

Dear friends,

First of all let me thank deeply to all the Associations, Federations, Societies who are the essential structure of the European Confederation of Primary Care Paediatricians, for their confidence, commitment and the effort made for being here, also I want to give and special thanks both to the Delegates, as well as to the representatives in the Executive Committee of the Confederation, and last but not least to my friends, Dra. Elke Jaegger and Dr. Gottfried Huss for making this meeting for real, not only for the Organizational aspects but also for the Scientific agenda.

Despite as the President I must present a report of the last months, considering that this is my last speech for the General Assembly as President of the Confederation, let me please before take a look back, not only to the last six months, but to the moment when I made the first contact with the Confederation. This happened in this lovely city, Berlin, in November of 2009, when the ECPCP was born..., in fact, at the same time that I'm pronouncing this speech, comes to me a snapshot with our Past President, Elke, breaking down a simulated wall in the dinner of the Meeting. I was there just to collaborate with the meeting to develop a workshop of simulation; you know that I'm not –as Cher says – strong enough in English, so we (my teamwork and me) were so frightened regarding the communication, but a very fortunate circumstance happened; a cardiologist of the venue (the workshop was held in a hospital) was bilingual in Spanish, so the final language of the sessions was the Spanish, with an automated and perfect translation, including jokes and peculiar expressions, to German by the cardiologist.

The next contact with ECPCP, was after being elected as Delegate and representative of the SEPEAP into the EC, in Budapest along a winter meeting with a fantastic organization made by Ferenc, Piotri, Peter (as always)... At that time, the formal structure of the ECPCP was created, including the different working groups, the website, the Executive Bureau, the discussion of the Statutes, By-laws, Manifesto, the fee for the different organizations... and so on. For me, as a beginner, it was an amazing meeting, lot of Paediatricians coming from different and far away countries of Europe, trying to establish the basic structure of the new Organization with the aim of advocate for Paediatrics, Paediatricians, and Healthcare for children. In that meeting, Helena Porfirio, from Portugal was elected as Vice President of ECPCP.

The second Congress of the ECPCP was held in Vilnius (an special thank to Arunas) and a new Vice President was chosen because Helena resigned her responsibility in the Confederation. Along the first and second year of life, the ECPCP faced lot of challenges, between others, the creation of the Strategic Paediatric Alliance, the problem regarding the “paediatric age” in Italy, the relations with the EAP under the umbrella of Prof. Tenore, with EPA...and so on.

Between the second (Vilnius) and the third meeting of the ECPCP, the other Primary Care Spanish association joined us, in the winter meeting, held once again in Budapest.

A new working group (Strategy) was created, and the venue of the meeting of 2012 was chosen (Strasbourg, thanks to Gilbert).

Along the winter and spring of 2011 and 2012, the EB proposed me to make an application to stand for Presidency in the elections of Strasbourg, and simultaneously in a smart move, Elke convinced Gottfried to stand as Vice President to give me support. In Easter of 2012 I travelled to Berlin with Pilar (my wife) and María (my daughter) to speak along one day with Elke about the Confederation, walking across this wonderful city. She suffered the galician's way, regarding our endless absence of decisions making, people use to say about us "You will never know if a galician's person is going up or down". For us (hope that for Elke too), that was a fantastic journey; Elke and Peter invited us to their home and gave us the best possible host.

Finally in Strasbourg I was elected (only candidate) as President, Israel became full membership, we had an excellent meeting, and sorry Gilbert, Spain defeated France in the Euro football.

Which relevant circumstances have happened from then to now? In the winter meeting of Budapest the EB proposed an strategic plan to the Delegates and EC, and we agreed some strategic objectives:

- Increase visibility of the ECPCP.
- Strengthen internal communication.
- Budget plan.

In the winter meeting, also we agreed a collaboration with ISSOP, a website working group was created, and the structure, as well as the objectives of the Curriculum WG were agreed, and as chairman was elected Dra. Villaizan. The delegation of Israel (thanks to Shimon, Manuel, and Yona) proposed Tel Aviv as the venue for the fourth meeting of the ECPCP.

Along that winter and spring, the scientific and organizer Committee of the Israel meeting made an excellent work, Tel Aviv supposed a big success in a very nice city and in a lovely country, for persons like me, that consider history and religion very important, those were very, very special days. I will always owe this remembering to our Israeli friends.

In the general assembly of Tel Aviv, the ECPCP made me the special present of accepting Santiago as the venue for the autumn meeting, and we reviewed the strategy, and since Shimon was at that moment chosen as the chairman for the Primary WG of the EAP, to try to get a formal agreement to the EAP for a stable collaboration. In addition, we decided to change our website, and to elaborate a monthly newsletter. Simultaneously, Stefano del Torso was elected as our representative in the SPA, and some discussion regarding the aim of SPA was deferred to Santiago to hear the Stefano's proposals.

Santiago was a special meeting for me, of course, I had the opportunity to show my City, our Health Centre, our Emergencies Coordination Centre, the Simulation Centre,

to walk with my friends across Saint Jacques way.... Looking from the scientific point of view, the Study in collaboration with ISSOP was drafted, as well as the draft of preliminary results of the COSI collaboration, in addition, the Advocacy WG was formally created, and its main topics were elected, and a passionate discussion regarding strategy and external relationships was driven. In Santiago our friend Pirkko joined us and presented the Finnish primary care system, evenmore, she took excellent pictures of that meeting.

In this last year we made significant advances, as well as we face very important challenges. In the positive side, we wake up some kind of interest of the UK colleagues, since they appears to be interested in joining us, even though nowadays it's not clear the interest for the ECPCP in this relationship, since if they finally join us, they will be a very small delegation. Also we must consider as positive the interest of the Turkish colleague that attended the meeting of march in Budapest, even though that there were no further contacts. Finally in this point of view, we have to congratulate and give thanks to the Finnish Society for joining us and becoming a new member of the Confederation, and also to consider a good opportunity for the next months to make an effective approach to the Greeks.

What did happen with strategy and strategic plan? As my personal frustration and responsibility I must confessed that in the internal communication a clear improvement can be done, as well as in the frequency for the newsletter, considering monthly as not real. Despite these problems, the visibility of the ECPCP (one of the strategic objectives) appears to be increased; we finally signed an agreement with the EAP in the last winter meeting of Brussels and from there, we have a representative not only in the PSCWG (thanks Angel) but also in the TCWG (thanks Manuel) of the EAP. Also we were invited to the meeting of the UEMS.

In the last April, a letter to the editor written from the President of the Polish Family Physicians was published in BMJ entitled "Back to red..." this letter widely known between us, provoked a rapid reaction from the Spaniards with a powerful response, and afterwards Italian primary care colleagues published another answer also. That was a very good evidence of the power of the ECPCP. Regarding this issue, in the last spring meeting of EAP after a passionate discussion, the three Presidents of EAP, EPA and ECPCP signed a statement advocating for PCP. In that letter a further collaboration was decided, regarding the position of PCP, the results in Health Care, and other topics related. As a result of this letter in the last Congress of EAPs in Barcelona a meeting was held with the presence of the Presidents, two additional representatives of the Organizations, and Ingrid Wolfe as an observer. As a positive result of that meeting we must point the smooth ambient and the attitude of the attendees, and the position of the ECPCP at the same level of EAP and EPA. Nevertheless, I cannot be completely satisfied; I must remark that sometimes, not all the paediatricians seemed to be aligned with Paediatrics; the argument that the evidences that shows that paediatricians are better providers than family physicians for children are limited, is correct, as also is that there is no evidence that cardiologists are better providers for cardiopathies than surgeons.

Anyway, we cannot forget that the paediatric primary care taskforce in Europe as we knew it, and the number of paediatricians are declining. Despite our deep conviction that it is the best model to provide health services not only for children, but also and especially for the future of the whole Society, slowly but inexorably, the presence of physicians without specific training serving children on an outpatient basis, becomes more important. We as ECPCP, cannot consider as acceptable as healthcare provider for children, a GP trained along two or three months in Paediatrics. They don't consider Paediatrics as important, only as a necessary evil, their evil is the bread and the salt of our professional life. In addition, this President cannot understand the position of colleagues who are not claiming firmly not only for paediatricians, but also for paediatrics. Therefore, paediatricians and/or paediatrics become the most relevant question. Some people argue that advocating for paediatricians is forgetting the existence of children in countries where paediatricians are not in primary care anymore. I am absolutely convinced that fighting for Paediatrics, as a "body of knowledge", and a point of view regarding not only for childcare but also, for family and community care, we will be fighting both for children and for paediatricians, since no professional but the paediatricians has our special point of view.

Anyway, and coming back to the meeting with EAP and EPA, a further collaboration to study the real situation of healthcare systems regarding paediatrics was agreed and our representative in that structure that in fact is SPA, will be our actual Vice President, Gottfried.

In Barcelona Angel and me made a very important contact. Hazen Han, responsible of the GPEC program of AAP shared the dinner with us, a very nice and enthusiastic person, with a lot of interest in collaborate with us in any future project. This issue drives me to the next topic of this speech, my special and deep gratitude to the Chairs of the different WGs for their work along this two years, sometimes it's difficult to keep the enthusiasm when there is a big silence in the other side of the e-mail. Despite this problem, an important problem of our teamwork, they try to keep on the run, and to make their different projects for real, please let me say thank you to Elke, Yona, Marie Noelle, Carmen, Angel, and Willy. I want to point out that the Curriculum for PCP written by PCP which first draft is presented along this meeting.

Some problems regarding different countries showed up in the last months, the specific situation of each country will be detailed by the Delegates, much more better than me. Regarding next tasks, and activities for te ECPCP, I really do consider that this, is a task for the new EB and EC and not for the, from now and on, the Past President. Obviously I will always be at the disposal of the Confederation for any task, specially if it does not require to speak in English :))).

Last but not least, let me say thank you to my colleagues in the EB, and the responsible of Statutes and the website, without their help, this President, had been lost in darkness in addition to lost in translation. Dear friends, I'm very proud of having the opportunity to collaborate with you in this last two years. Thanks and best to all of you.