



Wolf-Dieter Heiss, Germany

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Personal Remarks

It was the wish of Uschi Tschabitscher which was approved by President Jes Olesen and the Management Committee to propose me as a candidate for presidency, and the Council followed this recommendation and elected me for president at the Congress in Copenhagen 2000. My presidency started at the end of the World Congress in London in 2005, and I had the task to succeed Jes Olesen, who had formulated and inaugurated the constitution, the byelaws and the 10 missions and formed the structure of the EFNS. As all the basics were created, I only had the job and duty to fulfil these assignments. With the cooperation of the various committees and assisted by the head office the activities of the EFNS were very successful; the congresses - Vienna 2002, Helsinki 2003, Paris 2004 and Athens 2005 – were of increasing scientific quality, attracted increasing numbers of participants and of industrial exhibitors, and were continuous economic successes; teaching courses were organized in various places, mainly in Eastern Europe, and were attended by local neurologists; courses for young neurologists were organized for a selected number of highly motivated young colleagues; and a visiting programme for young neurologists supported fellow-ships in highly qualified neurological centres. During my presidency efforts were undertaken to coordinate the 2 European societies of neurology, but despite several meetings and intensive negotiations with the representatives of ENS a fusion or tight-cooperation could not be reached.

During this time the EFNS was supporting the foundation of the EFNA and the EBC.

However, despite the success and prosperity of the EFNS during my presidency there was one fate overshadowing these years: it was the malignant and progressive disease of Uschi Tschabitscher. With all her will Uschi could control progression and fully work for the success of the EFNS, and actually was able to be a substantial part of the Congress in Vienna, which was with all the scientific and social events one of the highlights of her life (and also of mine, as an Austrian living in Germany being President of the Congress in Vienna). After Uschi had lived to experience this highlight, her body's capability of resistance gave up and the disease progressed. Uschi died on July 27, 2003. But she

managed to pass on her legacy to Lisa Müller as Executive Director and Anja Sander. The Headoffice in Vienna is (therefore still) the heart of the EFNS and its team ensures a smooth administration.