance of recertification (if it becomes mandatory in the European countries in the future) and potentially for a future European Diploma.

P.A. Grenier finishes his report by talking about the concept of Centres of Reference in education. These Centres

offer a specific training programme for residents in a specific field of imaging. These six or twelve-month rotations of training will be done in different academic centres than those where the trainee is based, whether it is in the same country or abroad. They will be particularly welcome during the fourth and fifth years of training to get a special interest or to start a full training in a subspecialty. Such programmes could also be used by board certified radiologists willing to get a CME training in this specific field of imaging and could be integrated into the willingness of junior radiologists who wish to have a European training programme. The funding of such programmes will be ensured either by the centre itself, the training programme of origin or any extra grants. The identification of these Centres of Reference will be made through the national and subspecialties societies, but the final selection for accreditation will be carried out by the Executive Board of ESR on the basis of certain criteria that should involve not only the quality of the training programme but also the quality of the infrastructures, the medical staff and the research facilities. The Centres of Reference will have to be assessed previously by the European Training Assessment Programme; any information about the training programme will be published on the ESR website and regularly reviewed.

=> PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

In his function as POC Chairman, B. Silberman presents the main issues dealt with in 2005:

- To maintain the high level of the Management in Radiology (MIR) Annual Meeting and workshops through its new EAR/POC management sub-committee;
- To work closely with the EAR Education and EAR Subspecialties Committee on a revised Charter for Clinical Training in Radiology;
- To finalise the European white paper on key issues for the clinical and professional use of teleradiology in Europe.

Regarding point 1, Management in Radiology, a working group was established in 1999 to develop ideas for greater involvement and training of radiologists in the management of departments of radiology. In 2003, this working group became an official sub-committee of the Association organising an annual meeting and a workshop every winter. The EAR/MIR Annual Meeting is a very high-profile and convivial meeting dedicated to management issues. It is supported and attended by senior members of the American College of Radiology, high-profile department chairmen and head manager administrators from all over Europe. The next meetings will be held in

Budapest (October 5-7, 2006) and Oxford in 2007. This meeting under the ESR roof is to become an important date in the schedule of any radiologist being in charge of running a department and interested in management.

As far as the training programme is concerned, it was approved by the UEMS Radiology Section. B. Silberman stresses that at the beginning it was not easy to change the format from 4+1 to 3+2 as there was a lot of reluctance, but because of the close cooperation between the EAR Committees and the UEMS Radiology Section one succeeded to achieve a large agreement on this work and the brochure published can now be regarded as THE document for training.

Teleradiology was, is and will remain a very important topic for the POC. In 2004, EAR has already published recommendations on teleradiology. Since then the POC has continued its work on that topic raising the key issues on the clinical use of teleradiology which have already been presented at the EAR GA in 2005, the Annual Leadership Meeting 2005 as well as during the RSNA 2005 together with the American College. The decision was taken to produce a statement, a so-called white paper, which has to be diffused as soon as possible and should be promoted on the Societies' websites to reinforce ESR's lobbying. It stresses that clinical teleradiology is an integrated clinical service and not only an outsourced reporting service. It will be diffused with the help of UEMS to be effective in the European Union.

UEMS and EAR/POC have worked very closely together within the same spirit and objective of establishing ONE house for European radiology. All the POC members meet at least twice a year (spring, autumn) together with the UEMS Radiology Section delegates with full respect of each organisation. The POC "Board" comprises apart from the chairman UEMS senior officers, the chairman of the MIR subcommittee and two members at large to ensure a good geographical representation of European countries. By way of conclusion, B. Silberman thanks all POC members for their commitment.

=> RESEARCH COMMITTEE

G.P. Krestin stresses that the EAR Research Committee was established as a Standing Committee of EAR just last year thanks to the change of statutes and regulations. This report will be concentrated on the work done before the first meeting of the EAR Research Committee which was held on March 3, 2006. The Ad Hoc Committee was asked to develop the entity of EIBIR, the European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research, and the new

Standing Committee will carry on this work. Therefore the Research Ad Hoc Committee set up an action plan towards EIBIR in 2004. All the objectives were achieved and an organisational structure was developed. In January 2006, EIBIR was established legally in Vienna under the ESR statutes. The newsletter dated November 2005 deals with this issue. G.P. Krestin points out that 150 institutions have already joined this structure and have worked together for a network of applicants and hopefully, in the future, on different research projects.

EIBIR was established under the ESR statutes as a non-for-profit limited liability company, which makes it tax-exempt. ESR is at the moment the only shareholder of EIBIR. This type of legal entity gives the structure a lot of flexibility and allows to have also other organisations as co-shareholders. ESR has nominated an Executive Director and an office under these new governing rules. The institutions that have joined this structure will nominate a Scientific Director in the next couple of months; these two Directors will in fact lead the business of EIBIR. In the future, ESR will probably keep the majority of the shares, but there could be co-shareholders (ESMRMB, COCIR, EANM...) for this joint European multi-disciplinary effort. There will be a General Assembly of the shareholders; even though the biggest shareholder will have most of the voting power, every single shareholder will have a representative on this GA which will determine the activities of both the EIBIR Executive as well as Scientific Director in the future. The possible future actions of EIBIR would be:

- To attract additional top-quality research institutions both in the clinical field and in basic sciences to participate in EIBIR;
- To expand the information database on the EIBIR members to know their specific research activities, areas of expertise, infrastructure, special training facilities, science programmes, PhD programmes etc.;
- To establish topic-oriented sub-networks among EIBIR members such as image processing networks, translational research programmes, multi-centre trials etc.;
- To establish EuroArt (European Assessment of Radiological Technology network) that could start such multi-centre trials with the help of an organisation as there is a necessity both from the part of the scientists as well as industry.

G.P. Krestin underlines that a second meeting of the EIBIR Industry Advisory Panel was held during the ECR; industry was extremely positive about the future of EIBIR and one can expect further support from them as there is a real necessity to gather the fragmented field of research in Europe.

=> SUBSPECIALTIES COMMITTEE

J.I. Bilbao indicates that the rules of EAR state that the EAR Subspecialties Committee is oriented towards the promotion of subspecialties within the unit of radiology. This Committee consists of one representative each of the following ten organ-related scientific societies: CIRSE, ESCR, ESGAR, ESHNR, ESNR, ESPR, ESSR, ESTI, ESUR, and EUSOBI. All Societies have their own congresses and are actively involved in teaching, learning and creating material linked to the tools of EAR.

In cooperation with the Education Committee the Subspecialties Committee has elaborated the Detailed Curricula for the Initial Structured Common Programme and subspecialty training. There is a need to increase the homogenisation of the programmes throughout Europe. The Committee will participate in the revision of the Curricula in the next three years.

The next important step for the EAR Subspecialties Committee is the self-assessment programme set up by I.W. McCall. The Committee has decided to create a database comprising cases of all different subspecialties. The Programme is an excellent tool that up to now comprises only cases related to musculo-skeletal radiology. The Subspecialties Committee will therefore compile similar cases from all subspecialties to create a comprehensive database; CIRSE has for example already established its own Virtual Reality Task Force. A working group will be set up between the Education and the Subspecialties Committee to determine the level of expertise the self-assessment programme should have. There should be at least three levels of expertise/knowledge: Adequate cases should be provided for specialists, young specialists or non-specialists using the self-assessment programme.

J.I. Bilbao also points out that there have been a lot of discussions about clinical care during this year. Interventional radiologists have seen that there is the need to increase the clinical care of patients in hospitals. This applies also to other subspecialties and Radiology in general; for this reason one was thinking about an increase in clinical training and clinical implications for all radiologists. Clinical standards in interventional radiology will be established by CIRSE.

In addition, he underlines that the subspecialties societies should be completely involved in this new endeavour of the European School of Radiology as it would contribute to the promotion of subspecialties in the different countries.

5. ELECTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

G. Frija introduces all candidates running for the positions of the Committee Chairmen by emphasising their functions and the services they have provided so far to the environment of European Radiology making particular reference to the posts they are nominated for.

Since 37 out of 39 full national members and 10 out of 10 full subspecialty members are present, the GA has reached its quorum. The heads of delegation cast their votes in four secret ballots; the results of the elections scrutinised by EAR's lawyer, G. Loibner, are as follows (the elected officers are highlighted in green colour):

Education Committee Chairman	N° of Votes
É. Breatnach (IE)	56
H. Imhof (AT)	31
Professional Organisation Committee	N° of Votes
B. Silberman (ESPR)	86 YES 01 NO 02 ABSTAIN
Research Committee	N° of Votes
G.P. Krestin (NL)	88 YES 00 NO 00 ABSTAIN
Subspecialties Committee	N° of Votes
J.I. Bilbao (CIRSE)	67
G. Heinz-Peer (ESUR)	23

N. Gourtsoyiannis seizes the opportunity to officially thank two EAR Executive Bureau members whose terms of office ended:



P.A. Grenier has served EAR and ECR for many years. In recognition of his dedication and endless contribution to the training curricula as well as the enhancement of EAR's role in that respect he is awarded a certificate of appreciation.



A. Chiesa has made major contributions to the environment of radiology. He has invented the "ECR meets" project, by that the Congress and in fact European Radiology has spread out all over the world. For his invaluable contribution to the creation and establishment of the European Society of Radiology, A. Chiesa is awarded a certificate of appreciation.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT: ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2005 BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2006

L. Bonomo expresses his thanks to the staff of the EAR Office for their continuous and competent support during his first year as EAR Treasurer. All the data presented by him have been distributed in a printed version to the participants.

EAR has 41 national society members, two of them being associate members. All national societies declared their numbers of full members and represent in total over 28,000 radiologists. Only one out of the 39 full national societies did not pay and thus does not have any voting right. All ten subspecialty society members representing more than 3,000 radiologists paid their fees.

The total income of the year 2005 accounts for € 296,995.57 resulting from the membership fees of the national and subspecialty societies, interest, revenues from shares, the support from COCIR for EIBIR as well as from Siemens and Agfa for the Graz Tutorials.

Generally speaking, the expenditures did not change significantly compared to the previous year. The office in Rome was closed after the ECR 2005; the costs of the Vienna Office are justified by a significant increase in the efficiency of the Association. The total expenditures are € 265,000.00 with revenues of over € 30,000.00.

Regarding the assets L. Bonomo points out that there is a mistake in the papers the audience received at the beginning, as the revenues over expenditures (and not the expenditures over revenues) account for nearly € 10,000.00. At the beginning of 2005 EAR disposed of assets in the amount of € 677.087,18 (€ 641.597.00 in bonds and about € 35,000.00 on bank accounts). In January 2005, a bank account was opened in Vienna for the conduct of day-to-day business. At the end of December the assets rose to € 686.920,36 (€ 620,123.00 in bonds and about € 66,000.00 in bank accounts).

As far as the estimated budget for 2006 is concerned, there will probably be an increase in the income due to the higher membership fee (€ 7.00 instead of € 6.00) and the roughly 2,000 individual members more that have been declared by the EAR member societies. In addition, L. Bonomo is pleased to announce that Bracco confirmed to support EURORAD with an amount of € 75,000.00. EAR expects about € 50,000.00 as revenues over expenses.

The delegates approve unanimously of the Treasurer's report as well as the outlined budget for the year 2006 by showing their hands.

7. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMISSIONERS/AUDITORS

K.J. Wolf presents the conclusions that the Auditors have made after having checked all documents provided to them:

1. All accounts and documents are made with professional skill and knowledge and based on available facts.
2. The summary of the accounts is clear and succinct.
3. The total income of 2005 (€ 296,995.57) has increased during the last years. The total amount of expenditures is € 265,723.40, meaning it could be reduced compared to 2004. There is a gain of € 31,272.17.
4. The income "annual subscriptions" of the member societies rose from € 159,584.00 to € 173,160.00. Only one member society did not pay the annual fee. In most of the societies the increase in the number of members in 2005 looks reasonable.
5. On the expenditures side one notes that in the budget estimated for 2006, several projects have been budgeted for higher sums than the ones spent during 2005, especially concerning the Committees. This may be a strategic choice, reflecting the planned activities for 2006.

All documents look proper and logic. That is why the auditors take the opportunity to thank the Treasurer and all other EAR officers for a devoted job; well done!

The Society delegates approve unanimously of the Auditors' report by showing their hands.

8. APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE EAR INTERNAL RULES

I.W. McCall introduces the amendment to the EAR Statutes suggested to the delegates: Previously the subspecialties societies were not included in the POC; only national societies had members on that Committee. Since this is in contradiction to the main statutes, the following change highlighted in bold is necessary:

Change in rule 8 "Professional Organisation Committee": "Each **full society member** of the Association will nominate a member to the Professional Organisation Committee to serve for three years..." The delegates approve unanimously of the proposed amendment by showing their hands.

9. EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGY (ESR)

N. Gourtsoyiannis stresses that the main assignment bestowed upon EAR during the last EAR GA was the creation of the European Society of Radiology (ESR). In order to accomplish this mission the EAR and ECR leadership came together more than once to define the process and to decide on the operational steps towards the founding of the European Society of Radiology. A two-year strategic plan (March 2006-March 2008) was developed jointly and agreed upon. The plan was approved unanimously by the leaders of the European Radiological Societies (both national and subspecialties societies) and the Executives of both ECR and EAR at the Leadership Meeting. The plan includes the following:

According to the present statutes of ESR, voted on in March 2005 by both General Assemblies, an ESR Board had to be established by December 2005. The constituent General Assembly of ESR was thus held on December 10th during which the first ESR Board was elected. The Assembly thought that it was absolutely essential that perfect balance between the founding organisations should be preserved.

With this in mind the Executive Bureau of EAR and the Executive Committee of ECR, constituting the ESR GA, have unanimously agreed on the names of the colleagues that will lead this new Society during the two-year interim period. During the first year, the President of ESR will be derived from EAR and the Vice-President from ECR. During the second year, the reverse will apply. The same virtues are also true for the posts of the Secretary-General and the Treasurer. The elected officers are as follows:

2006-2007

President:	N. Gourtsoyiannis	(EAR)
Vice-President:	A. Chiesa	(ECR)
Secretary-General:	G. Frijia	(EAR)
Treasurer:	B. Marincek	(ECR)

2007-2008

President:	A. Adam	(ECR)
Vice-President:	I.W. McCall	(EAR)
Secretary-General:	G. Frija	(EAR)
Treasurer:	B. Marincek	(ECR)

According to the existing statutes of the ESR, the term of office for the President and Vice-President is one year, without the possibility of immediate re-election. The Secretary-General and the Treasurer are serving for a period of two years.

The ESR Council was completed by the election of the Committee chairmen during this EAR GA. A new constitution of the European Society of Radiology will be prepared, discussed and finally approved by vote during the General Assemblies of both Societies in March 2007.

- This constitution should be governed by functionality, not precedents nor politics. In other words, it will not be a merger of the existing EAR and ECR constitutions, which would be potentially unworkable.
- There will be a single, unitary ESR constitution. There will no longer be separate EAR and ECR constitutions and these organisations will be absorbed entirely by ESR. Of course, this will require the approval of the General Assemblies of both ECR and EAR.
- EAR and ECR will merge completely and will be absorbed by the new organisation. The functions of EAR will be undertaken by the various ESR Committees.
- ECR Congress will be protected with financial reserves. Its Committee structure and functionality will be preserved and safeguarded. It will continue to be organised in the same way as at present and will continue to excel. However, it will become an integral part and the primary function of the new ESR.

All these features were decided upon and promised in the Joint Position Paper signed two years ago. N. Gourtsoyiannis points out that a committee of four officers, two coming from EAR (I.W. McCall and A. Palkó) and two coming from ECR (A. Adam and C. Herold), has been charged with the task of outlining the main avenues and roadmap of the new ESR Constitution:

1. The General Assembly of ESR consists of **individual** full members of the Society, holding the right of **voting for**, and being **elected** to offices of the Society.

2. The membership fee of ESR shall be as low as it is compatible with its aims and aspirations in order to **maximise** the number of individual members and **ensure** democratic representation.
3. The national societies and subspecialties societies will be represented in the governing structure of ESR via **nominations** for the members of relevant committees.
4. Nominations for chairs of committees shall be made by the relevant committees and elected or ratified (as appropriate) by the General Assembly.
5. The **Committee structure** and **functionality** of the European Congress of Radiology will be preserved and safeguarded.
6. The assets of ECR and EAR will be protected by trustees.

The issue of unifying European Radiology has been discussed exhaustively (and sometimes exhaustingly!) during the last few years. Of course, the dialogue will continue, because it is only through continuing communication that one can develop a common purpose and continue to improve what has been put in place. However, it is now time for action.

This is a momentous opportunity and it is important that it is based on crystal-clear, sensible principles which are guided by what is good for specialty of radiology.

The plan that the ESR President has already presented at the Leadership Meeting in December is simple, clear, efficient and functional. The ECR Executive and the leaders of the EAR member societies represented at the Annual Leadership Meeting in December have given their wholehearted backing.

N. Gourtsoyiannis stresses that the delegates/members are welcome to submit any comment in writing until July 2006 as the last opportunity to make any refinement to the ESR Constitution would be in October. The new constitution will be presented to the leaders in European Radiology at the Annual Leadership Meeting in Vienna in December 2006. If approved, it will be presented to the EAR and ECR GAs in March 2007.

The delegates approve unanimously of the plan presented and the presentation given by showing their hands.

10. CLOSING MESSAGE BY THE EAR PRESIDENT

N. Gourtsoyiannis summarises the GA by stressing that the Society delegates support of and feedback on the outlined teaching programmes, European School of Radiology as well as the network of EIBIR is required. In addition, a structured public awareness campaign will be launched next year to enhance the general respect towards European radiologists. Lobbying in Brussels will be started together with industry.

N. Gourtsoyiannis closes the GA by thanking all delegates for their participation and support as well as their cooperation in the future and inviting them to the cocktail reception outside the room.

Boris Rajewsky Medallists 2006

Last year's Boris Rajewsky Medals were awarded to

- **Gerard Hurley** in recognition of his exceptional achievements, superior contributions to educating and tutoring younger colleagues all over the world as well as his outstanding commitment for radiology in Europe, and
- **Gerhard van Kaick** for his outstanding devotion and educational contribution where he always tried to build bridges between the basic oriented scientists and the clinicians and as it also turned out to be of a very positive effect for the theoretical scientists, the clinicians and last but not least the patients.

The Boris Rajewsky Medal is named after one of the founders of the European Association of Radiology (EAR) and represents the highest honour of EAR. It was first awarded in 1972.



Gerard Hurley
Dublin/IE



Gerhard van Kaick
Heidelberg/DE

Meeting Schedule 2006/2007

January 2006, Vienna

**EAR EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING
ESR EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING**

March 2006, Vienna

**EAR EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING
ESR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
EAR EDUCATION COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
EAR EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
ETAP MEETING
EAR RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING
EIBIR MEETING WITH INDUSTRY
EURORAD PLENARY BREAKFAST MEETING
EUROPEAN RADIOLOGY MEETING
EAR/UEMS JOINT COMMISSION MEETING
UEMS/EAR-POC MEETING WITH DELEGATES
EAR SUBSPECIALTIES COMMITTEE MEETING
JOINT EANM/EAR/ECR AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
EAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RTF GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

March 2006, Brussels

**MEETING OF ESR DELEGATION WITH EU COMMISSIONER
SPIDLA (EMF DIRECTIVE)**

June 2006, Vienna

**EAR EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING
ESR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
ESR/ECR MEETING WITH INDUSTRY**

June 2006, Brussels

EMF DIRECTIVE: FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF EXPERT GROUP

July 2006, Athens

ESR EXECUTIVE BOARD & BRAINSTORMING MEETING

October 2006, Vienna

JOINT EANM/ESR AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

November 2006, Vienna

**EAR EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING
ESR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
EAR/ESR EDUCATION COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
EAR/ESR RESEARCH COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
EAR/ESR SUBSPECIALTIES COMMITTEE MEETING
RTF WEEK-END WORKSHOP**

November 2006, Brussels

EMF DIRECTIVE: FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF EXPERT GROUP

November 2006, Paris

UEMS/ESR-POC MEETING WITH DELEGATES

December 2006, Vienna

**ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING
ESOR COURSE ON MANAGEMENT**

January 2007, Vienna

**EAR EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING
ESR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

February 2007, Brussels

EMF DIRECTIVE: FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF EXPERT GROUP

March 2007, Vienna

**EAR EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING
ESR GENERAL ASSEMBLY
EAR EDUCATION COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
EAR EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
ETAP MEETING
EAR RESEARCH COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
EAR RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING
EIBIR SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
EIBIR INDUSTRY PANEL MEETING
EURORAD PLENARY BREAKFAST MEETING
EUROPEAN RADIOLOGY MEETING
EAR/UEMS JOINT COMMISSION MEETING
UEMS/EAR-POC MEETING WITH DELEGATES
EAR SUBSPECIALTIES COMMITTEE MEETING
JOINT EANM/ESR AD HOC COMMITTEE
RTF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
EAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



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**Detailed Curriculum
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White Paper

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**ESOR 2007
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European Society of Radiology

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**GALEN Project
European Foundation Courses**
Krakow/PL – May 11–13, 2007
Heraklion/GR – June 29–July 1, 2007
Budapest/HU – October 19–21, 2007
Prague/CZ – November 16–18, 2007

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