



Council and Science Policy Committee Meeting

16 :30 to 18 :30, 12 May 2015

Académie nationale de Médecine, 16 rue Bonaparte, 75006 Paris

Draft minutes

Chair : Professor Dermot Kelleher, President of FEAM, Fellow of Irish and UK Academies of Medical Sciences

Attendance: Professors Françoise Meunier (Belgium FR), Richard Rokyta (Czech Republic), Bernard Charpentier (France), Charalambos Roussos (Greece), Luigi Frati and Paolo Villari (Italy), Maria do Céu Machado (Portugal), Irinel Popescu (Romania), Jesus A.F. Tresguerres (Spain), Peter Meier-Abt (Switzerland), George Griffin (United Kingdom)

In attendance: Dr. Catherin Griffin (Head of International Affairs, UK Academy of Medical Sciences), Dr. Robin Fears (Scientific Advisor, FEAM), Laurence Legros (Executive Director, FEAM)

1. The President welcomes the representatives of the Academies and those in attendance and invites all to introduce themselves. He notes that 10 out of 18 Academies are represented and deliberations will be valid. He confirms with Council that this will be his last Council meeting as FEAM President following his acceptance to take up the post of Dean of Medicine at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada from summer 2015. As he had informed Council by email earlier on, he would not be able to fulfill his duties as FEAM President from Canada and a presidential election is planned during this meeting (see item 5).
2. The President informs Council of the death of Prof. Paul-Pierre Pastoret, FEAM Vice President, on 19 April 2015 and stresses his important contribution to FEAM and Academies over the years, as FEAM past General Secretary and in the context of the One Health agenda, as well as his generosity and friendliness, which will be highly missed. A minute of silence is held in his memory and it is agreed that the summary report of the FEAM/ANM Symposium on Adolescent health will be dedicated to him [action 1].
3. The **draft agenda** is approved.
4. The **draft minutes of the last Council meeting** (12 December 2014, Brussels) are reviewed and approved. A copy will be included in the dedicated Register in the FEAM secretariat. Conclusions on the list of actions include:

- 4.1. Outstanding Academies should be invited to confirm their Council Member and to send their Science Policy Committee (SPC) nominations for revision by the FEAM Board and the Chair of the SPC, Prof. Luigi Frati [action 2]. It was noted that this committee should include experts from fields such as health economics, bioinformatics etc.
- 4.2. The President met with Dr. Catherine Matthiesen and Dr. Beth Thompson from the UK Wellcome Trust to discuss the co-financing offer made by the Trust earlier, in the context of setting up a subscription-based Forum. Subject to establishing such a forum promptly and confirming additional Founder Members, the Trust is now prepared to consider covering the full costs of a Policy Officer at FEAM from September. This item is further discussed below under item 9.
- 4.3. Academies were invited in March to send their nomination for a President elect to join the FEAM Board from 1 January 2016. This invitation was joined to the call for candidatures to replace the current President and a Vice-President. No nomination for a President elect was received and Academies should be invited to send nominations for an election at the next Council meeting in the autumn in Brussels [action 3].
- 4.4. A Remuneration Committee was set up including the President, the Past President and the Associate Treasurer to review the remuneration of the Executive Director. A financial update and draft budget were provided. Finances did not permit increasing remuneration at this stage but this item should remain a priority of the Remuneration Committee, which will discuss this issue further in June 2015 [action 4].
- 4.5. No further engagement with Academies in Scandinavia was undertaken but this should remain a priority of FEAM. Those Academies should be informed about current developments at FEAM and invited to attend the next FEAM Council meeting as Observers and the FEAM annual conference in 2016 [action 5].
- 4.6. The development of a European Biomedical Forum is covered under item 9 below.
- 4.7. Developing contacts with the European Commissioner for Research Carlos Moedas is covered under item 8 below.
- 4.8. Collaboration with the InterAcademy Medical Panel is discussed under item 8 below.
- 4.9. On the issue of One Health, Prof. Pastoret communicated with the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences with the aim to provide advice and support to his Romanian colleagues in developing their One Health Center in Romania. The President notes that this initiative, which focuses on education and training, can be praised as being at the fore front in Europe and confirms that FEAM would be interested in receiving a report on progress and development - if and when available - from the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences in order to inform other Academies [action 6].
- 4.10. Academies were invited to inform their respective MEPs on the issue of data protection and on research using animals. They are invited to maintain their contact with MEPs and FEAM will inform them of further developments in due course [action 7].
- 4.11. Representation of FEAM at EASAC and IAMP meetings are covered under item 8 below.
- 4.12. A number of photos of FEAM Council Members supporting the campaign ('Data Save Lives') were tweeted through the FEAM Twitter account to support the European Data in Health Research Alliance. Supporting this public engagement campaign will be continued according to available time resources [action 8].

As last point under this item, the President invites Council to consider the amended regulation of procedures that were attached to the draft minutes of the last Council meeting held on 12 May 2014. He notes that neither the statutes nor the regulation of procedures mentions a voting system for Council decisions. He suggests a simple majority voting system while providing a

casting vote to the Chair in case of deadlock. This proposal is approved by Council as well as the regulation of procedures, which will be amended accordingly [action 9].

The date of the next FEAM Council meeting should be confirmed soon [action 10]. Post-meeting note: it will be held during the afternoon of 11 December 2015 in Brussels.

5. Election of new Officers

5.1. As noted before, the President informs Council that a new President must now be elected with a mandate from 13 May 2015 to 12 May 2018. Council was informed by email at the end of March of this new development and Academies were invited to send their presidency nomination. One nomination was received from the French Academy of Medicine, which submitted the candidature of Prof. Bernard Charpentier, currently Vice President of FEAM. The President invites Prof. George Griffin to chair this part of the meeting to avoid any conflict of interest in the process of electing the next President of FEAM. Council agrees and Prof Griffin invites Prof. Charpentier to present his candidature. The latter provides information on his academic background and profile:

- Secretary of the First Section of the French Academy of Medicine
- Head of the Department of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation at University Hospital of Bicêtre-94275 Kremlin-Bicêtre-F and of the Research Unit 1014 INSERM/University Paris Sud 11
- Honorary Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Paris Sud 11 and Past President of the French Medical School Deans' Council

Prof. Charpentier highlights his proposed priorities for FEAM for the next 3 years: (1) fundraising to strengthen the secretariat and grow the activities of FEAM, (2) increasing the number of Member Academies at FEAM, with a specific focus on Scandinavia, (3) focusing on adolescent health as policy priority with the objective to seek greater convergence between public health policies across EU Member States.

It is noted that the Leopoldina sent a letter in support of Prof. Charpentier's candidature in view of Prof. Hans-Peter Zenner's absence in Paris. Council votes favorably on his candidature and congratulates him on his election as next FEAM President.

- 5.2. It is noted that following the death of Prof. Pastoret and the election of Prof. Charpentier as next President, two FEAM Vice Presidents remain: Prof. Françoise Meunier (Belgium – mandate from 12 May 2015 to 13 May 2018) and Prof. Irinel Popescu (Romania – 13 May 2014 to 12 May 17). Two new Vice-Presidents should be elected to fill the mandates listed in the regulation of procedures: education and training, health policy, biomedical and scientific policy, and international affairs. The President notes that he has discussed with Prof. Maria do Céu Machado, Vice-President of the Portuguese Academy of Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics at University of Lisbon, her possible candidature as FEAM Vice-President. She confirms that she would be pleased to accept this invitation should she obtain the approval of her Academy. Council is invited to consider her candidature in principle and votes in favour of her vice presidency. Prof. Machado thanks Council for its support and agrees to provide it with the formal response from her Academy. [action 11]
- 5.3. It is agreed that a fourth Vice President should be elected at the next FEAM Council meeting and Academies should be invited to send nomination [action 12]
- 5.4. The mandates of the Vice-Presidents in accordance with the regulation of procedures (i.e. education and training, international affairs, health policy and biomedical and scientific policy) should also be confirmed at the next Council meeting [action 13].
- 5.5. The annex to the regulation of procedures and the FEAM website listing the Members of the FEAM Board should be updated accordingly [action 14].

- 5.6. The position of Past President should be considered at the next Council meeting with consideration given to re-appointing the outgoing Past President Prof Tresguerres to provide continuity [action 14 bis].
- 5.7. The full FEAM Council, Observers (EASAC and IAMP) as well as other academic partners (Academia Europaea, ALLEA and Euro-CASE) should be formally informed of those new elections [action 15]

6. Finances

6.1. Prof. George Griffin, Associate Treasurer, presents the 2014 annual accounts, which were prepared by FEAM's accredited accountant, RSM Comptabilité. These need to be approved by an external auditor as is now standard at FEAM [action 16]. He highlights that:

- FEAM accounts are prepared in accordance with the standard Belgian financial period, i.e. from 1 January to 31 December.
- Academies subscription fees are FEAM's main source of income.
- The accounts are balanced.

The 2014 annual accounts are approved by Council subject to approval by an external auditor. Council discharges the Board of any responsibility regarding the 2014 accounts.

6.2. Update on the current situation

- An overview of the situation is tabled. It is noted that 34 257 EUR are on the FEAM account as of 1 May 2015, mainly thanks to those Academies that have paid their 2015 subscription fees and an additional 17 500 EUR can be expected through outstanding subscription fees.
- The Associate Treasurer invites outstanding Academies to pay their 2015 subscription fee as soon as possible as the proposed deadline was end of March 2015 in order to plan for the year ahead and they will receive a reminder letter to this effect [action 17].
- The offer from the Wellcome Trust to consider covering the full costs of a FEAM Policy Officer, instead of co-financing this post as initially agreed, to develop a FEAM European Biomedical Forum is viewed as an outstanding opportunity to develop the FEAM secretariat and grow FEAM's policy activities. The Associate Treasurer thanks the President for negotiating this new offer, which should also increase the credibility of setting up a FEAM Forum in the eyes of potential Founder Members. As this offer is conditional to securing the involvement and contribution of other potential Forum Members, the Associate Treasurer stresses the importance of the future support of Council in approaching additional groups and organisations. This will be discussed further under item 9.
- The Associate Treasurer notes that this offer from the Trust should be formalized. He also asks the President whether this funding must be used solely to cover the salary of a new Policy Officer or if there is flexibility in the way these funds can be used. This question needs to be discussed further with the Wellcome Trust and the President should inform the Remuneration Committee in due course [action 18].

7. Policy activities

7.1. Data Protection Regulation

- A draft Joint Statement of the Healthcare Coalition on Data Protection was circulated to Council as annex 4 for comments. It is noted that COCIR still provides support for this activity and Dr. Beth Thompson from the Wellcome Trust has represented FEAM during discussions between the members of the coalition in drafting this document. Council

approves this new Statement in its current form and the Coalition should be informed [action 19].

- It is highlighted that only a few European organisations are partners in the Healthcare Coalition on Data Protection but dialogue with additional groups from research, among others, as Observers have been ongoing from the start. Supporting such an initiative remains challenging to ensure the involvement of key European stakeholders and to reach consensus within tight deadlines. The timeliness of a FEAM European Policy Forum to support such European activities is highlighted.
- An update prepared by the Wellcome Trust is tabled. Key points include:
 1. In March and April 2015 the Council has considered the outstanding chapters in the DAPIX working group and through counselors (permanent representatives) discussion. Rapid progress is being made and it is expected that a full General Approach will be agreed at the next Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 15/16 June. A General Approach would allow the Presidency to enter triologue negotiations, which may start at the end of June.
 2. The European Parliament has adopted its position and this includes amendments that would have a severe impact on research if adopted. There is still a considerable ways to go in the legislative process and opportunities to ensure that these amendments do not make it into the final text.
 3. Due to the extensive differences between the Council and EP texts, triologue is expected to take a long time and is not expected until near the end of 2015. The rapporteur has said that this may continue into 2016.
 4. Ongoing advocacy activities include the European Data in Health Research Alliance (@datamattersEU and www.datasavelives.eu), an ISC/BBMRI Day of Action on the Regulation (16 June 2015)¹
 5. An EFGCP report on privacy arrangements throughout the EU will be circulated once published [action 20].
- The President stresses that the derogation to health and the use of pseudonymised data are still at stake through the EP proposed amendments and FEAM should seek to keep supporting ongoing activities to inform decision-makers to ensure a positive outcome for research. Such activity would also come under the FEAM European Policy Forum and hiring a new Policy Officer in the coming months would facilitate this greatly.

7.2. Research using animals

- A report of the joint meeting on Understanding the use of animals in research and the alternatives hosted by Vicky Ford MEP and Cristian Busoi MEP (20 January 2015, European Parliament) was circulated to Council as annex 5². The report was drafted by the UK Academy of Medical Sciences and sent to MEPs and the European Commission.
- A Pan-European Statement, prepared by the Wellcome Trust, on opposing the 'Stop Vivisection' European Citizens' Initiative and supporting the European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes was circulated to Council as annex 6a³. This was endorsed by FEAM, alongside many other stakeholders, and circulated widely in Europe.

¹ For further information, see <http://www.iscintelligence.com/event.php?id=261>.

² The report is available at http://www.feam-site.eu/cms/docs/publications/Animals/EUAnimalsMeetingReport_20012015_FINAL.pdf.

³ The report is available at <http://www.feam-site.eu/cms/docs/publications/Animals/AnimalsEUDirective201063JointStatement2015.pdf>.

- A joint statement of the 5 European Academic Networks in support of European Directive 2010/63/EU is tabled for information. It was published on 8 May 2015 and sent to MEPs before the EP hearing of the European Citizen's Initiative Stop Vivisection⁴. This issue is discussed further under item 8.
- The programme of a joint meeting by Wellcome Trust, LERU, EASAC, EFPIA, Science Europe, EGAN and FEAM on research using animals hosted by Philippe De Backer MEP and Cristian Busoi MEP (6 May 2015, European Parliament) was circulated to Council as annex 7. This meeting was chaired by LERU and included two Nobel Laureates on the panel: Prof. John O'Keefe and Prof. May-Britt Mayer as well as Prof. Roger Lemon from the UK Academy of Medical Sciences. 11 MEPs offices were represented.

An update was tabled and key points included:

- The EP hearing of the European Citizens' Initiative Stop Vivisection was held on 11 May 2015 in the European Parliament in Brussels and will inform the European Commission deliberations, which will officially respond by 2 June 2015.
- MEPs from the EP's Agriculture, Public Health, Research and Petitions committees debated with the ECI's supporters and experts in the field the initiative, which asks for the repeal of the Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes to stop animal experimentation.
- Following the introductory remarks from the chair of the Agriculture committee Mr Czesław Siekierski (EPP, PL), vice-chair of the Petitions committee Ms Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (EPP, ES) and vice-president of the European Commission Jyrki Katainen, the initiative's organisers, André Ménache, Gianni Tamino and Claude Reiss, made their case. Their presentation was followed by three rounds debate with experts, including Mr Greek of AFMA (Americans for Medical Advancement), Ms Mclvor of Humane Society International and the Nobel Prize winner Ms Barré-Sinoussi, and MEPs.
- "Stop Vivisection" is the third ECI hearing organised by the Parliament and the first to which external experts have been invited. The two ECI hearings that took place in the Parliament in the past were "Right2Water" (17 February 2014) and "One of us" (10 April 2014).
- A coalition of European groups including FEAM has collaborated to put forward to views of the European biomedical community to decision-makers ahead of this EP hearing. In addition to the several statements and meetings listed above, the following actions took place:
 - Press letter from Nobel Laureates – published concurrently in the Times and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (7 May 2015)
 - An article by Prof Kay Davies, Nature (7 May 2015)⁵
 - Great blog posts including this by the MRC⁶
 - EFPIA's new brochure on the 3Rs⁷

The President noted that it was our understanding, from looking at the press, that the majority of MEPs appeared to have remained unconvinced by the ECI.

⁴ See statement at http://www.feam-site.eu/cms/docs/publications/Animals/JointStatement_EuropeanAcademicNetworks_Directive201063EU_08052015.pdf

⁵ See article at <http://www.nature.com/news/keep-the-directive-that-protects-research-animals-1.17479>.

⁶ See <http://www.insight.mrc.ac.uk/2015/05/01/citizens-initiative-could-endanger-animal-research/>.

⁷ The report is available at <http://www.efpia.eu/mediaroom/258/43/EFPIA-Publishes-Annual-3Rs-Report>.

Post-meeting note: this view is confirmed by an article published by EurActiv on 15 May 2015⁸.

7.3. A joint Statement on the potential impacts of the proposed In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation 2012/0267 (COD) and amendments on genetic testing provision was circulated as annex 8⁹. The President notes that the overall view is that the European Regulation is disproportionate: genetic counseling is needed for monogenic diseases but not for any other genetic tests (i.e. blood tests etc). What is needed is good practice and public education. This joint Statement was prepared by the UK Wellcome Trust and informed by comments from experts of the EASAC/FEAM working group on direct-to-consumer genetic testing. It has now been endorsed by FEAM and EASAC, and will be brought to the attention of the European authorities according to the legislative timetable. Further information will be provided to the FEAM Council once available [action 21].

8. Collaboration with other academic networks

8.1. A structured collaboration between 5 European academic networks (Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE, FEAM) is being developed as detailed in annex 9. Two additional documents were circulated to the FEAM Council with the draft agenda: (1) a Memorandum of Understanding¹⁰ (annex 10), signed by the networks' Presidents in the presence of Robert-Jan Smits, Director General of the DG Research and Innovation on 26 March 2015 in Berlin; (2) The related press release¹¹ (annex 11). Key points on this discussion, led by the President, who sees this collaboration as a great opportunity for FEAM, include:

- A March 2015 meeting was organized in London by the UK Academies, including the Academy of Medical Sciences, with European Commissioner Moedas. The President noted that this meeting and the follow up dinner was the opportunity for Prof. George Griffin and himself to mention this MoU and discuss the need to provide sufficient EU funds to support such a European academic collaboration to inform EU science policy decision-making.
- During the official signing of this MoU (26 March 2015, Berlin), Robert-Jan Smits informed the Presidents of the 5 academic networks that the European Commission saw national Academies, and a collaborative action between them, as an important component of its new science policy mechanism. The European Commission was also considering doubling EU funds - from 3 to 6 million EUR over a 4-year period -, which would be allocated to academic networks – as named beneficiaries - in the Work Programme 2016-17 of *Horizon 2020, Europe in a Changing World, Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies*. This has been officially confirmed and reported in the European press. Post-meeting note: (1) Prof. Kelleher was interviewed by the BBC on 13 May to comment on this issue¹².
- On 23 April 2015, ALLEA organized its annual conference at the Academy of Sciences of Portugal where Commissioner Moedas and his Senior Advisor, Professor Maria da Graça Carvalho, gave a talk. Commissioner Moedas highlighted his support of the new

⁸ See article at <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/science-policymaking/meps-unconvinced-european-citizens-initiative-vivisection-314586>.

⁹ See statement at http://www.feam-site.eu/cms/docs/publications/DTCGT/JointStatement2015_IVDMDR2012_0267.pdf

¹⁰ See MoU at http://www.feam-site.eu/cms/docs/activities/AcaCoop/EuropeanAcademicNetworks_MemorandumOfUnderstanding.pdf

¹¹ See press release at http://www.feam-site.eu/cms/docs/activities/AcaCoop/EuropeanAcademicNetworksMoU_PressRelease26March2015.pdf

¹² See article on BBC website: <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-32167022>

collaboration by the European academic networks and their role in the EU decision-making process. On the invitation of its President, FEAM was represented by Professor Maria do Céu Machado, Vice President of the Portuguese Academy of Medicine, and Laurence Legros, Executive Director of FEAM. Contacts with both Commissioner and Senior Advisor were made by Prof. Machado and this could be built on in the future, through the Portuguese Academy of Medicine [action 22].

- The new EU mechanism for independent scientific advice involving national academies in Europe (i.e. SAM) will be announced by President Juncker on 13 May 2015 and a joint press release by the 5 academic networks will be published soon afterwards¹³.
- In Berlin, the 5 academic networks agreed that a joint Statement on a topical issue would provide a concrete example of our capacity to collaborate in an opportune manner. The theme of research using animals, in the context of the ECI Stop Vivisection and its planned European Parliament hearing on 11 May 2015, was retained. In just over one month, the above-mentioned Joint Statement of the European Academic Networks in support of EU Directive 2010/63/EU was drafted by FEAM, endorsed by the 4 other academic networks and sent to MEPs ahead of the ECI's EP hearing. It was noted that this Statement should also be sent to the European Commission as excellent proof of our joint capacity to undertake timely policy action [action 23].
- Concretely, the 5 academic networks will need to prepare a joint EU proposal to respond to the related Call, which should be published in September/October 2015. The submission deadline is expected to be end of December 2015/beginning of January 2016. Proposals will be reviewed by external reviewers and an answer from the European Commission expected in March/May 2016. Funds should be provided to successful applicants in June 2016.
- In conclusion, the FEAM Council supports FEAM's active involvement in this collaborative action in which health should be a key component and allocated adequate funding. It will enable FEAM to develop its portfolio of policy activities, in collaboration with other academic networks, to grow its Brussels staff basis by hiring a dedicated Policy Officer, and ensure high-level contact with the European Commission. Indirectly, this will also be beneficial to national Academies in raising their profile at the national level. In order to proceed with the development of this collaboration, the FEAM Council gives its President the authority to act on its behalf during negotiations with the 4 other Presidents and with the European Commission. It invites its President to keep it informed of key developments in the coming months [action 24].
- Finally, the President invites Council to provide its view on the following items in view of developing a strong collaboration with the other 4 networks and to develop a joint EU bid: (1) Identifying a Coordinator – the FEAM Council agrees that a strong Academy, with the required resources to provide administrative support to this action, would be an adequate choice and Acatech, the German Academy of Science and Engineering, which hosts Euro-CASE, would have the support of FEAM should it confirm its preparedness to undertake this role. (2) Setting up a College of Presidents or Steering Committee to provide leadership to this action is required and a Chair should be appointed – the FEAM Council agrees that terms of references should first be developed and a Chair appointed accordingly. (3) Ensuring a robust policy development process for any action undertaken under this collaborative action – the FEAM Council agrees that a strong governance and management are essential to ensuring a successful outcome to

¹³ See press statement at http://www.feam-site.eu/cms/docs/activities/AcaCoop/Press_Statement_SAM_academies_130515.pdf

this collaboration and this should be elaborated soon. (4) Setting up a Brussels-based office to host staff members hired to support this collaboration – the FEAM Council did not take position on this issue but recommended that the President pursues discussions with the 4 other Presidents to ensure the most appropriate outcome for this collaboration.

8.2. Prof. Detlev Ganten (Co-chair of IAMP, Member of the Leopoldina) provides an update on the latest IAMP Executive Council meeting (29 May 2015, London), attended by Prof. Bernard Charpentier on behalf of FEAM, and on the development of the InterAcademy Partnership, which is pursuing its integration of the InterAcademy Council/IAP Research, the InterAcademy Panel/IAP Science and the Interacademy Medical Panel/IAP Health, with a truly bottom up approach¹⁴. The IAMP London meeting was hosted by the UK Academy of Medical Sciences. A focus was Ebola and more action could be undertaken to support African countries. IAMP has an interest in health as a security issue, not only for specific countries but also for regions and continents. Changes at the Institute of Medicine, the medical branch of the National Academy of Sciences and soon to become the National Academy of Medicine, were also highlighted. Prof. Victor Dzau is its new President and Prof. Margaret Hamburg, its new Foreign Secretary and former FDA Commissioner, were present in London. He notes that the next IAMP meeting will be held in Delhi in mid-September 2015 and FEAM is invited to send a representative. IAMP is supportive of strengthened collaboration with FEAM in future. *Post-meeting note*: the next IAMP Executive Council meeting will not be organized during the 2015 World Health Summit but future opportunities to organise a FEAM Council in parallel with IAMP should still be explored to ensure good links between the two networks [action 25].

8.3. Prof. Bernard Charpentier will attend the forthcoming EASAC Council meeting on 21 May 2015 in Amsterdam and reports to Council at its next meeting. *Post-meeting note*: the next EASAC Council meeting will take place at the Slovakian Academy of Sciences on 19 and 20 November 2015 [action 26].

9. A FEAM European Biomedical Forum

The President notes that his slides presented at the last Council meeting (12 December 2014, Brussels) and the list of potential Founder Members and Members were circulated with the agenda. Key points to be considered by Council on setting up this initiative are highlighted: (1) a membership-based European policy forum to enable key biomedical stakeholders to discuss issues of common concerns such as relevant EU Regulations and European Citizens Initiatives. (2) a small Advisory Board appointed by the FEAM Council to provide leadership, including representatives of key Founder Members and chaired by FEAM Officers. (3) a new Brussels-based FEAM Policy Officer to provide support to this new initiative. (4) a new allied Foundation to collect membership fees without jeopardizing the independence of FEAM. Sufficient funds should be collected through membership fees to support this new activity and 100 000 EUR should be collected from Founder Members to develop this initiative (Year 1).

The President notes again the potential support of the Wellcome Trust in providing financial support to hire a Policy Officer in this context and the need to progress promptly with developing a strategy for setting up this Forum to secure this funding. Work should start before this

¹⁴¹⁴ See website : <http://www.interacademies.org/>.

summer, with the aim to have a structure developed by end of this year. Support from Council in recruiting Founder Members will be essential in raising additional funds required for early development.

Council agrees that a small Advisory Board should be appointed by the President with the authority to develop a detailed strategy to launch this new initiative (i.e. founder membership and future membership, governance and management) and its allied Foundation. Prof. Kelleher agrees to liaise on this point and to report to Council [action 27].

It is agreed that this forum should be called The FEAM European Policy Forum.

10. It is noted that the **next FEAM Spring Conference** will be hosted by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and a date and programme should be confirmed soon [action 28].

Post-meeting note: This conference will focus on precision medicine and will be held either on 19-20 May 2016 in Bern. A Council meeting will be organized during the afternoon of day 1 and the conference on day 2. The Swiss Academy will cover the costs of this conference and one night of accommodation to Council Members. Prof. Meier-Abt will provide an outline of its proposed programme to the FEAM Board for comments.

The meeting is closed at 18:30.

ACTIONS

Action 1: The summary report of the FEAM/ANM Symposium on Adolescent health will be dedicated to Professor Paul-Pierre Pastoret.

Action 2: Outstanding Academies should be invited to confirm their Council Member and to send their Science Policy Committee (SPC) nominations for revision by the FEAM Board and the Chair of the SPC, Prof. Luigi Frati.

Action 3: A President elect should be elected at the next Council meeting in the autumn in Brussels (date to be confirmed) and Academies should be invited to send nominations (June 2015).

Action 4: An update on the financial situation and a draft budget should be provided to the Remuneration Committee with the aim to consider options for reviewing the contract of the Executive Director (June 2015).

Action 5: Academies in Scandinavia should be informed about current developments at FEAM and invited to attend the next FEAM Council as Observer and the FEAM annual conference in 2016.

Action 6: If and when available, the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences should forward a report on progress and development of the EU-funded Romanian initiative on One Health in order for FEAM to inform other Academies.

Action 7: FEAM should inform its Academies of progress on key dossiers such as data protection and research using animals in order to develop and build on their contacts, in this policy context, with their respective MEPs.

Action 8: FEAM should seek to keep supporting the online public engagement campaign by the European Data in Health Research Alliance.

Action 9: The regulation of procedures should be amended to include a simple majority voting systems for Council decisions while providing a casting vote to the Chair in case of deadlock. The final document will be forwarded to Council.

Action 10: The date of the next FEAM Council meeting to be held in the autumn at the Palace of the Academies in Brussels should be confirmed (June 2015).

Action 11: Prof. Maria do Céu Machado should provide the FEAM Board with the formal response of her Academy on her election as FEAM Vice President from 13 May 2015 to 12 May 2018.

Action 12: A fourth Vice President should be elected at the next FEAM Council meeting and Academies should be invited to send their nomination (June 2015). This will be done jointly with action 3 (i.e. election of a President elect).

Action 13: The mandate of Vice Presidents should be confirmed at the next FEAM Council meeting, in accordance with the regulation of procedures.

Action 14: The annex to the regulation of procedures and the FEAM website listing the Members of the FEAM Board should be updated accordingly (linked to action 9).

Action 14 bis: The mandate of the Past President should be considered at the next Council meeting with consideration given to re-appointing the outgoing Past President Prof Tresguerres to provide continuity.

Action 15: The full FEAM Council, Observers (EASAC, IAMP) and other academic partners (Academia Europaea, ALLEA and Euro-CASE) should be formally informed of the new constitution of the FEAM Board.

Action 16: The 2014 annual account must still be reviewed by an external auditor and Council will be informed of the outcome.

Action 17: Academies that have not paid their subscription fee for 2015 will receive a reminder letter (June 2015).

Action 18: The offer from the Wellcome Trust should be formalized by the President. A discussion on how could these funds be spent (i.e. solely on a new Policy Officer or more flexibility) should also be had with the Trust. The President should inform the Remuneration Committee.

Action 19: FEAM should inform the Healthcare Coalition on Data Protection of its endorsement of the latest joint Statement.

Action 20: The report of the EFGCP on privacy arrangements throughout the EU, together with any update from the Wellcome Trust, should be sent to Council and to Observers for information and information to their membership.

Action 21: Council should be updated on progress regarding policy activity related to the joint Statement on the potential impacts of the proposed In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation 2012/0267 (COD) and amendments on genetic testing provision.

Action 22: Discussing further FEAM engagement with Commissioner Moedas through the Portuguese Academy of Medicine and via Prof. Machado.

Action 23: Sending the Joint Statement of the European Academic Networks in support of EU Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes to the European Commission.

Action 24: The new President should keep the FEAM Council informed on progress related to developing a structured collaboration and elaborating a joint EU bid with Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC and Euro-CASE.

Action 25: Engaging with IAMP, also at staff level, to envisage possible joint venue for organizing Council/Executive Committee meetings in future.

Action 26: Identifying a FEAM representative to attend the next EASAC meeting on 19 and 20 November 2015 in Slovakia.

Action 27: Developing a strategy with Prof. Kelleher to develop a FEAM European Policy Forum (meeting in London) and informing Council, also on key stakeholders to contact.

Action 28: Prof. Peter Meier-Abt to confirm a date and location for the FEAM annual conference in Switzerland in 2016, and to provide the Board with a proposed draft programme.