

## COTEC Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 1, March 2014

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### President's Editorial

The new COTEC Executive Committee met for its first face to face in Brussels in the first days of February. It was an adventure.

To keep costs to a minimum we rented a house in Brussels and shared all the daily cooking and household tasks for five days, which was a very effective and ot way of getting to know each other.

It soon was clear that we all have very different and complementary talents, skills and expertise in both organisational, executive and household areas. The combination of the six of us will make a very good team! For Anne Lawson Porter, but even more for Helena Crönebäck, it was the first meeting with the COTEC Executive Committee. Being new, fresh and critical in a positive way they raised questions followed by in depth discussions. These discussions got even more scope during the two day workshop with EPHA. A very good starting point of a new period.

As good Occupational therapists we balanced the hard work with a relaxing cultural event. We chose to visit the famous, traditional Toone puppet theatre in a very old building in the centre of Brussels. The three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) was performed by a very enthusiastic team. Our French language skills were challenged as were our laughing muscles.

The three Musketeers motto: "all for one, one for all" seems to be very appropriate for the future cooperation of our new Executive Committee, our members and COTEC. I am convinced if we all cooperate and use all our talents and skills we can make a difference for OT and the citizens of Europe. All for OT!



*Stephanie Saenger*

## Demystifying the EU bubble

As a start of the working period the new executive committee attended a two day workshop at European Public Health Alliance. The agenda, prepared by COTEC and EPHA addressed the following issues:

- How the EU really works
- Communication strategies with Europe
- Advocacy strategies, campaigning, networks & coalitions
- Possibilities for member participation in EPHA
- Striving for good governance

The two inspiring days made it clear that to achieve visibility in Europe will require a lot of active networking and participation in different groups. During the meeting the executive exchanged a lot of information with EPHA. The knowledge and understanding of occupational therapy of the different policy coordinators of EPHA has increased considerably. This widened their thinking and based on the information about Occupational Therapy they were able to suggest quite a few possibilities for COTEC and EPHA to work together.

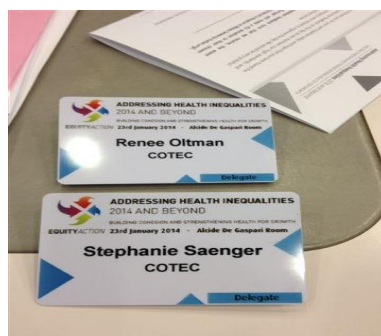


[Read full report on EPHA workshop](#)

## Equity Action Conference

Stephanie Saenger and Renée Oltman attended the Equity Action conference in Brussels January 23, 2014. Equity Action is the EU funded Joint Action on Health Inequalities focusing on developing knowledge for action on health inequalities.

COTEC decided to attend the conference to investigate the impact Occupational Therapy might have on health inequalities. Through the course of the day it became clear that the present research and evidence sufficiently covers determinants which promote health and reduce health inequalities, yet, how to close the health gap, and with which measures, remains an open debate.



[Read more](#)

## Fall Prevention: ProFouND meeting in Brussels, 5.2.2014

Marije Bolt, official COTEC and ENOTHE representative in the European Forum for Primary Care ( EFPC) attended the first EU level Summit meeting of ProFouND, a thematic network of the European Commission, focussed on prevention of falls. In the round-the-table, Marije Bolt highlighted the fact that the EFPC was invited to the summit meeting, but not COTEC and ENOTHE in their own right. Marije stressed the importance of OT in fall prevention. After this introduction the ProFouND project team was convinced and the importance of OT was mentioned several times during the meeting, being a nice result.

[Read more on ProFouND](#)



## COTEC Executive Committee Interim meeting 1.-5.2.2014

The new COTEC Executive Committee which was elected last October had its first face to face meeting. This was held in Brussels between the 1st and the 5th of February. The Committee had a long agenda which included discussions about the communication strategy, action plan, preparation for the revision of COTEC's constitution, preparation for this year's general assembly, collaboration with other organisations, and other operational matters. [Read more](#)

## The COTEC / ENOTHE Collaboration

Members of the COTEC Executive Committee met with the President of ENOTHE, Brian Ellingham and Board member Marie Antoinette van Kuyk-Minis, in Brussels as part of the planned COTEC meeting. This was the first joint meeting in almost eight months and many changes have happened to both Boards during that time. ENOTHE colleagues joined day two of the EPHA workshop and this created a number of opportunities to rethink issues such as governance and communication strategies for a joint approach in Europe, whilst at the same time respecting our different organisation's identities and purposes. There is still much to consider. Over a working dinner, discussions centred on the progression of the joint web portal (the shop window for occupational therapy in Europe), the joint congress in Galway, the progress of the research expert group and how to further develop a successful COTEC / ENOTHE collaboration. The two Boards plan to meet again in Nijmegen in the autumn, by which time outcomes from the topics above should be more tangible.

*Anne Lawson-Porter (COTEC / ENOTHE link)*

*Brian Ellingham (President of ENOTHE)*



## COTEC Secretarial News

### COTEC 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

The 2<sup>nd</sup> COTEC General Assembly will be held in Nijmegen, the NL, October 25-26, 2014.

Saturday Oct 25th will be "COTEC Governance Day" for which the Executive Committee is preparing a program which enables Member Associations to network and share experience on OT topics. Sunday Oct 26th will be General Assembly business meeting.

Call for agenda items and information on meeting venue, accommodation and social program will be circulated to Members in April.

### COTEC Executive Committee Skype meetings

The Executive Committee meets via Skype the first week of every month. The next Skype meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. For agenda items, proposals and exact times and dates, please contact [anu.soderstrom@cotec-europe.org](mailto:anu.soderstrom@cotec-europe.org)

COTEC Executive Committee next face-to-face meeting will take place in London, June 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – prior and after the NBCOT meeting which the Executive Committee will attend as invited participants.

### COTEC Summary of Profession 2014

The NAs have submitted the Summary of Profession questionnaire and the document will be collated and published in April.

### Beryl Steeden has retired

Beryl Steeden, Head of Membership and External Affairs in BAOT, has taken early retirement and left on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Beryl had worked at BAOT for over 22 years and acted also the Secretariat of COTEC for many years. COTEC has sent Beryl good wishes for retirement and thanked her for her years in COTEC. If you wish to send her your wishes, please contact Lorayne Bromberg: [lorayne.bromberg@cot.co.uk](mailto:lorayne.bromberg@cot.co.uk) by Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014.



**COTEC wishes all Members a nice spring!**