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### Vice President's Editorial

Fall has arrived and associations and organisations start looking for another year of activities ahead. Also COTEC is preparing the second General Assembly and Governance day scheduled to be held in Nijmegen, the NL on October 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. During the business meeting the Action Plan 2015 will be on the agenda along with budget and discussions about COTEC fee structure. Twenty-three out of COTEC's thirty Member Associations will be represented at the General Assembly which means a fair quorum for the highest decision making body of the Council.

Communication and correspondence between the Members and COTEC has been lively the past months. COTEC emails are sent to the Members' office or general email addresses which the Members have provided. There have been quite some difficulties in getting some members to react on requests and a few members report difficulties in their internal communication which hinders COTEC messages to get through to the right people at the association. Cooperation between two or more partners requires a reliable and working communication channel and COTEC requests all members to ensure that two-way communication between the association and COTEC is working. This enables all Member Associations participate in interesting projects and contribute to the work of COTEC.

September was a month with many events COTEC attended. As you can see in the reports of this Newsletter occupational therapy and occupational therapists are indeed getting a higher grade of visibility and the profession has been well promoted in many arenas. COTEC is working well towards its vision "Visible and valued Occupational Therapists throughout Europe". I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage all European Occupational Therapists to support The World OT Day on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Anu Söderström  
COTEC Vice President Administration

## WHO 64<sup>th</sup> Europe Regional Committee, Copenhagen, 15-18 September 2014

COTEC was invited, by WFOT, to attend the 64<sup>th</sup> Europe Regional Committee, a demonstration of our action to strengthen collaboration with our partners. COTEC Vice President Anne Lawson-Porter attended together with Samantha Shann, WFOT Vice President Finance. The WHO Europe Regional Committee, is a business meeting of the 53 Member States of the WHO Europe Region. It presents information, discusses and produces resolutions on topics of significant health interest both across the region and the world.

The Policy and Technical Agenda was far reaching and included a number of relevant topics for occupational therapists, for example, Health 2020 Action Plan and Implementation, Health Systems for Health and Wealth, the European Child and Adolescent Health Strategy 2015-20, the European Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2015-20 and the Framework for Engagement of Non-State Actors (including NGOs). [Read more and see links for presentations](#)



*Anne Lawson-Porter and Samantha Shann*

## European Public Health Alliance, EPHA

The General Assembly of EPHA was held in Brussels September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Stephanie Saenger attended on behalf of COTEC.

There were many participants and it was useful and recognizable to hear the challenges EPHA is facing due to an overload of activities in relation to human and financial resources. Staff members of EPHA are more aware of the possibilities and needs of Occupational Therapy. It was a good opportunity to make and renew contacts with organisations which might be future allies for COTEC.

EPHA 5th Annual Conference was held in Brussels September 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 with the theme: "Tectonic tensions - wealthy Europe's fear of commitment"

For two days more than 30 speakers from across Europe's health professions, governments, the European Commission, civil society and an audience of more than 200 people were gathered together.

The conference addressed the future of public health in Europe just before the start of business of the new European Parliament and Commission as well as the review of the EU's long-term objectives (Europe 2020). The main topics discussed were:

- The public health consequences of the economic crisis
- The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)



It is evident EPHA is a partner which is taken seriously in Europe and many high level persons had accepted the invitation to make a keynote speech and participate in the debates. As the conference was clearly meant to set and influence the agenda for the new EU Commission and Parliament, the content - although important and interesting - resulted not on a concrete level of actions for COTEC or OT. However there were opportunities to make the OT voice heard and contacts were made with possible interesting partners of lobbying groups and client organisations. The press statement and conference presentations are available on the website [www.eph.org](http://www.eph.org). You can also retrieve the Twitter discussion via the Conference's hashtag [#epha2014](https://twitter.com/epha2014).

### Successful OT contributions to EFPC conference

September 1-2, 2014 Marije Bolt formally represented COTEC and ENOTHE at the conference of the European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC) held in Barcelona. The conference was successful in promoting the role and value of OT in primary care. In the opening speech of the conference, Occupational Therapy was mentioned by Jan de Maeseneer as an important profession in primary care. Ten OT's from the Netherlands, UK and Canada presented at workshops and poster presentations. [Read more](#)



## Occupational Therapy mentioned in the Definition of Primary Care

It is a great achievement that thanks to the work of the EFPC, Jan de Maeseneer, Marije Bolt and the constructive and documented feedback of COTEC Executive Committee on the consultation, occupational therapy is now formally mentioned in the New Definition of Primary Care, made by the Expert Panel On Effective Ways in Investing in Health of the European Commission. Jan de Maesseneer was chair of this expert panel. He will be a keynote speaker at the ENOTHE Annual Meeting in Nijmegen. In the editorial of the Lancet the new definition and also Occupational Therapy is referred to as one of the professions in primary care.

For more information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/expert\\_panel/opinions/docs/004\\_definitionprimarycare\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/expert_panel/opinions/docs/004_definitionprimarycare_en.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/expert\\_panel/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/expert_panel/index_en.htm)

<https://www.jvei.nl/wp-content/uploads/lancet-editorial.pdf>

## European Parkinson's Disease Association, EPDA

Progress continues to be made by EPDA on its research programme My PD Journey. In August this year, the EPDA Project Manager, John Bromley, contacted COTEC to update us on their plans and to ask if we could nominate a person for the My PD Strategy Committee and also begin to identify occupational therapists, experts in PD and / or research, to contribute to some work streams within the project. [Read more and nominate to the research program](#)

## Mental Health Index

As reported in the previous Newsletter COTEC was asked to participate in the expert panel contributing to the development of an index on the active integration of people with serious mental illness - an EIU research project commissioned by Janssen. More about the Index, which will be launched in Brussels Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, [click here](#)

## COTEC Secretarial news

### General Assembly meeting

The 2<sup>nd</sup> COTEC General Assembly will be held in Nijmegen, the NL, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Saturday Oct 25th will be "COTEC Governance Day"

Locations of the future General Assemblies will be decided by the Executive Committee. Consideration will be given to geographical location so that the meeting will be held in southern, central, eastern, western and northern parts of Europe in turn. The location of the 2015 GA will be announced at the GA and 2016 GA will be held in Galway, Ireland, in conjunction with COTEC-ENOTHE Congress 2016.

### National News from Member Associations

COTEC Member Associations are kindly asked to submit national OT news to be posted on COTEC website. News should be sent to Helena Cronebäck, [helenacroneback@cotec-europe.org](mailto:helenacroneback@cotec-europe.org) A Members' News section is planned to be added to COTEC Newsletter in 2015.



### **Member Associations contact information**

All Member associations of COTEC are asked to update the changes in their contact information to Vice President Administrator.

### **COTEC Executive Committee meetings**

The Executive Committee has a Skype meeting every month. The next Skype meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16<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 Nijmegen, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the General Assembly. Another face-to-face meeting is planned for early 2016.

### **World OT Day October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists, WFOT, has created World Occupational Therapy Day which was first launched Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This day is meant to promote and celebrate the profession internationally and all OTs and OT associations are invited to participate. World OT Day 2014 will have the theme “United in Diversity” aimed at promoting the international impact of the profession at an individual, group, local and international level. Please see [www.wfot.org](http://www.wfot.org) for the resources WFOT has produced to help promote the event.



## **World Occupational Therapy Day 2014**

United in Diversity - October 27<sup>th</sup>