

HISTORY of the ENS

A short account covering 1985 to 2014



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PART I - Historical Facts

Foundation of the ENS

The European Neurological Society (ENS) was launched through the energy and vision of Professor Gérard Said. The decision to embark upon this venture was taken by Gérard Said, Professor (then Dr.) A. E. Harding and Professor P.K Thomas in early 1986 and finalized at the meeting of the International Congress of Neuromuscular Diseases held in Los Angeles in July of that year. A group of interested individuals formed a provisional Executive Committee. It was decided to model the ENS on the format of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and to include a strong teaching component, Eventually G. Said had gathered a group of eight neurologists who met in Paris in 1986 founding the ENS.

Founding members and 1st Directing Committee of the inauguration period (1986-1988)

G. Franck (Vice-President), A.E. Harding (Director of the Teaching Program), W.I. McDonald (Director of the Scientific Programme), P. Rondot (Vice President), G. Said (Secretary General), A. Steck (Treasurer), P.K. Thomas (President), K.V. Toyka (Director of the Membership Committee) - coming from France, UK, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany.

A common denominator of the majority of the early initiators was working experience in a US academic Medical environment and membership in the AAN With this background, the principles were generally adopted and used to shape the new European society. The first

Directing Committee later named Executive Committee were composed of academically oriented clinician scientists who strongly believed in the idea of the ENS being a society with individual membership like the AAN

Meeting of the Directing Committee of the ENS
20 December 1986

Members present: PK Thomas, P Rondot, WI McDonald, A Steck, K Toyka, A Harding, G Said.
G Franck could not attend and excused himself.

Several decisions have been taken concerning:

- 1) The composition of the Directing Committee:
 - President: PK Thomas
 - Vice-Presidents: P Rondot, G Franck;
 - Director of the Scientific Committee: WI McDonald
 - Director of the Membership Committee: K Toyka
 - Director of the Teaching Program: A Harding
 - Treasurer: A Steck
 - Secretary: G Said.
- 2) It was felt necessary to include in the next Directing Committee a neurologist from Spain (JJ Zarranz), from Denmark (N. Lassen), one from Italy and one from Holland.
- 3) Modifications have been brought to Membership Bylaws (encl.).
- 4) Honorary Members:

It has been decided that each member of the Directing Committee should provide Pr Toyka with a list of Neurologists of European and non European Countries as well who should be asked to become Honorary Members of the ENS.

It is suggested to send this list to K Toyka within a month and a copy to the Secretary of the ENS.
- 5) Relations with the Publishers:

A Steck and G Said have been asked to negotiate with the publisher (Karger) and with the present Editor of EUROPEAN NEUROLOGY (Pr Kaeser) the publication of the Abstracts of the first meeting of the ENS (ENS-I) and the inclusion in the Board of EUROPEAN NEUROLOGY of members of the Directing Committee of the ENS (PK Thomas, WI McDonald, G Said, A Steck). Conditions for the use of EUROPEAN NEUROLOGY as the Official Journal of the ENS will also be discussed.

We will ask for a lower price to publish the abstracts; if it becomes the official journal of the ENS, European Neurology should have a preemptive right to publish the articles of the papers presented at the Meetings of the ENS.
- 6) All the members approved the logo for the ENS designed by P. Martin (Nice) who will be congratulated for.
- 7) The second meeting of the ENS will be held in Brighton in June 1990; Dr Harding will be in charge of the organisation of the Meeting. The following meetings may be held annually.
- 8) Suggestions for nomination of Members of the Scientific Committee have been made. They will mainly have to review the Abstracts submitted for presentation at the ENS-I. Further suggestions can be sent to Pr McDonald.
- 9) W.Ian McDonald will also be responsible for the organisation of the Symposia on Neurogenetics (Aicardi), Cerebral Blood Flow (Lassen) and on Neuromediators (Marsden). Formal invitations to the speakers will be sent by the secretary of the ENS. Speakers to the Symposia will have to provide a "long abstract", 400-500 words, including references, to be published with the Abstracts.
- 10) Teaching Program: Director: A Harding.

It has been decided to organise 4 half-day courses on the first day of the ENS-I Meeting (Sunday 19 June 1988). Two courses will take place in the morning (Peripheral Neuropathy and Neuroimaging); two in the afternoon (Aging and Dementia; Neuroimmunology-Neurovirology). Ian McDonald is in charge of finding a Chairperson for the course on Neuroimmunology-Neurovirology; P Rondot will either organise the course on Aging and Dementia, or find a Chairperson to do it.

The teaching program will be established by Dr Harding and the Chairpersons of the different courses. Formal invitations will be issued by the Secretary of the ENS.

Invited speakers to the courses will have to provide a 5-10 pages hand-out with references to be distributed to participants and sold to non-participants to the course.
- 11) The secretary of the ENS will keep the President and the Secretaries of the National Societies of Neurology of Europe informed of the activities of the ENS.

Fig. 1: Minutes of the inaugural Directing Board meeting of the Founding members in 1986


Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minnesota 55905 Telephone 507 284-2511

Peter James Dyck, M.D.
Department of Neurology
September 25, 1987

Dr. Klaus Toyka
Professor of Neurology
Neurologische Klinik der Universität
Moorenstr. 5
4000 Dusseldorf 1, F.R. Germany

Dear Klaus:

I did in fact receive your letter and I did write saying that I would be happy to be an honorary member of your society. Tell me, are you the "young Turks"?

Sincerely yours,

Peter James Dyck, M.D.

PJD:ko

Figure 2: Comment by a leading US Neurologist referring to the junior founding members

In 1987, the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) initiated the foundation of another European society, first named the European Society of Neurology (ESN) which held a first congress in Prague in 1988. The ESN, also named the "Prague Group" had roots in the Danube Symposia originally founded by Neurologists from Austria with Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries which were mostly part of the Soviet Union Warsaw Pact countries.. In 1990, the Pan European Society was transformed under a new constitution and bylaws into the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS). The EFNS was not based on individual membership as the ENS but rather by delegates nominated by the national societies. By this time the aims of the ENS were well established and it provided a forum for scientific exchange and offered teaching courses at its biannual meetings.

Bylaws and Ethic of the ENS

The presidency term was 2 years until 1995 and one year thereafter (exception 2006-2007). Presidency ended on the first day of the following ENS meeting. In the early years, the second and third presidents (Pierre Rondot, Georges Franck) were Vice-presidents and members of the EC before their presidency. Later the outgoing president was named Past President and the next president was named President Elect similar to bylaws of other societies. Membership in the EC was 4 years for the founding and early members of the Directing/Executive Committee, and all were re-elected at the 1st Business Meeting at the 2nd ENS Meeting in Brighton 1990. The elections were for 4 years starting in 1994; presidents had another 3 years on the EC, as ex officio members of the EC (starting in 1998) i.e. most presidents served on the Committee again for 3 years. The Executive Committee was the governing board of the society. The general policy and the scientific and teaching programs were determined by the Committees. It consisted of up to 14 members, including the President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of the Teaching Program and Director of the Scientific Program. Members were elected for 4 years at the Business Meeting which was held during the Annual ENS Meeting.

In the second decade of the ENS subcommittees were inaugurated by the EC dealing with all major subspecialties of neurology. The subcommittees were asked to meet during the annual meetings suggesting themes and subjects for upcoming meetings which were communicated to the EC by the coordinators. Table 1 lists the 23 subcommittees and the names of the coordinators in 2013.

Subcommittee	Coordinator(s)
Higher Cortical Functions	Lüder Deecke
Child Neurology	Daniela Pohl
Neurootology / Neuroophthalmology	Marianne Dieterich
Neurorehabilitation	Volker Dietz
Multiple sclerosis / demyelinating diseases of CNS	Giancarlo Comi
General Neurology	Aksel Siva
Pain	Pedro Schestatsky
Neuroimaging	Massimo Filippi
Headache	Fabio Antonaci
Coma and chronic disorders of consciousness	Steven Laureys
Muscle and neuromuscular junction disorders	Corrado Angelini
Peripheral Neuropathy	Claudia Sommer
Movement Disorders	Kailash Bhatia
Epilepsy	Paul Boon
Basic / preclinical Neuroscience	Pasquale Annunziata
Motor neuron disease	Vincenzo Silani
Clinical Neurophysiology	Josep Valls-Solé
Dementia	Daniela Galimberti
Sleep Disorders	Joan Santamaria, Claudio Bassetti
Clinical Neurogenetics	Davide Pareyson
Cerebrovascular Disorders	Franz Fazekas
Neuro-oncology	Riccardo Soffietti
Infectious Disorders	Erich Schmutzhard

 Table 1: List of the 23 Subcommittees in 2013

Presidents of the ENS:

Year	President	Comment
1988	P.K. Thomas	deceased
1990	P. Rondot	
1992	G. Franck	deceased
1994	W.I. McDonald	deceased
1995	G. Scarlato	deceased
1996	A. Steck	
1997	J. van Gijn	
1998	T. Brandt	
1999	G. Hildebrand	deceased
2000	S. Di Donato	
2001	K. V. Toyka	
2002	D.A.S. Compston	
2003	C. Krarup	
2004	E. Tolosa	
2005	I. Milonas	
2006	G. Comi	
2007	G. Comi	
2008	G. Moonen	
2009	J. Ferro	
2010	G. Said	
2011	Z. Argov	
2012	H. Reichmann	
2013	C. Bassetti	

Table 2: ENS Presidents

A.E. Harding was elected but could not serve as president due to her untimely death.





Figure 3: Photographs of the ENS presidents in the order as shown in Table 1


Membership in the ENS

Membership Categories (as of 1987):

Active - Junior - Senior - Honorary

Active Membership developed fast over the first 2 years: new membership applications came in at every meeting; from 2006 free junior membership for 1 year was offered to any junior neurologist presenting a paper. In the early 1990ties the membership was around 500 members.

Return to:
 Professor Klaus V. TOYKA
 Chairman, Membership Committee ENS
 Neurologische Klinik
 Universität Düsseldorf
 Moorenstraße 5
 4000 Düsseldorf (W. GERMANY)
 Telefon (02 11) 311-78 81/84 85



EUROPEAN NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name HACKE WERNER
(Last) (First) (Initial)

Title MD, PROFESSOR and CHAIRMAN

Department NEUROLOGY

Institution UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG

Institution Address IM NEUENHEIMER FELD 400
(with postal code) 6900 HEIDELBERG Country _____

Phone 06221 - 567500 Check Class of Membership Active Junior
(Area Code)

Degree(s) MD, BSC Date of Birth 180348

Unless you indicate otherwise, the above address information will be used for your directory listing and for your mailing label.

LIST ONE OR MORE AREAS OF YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH INTEREST(S)

Thrombolytic therapy of stroke
Neuromonitoring
Neurological intensive care
Cerebrovascular disease

PLEASE ENCLOSE A CURRICULUM VITAE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Other Affiliations:
 - German Neurological Society
 - German EEG-Society
 - German Neuroelectrological Society
 - Fellow, Stroke Council, AHA
 - Advisory Board, German Society of Internal Intensive Care
 - Delegate, German Interdisciplinary Society for Intensive Care
 - Executive Board, Research group neurological intensive care, WFN (over)

Figure 4: membership application form filled by W. Hacke, one of the earliest applications.

ENS - 1987: List of Honorary Members

France: Professors S. Brion, J. Lapresle, G. Serratrice, P. Castaigne

United Kingdom: Professors. R. Gilliatt, W.B. Mathews, Lord Walton of Detchant

Germany (then: West-Germany): Professors K. Poeck, A. Struppler

Netherlands: Professor G.W. Bruyn

Switzerland: Professors H.E. Kaeser, M. Mumenthaler

Sweden: Professor U. Lindblom

Israel: Professor S. Feldman

Poland: Professor I. Hausmanova-Petrusewicz

Belgium: Professor A. Lowenthal

Italy: Professor G. Macchi

United States of America: Professors A. Asbury, Baringer, P.J. Dyck,

A.G. Engel, T. Munsat, L. Rowland, G.M. McKhann

Canada: Professors A. Aguayo, H.J.M. Barnett

Australia: Professor J. McLeod

Table 3: List of the 27 early Honorary Members

ENS Finances

Financial Support for the ENS

Initially, the financial support for the ENS came from one sponsoring pharmaceutical company interested in peripheral nerve disorders (Servier, France). The first meeting of the ENS generated income from the membership fees, from congress fees and from other sources. Only a small proportion of the income came from the pharmaceutical industry (60,000 FF, equivalent to approx. 10,000 Euros). This changed fundamentally when AKM took over as professional congress organizer (PCO). The first AKM-run meeting was 1992 in Lausanne with a budget 6 times as large as the one of the inaugural meeting. The contribution of the treasurer A. Steck and of AKM staff members and later the Congrex staff members, namely Sabine Geiger (until her untimely death), Sabine Adam and Julia Bicher have been very important for the development of ENS.

The document showing the correspondence of the Secretary General G. Said with the Executive Committee member Jan van Gijn gives an overview about income and expenditures of the Inaugural Meeting.

As for the expenses for the meeting in Nice, the local committee (Professor Martin) with funds from the municipality of Nice, from renting space for exhibits, and from subventions from drug companies managed to cover most of the travel and accomodation (etc...) expenses for the invited speakers and for the members of the committee. Travel reimbursement has been shared between the local committee and the ENS.

The "Régie Méditerranée", the travel agency in Nice, paid itself by keeping 20 % of the amount of the renting of space for exhibits.

The ENS collected:	
registration fees:.....	766 011 FF
subventions from drug companies:	60 000 FF
Publicity:.....	48 400 FF
Total:.....	874 411 FF
Main expenses :	
congress facilities (Acropolis)..	215 938 FF
Banquet:.....	175 000 FF
Travel reimbursement:.....	57 141 FF
Springer Publisher:.....	120 000 FF
Pre-Programme and Programmes:....	39 900 FF
Tee-shirts.....	26 900 FF
Translations.....	26 800 FF

Figure 5. Budget of the Inaugural ENS Meeting in Nice

On every business meeting the treasurer presented the budget and the overall performance of the ENS accounts. The finances remained healthy over the entire lifespan of the ENS, allowing to generously support travel grants and fellowships for young neurologists as well as supporting the Journal of Neurology.

The ENS budget of 2012 is displayed as a representative example of income and expenditures in the 17th year since its foundation.

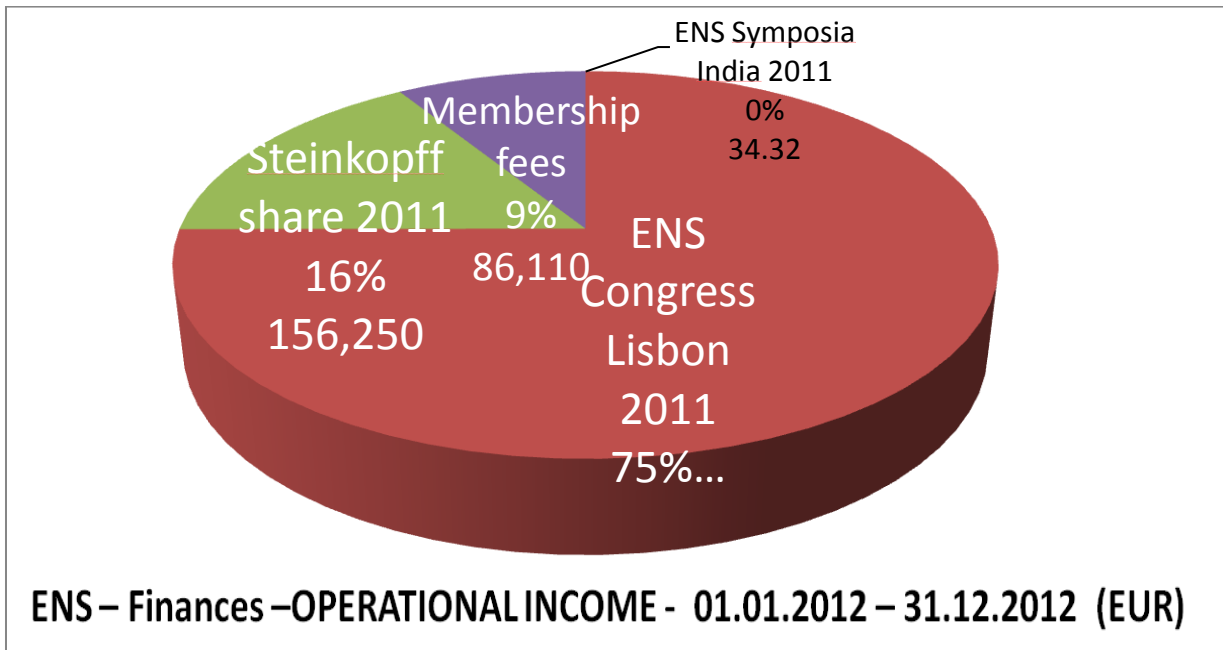


Fig. 6a

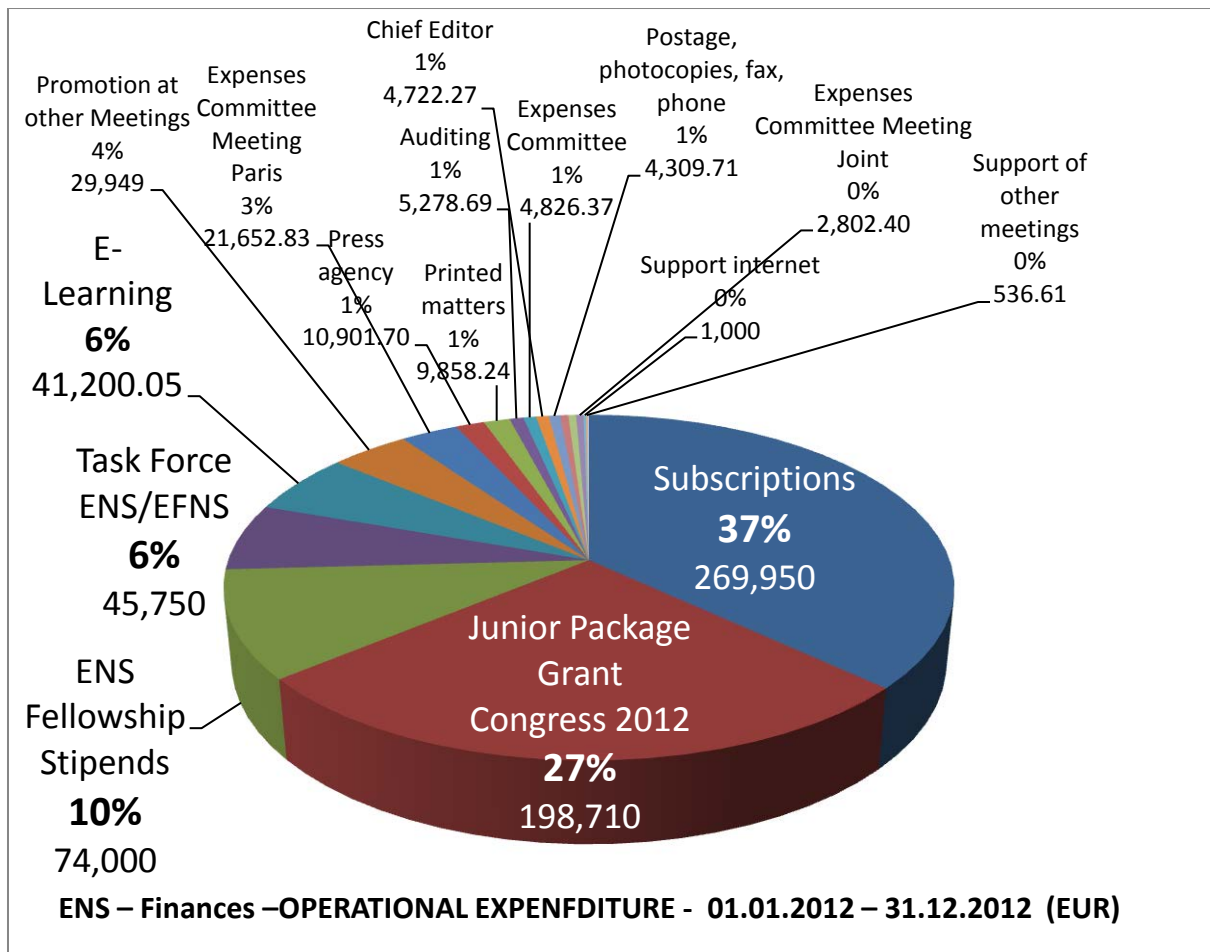


Fig. 6 b

Figure 6a,b: Budget of the ENS in the year 2012 (Subscriptions refers to the Journal of Neurology which had become the ENS Journal by contract with Springer-Steinkopf Publishers; the dominant expenditures have been highlighted by an enlarged font)-

Modes of Financial Support by the ENS

As seen in Figure 6 b, more than one third of the expenditures went to junior neurologists. The main categories of financial support by the ENS were the following:

1. Support for **young neurologists** (< 35 years) upon giving a paper/poster: travel grants and waving fees - starting in 2006 to increase the attendance (about 100 per meeting).

ENS Travel Grants

Year	Applications received	Applicants (several applied more than once)	Grants provided	Grant value (in EUR)	Total amount of money for grants (in EUR)
2010	296	200	54	250	13500
2011	278	241	56	250	14000
2012	307	209	47	250	11750
2013	343	256	62	250	15500

Table 4: Overview on Travel Grants to junior neurologists

2. Support for exchange of young neurologists through a **Fellowship program** starting in 1988. Applications were reviewed by a fellowship committee chaired by Andreas Steck until 2009, and then by Heinz Reichmann. These grants supported junior fellows to do clinical or experimental research in a Research Institution directed by an ENS member.

ENS Fellowships

Year	Applications received	Grants provided	Maximum amount of money for fellowships (in EUR)
2009	24	6	72000
2010	22	7	84000
2011	21	6	72000
2012	21	6	72000
2013	23	7	84000
2014	30	6	72000

Table 5: Overview on ENS Fellowships

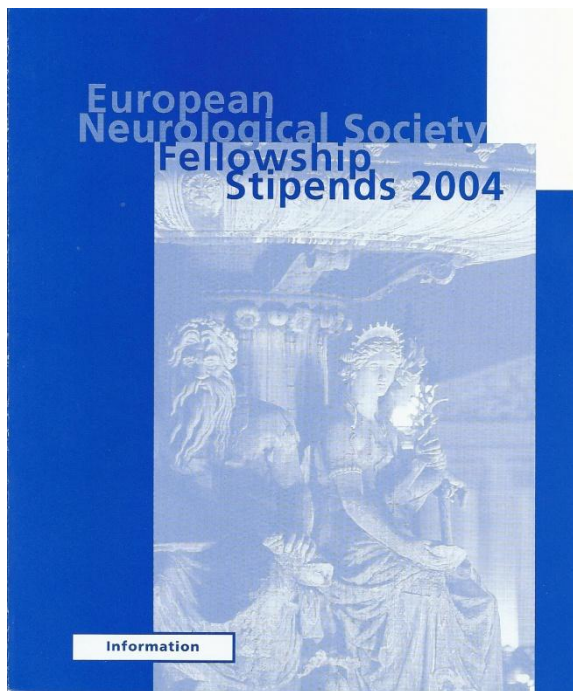


Figure 7: Fellowship Program Flyer

3. The members of the EC and all speakers at the symposia and teaching courses received no honorarium but registration fees were waived and hotel accommodation and travel costs were paid for by the ENS starting with the Brighton meeting 1990.
4. Support for Low Budget countries, (mainly Eastern Europeans): starting in 1988 congress fees were waived and travel support was provided upon application or by personal invitation by the EC and the Secretary General.

The Journal of Neurology:

As early as 1987, the founders were looking out for a Journal. The EC of the ENS decided that the society should have a scientific journal. The first offer came from Karger, Basel, with the existing journal "European Neurology". A competing offer came from Springer-Steinkopf, Heidelberg, publishing the Journal of Neurology, formerly "Zeitschrift für Neurologie". Negotiations with the Steinkopf-Springer Publishers were successful and a contract was made securing that several ENS specialist should be on the Editorial Board. The first Co-Editors in Chief were at the time Alastair Compston, Cambridge, and Klaus Poeck, Aachen. The following editors had an *ex officio* seat in the Executive committee. Over the years several members of the ECs including some past presidents served as Joint Editors. The incoming presidents were portrayed and the major news reported in the ENS section under the professional hands of C. Reilly. Over the last years of the ENS the Journal Editors were elected at the annual Business Meetings .

Liaisons with other societies:

ENS-AAN: Negotiations started formally in 2004 with cross-representation of membership in the AAN Membership committee. The ENS members were the late J. Newsom-Davis and K.V. Toyka (both delegates of the ENS and Fellows of the AAN).

The ENS aimed at generating a corresponding joint (double) membership for either society. It was questioned why there should be a special relation with a European society and if so why with the ENS and not the EFNS. This point was settled because the ENS had bylaws similar to the AAN. Following a positive vote discussions were dominated by revenue calculations pointing out potential losses for the AAN. ENS offered the Journal of Neurology at a discounted price to AAN joint members (Thiekötter, Springer-Steinkopf Publishers)

The liaison package was agreed upon in 2006 through strong support by Austin Sumner and Ken Tyler (then the chair of the AAN membership committee) and CEO Mary Post. → see notes and documents

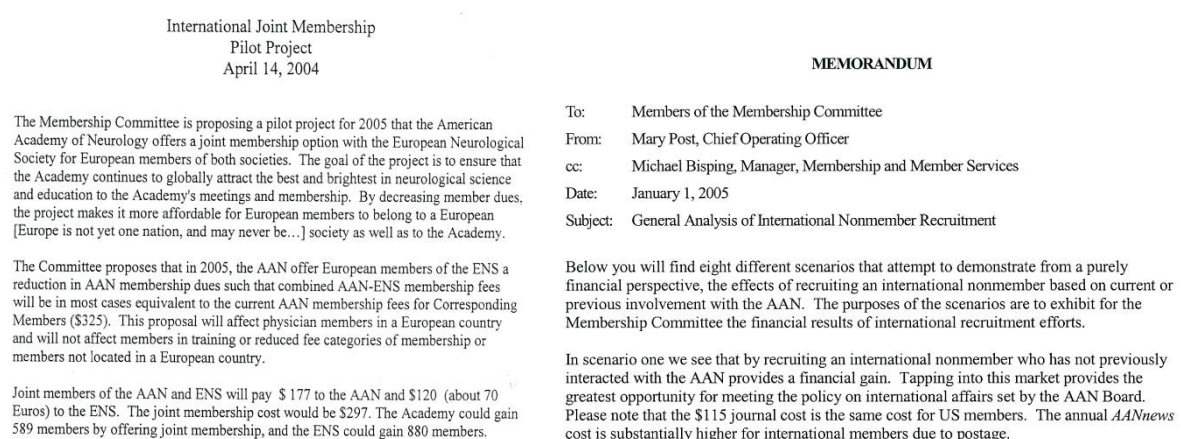


Figure 8: ENS-AAN Liaison - final agreement on a Pilot Project

ENS-WFN-EFNS: Early Interactions of the ENS with the World Federation of Neurology and the Prague Group, later Pan European Society of Neurology (ESN) started in 1989. The negotiations did not lead to a close collaboration between the two societies. The suggestions by the WFN to have members of the Prague group on the ENS Executive Committee and vice versa (cross-representations) was rejected by the ENS negotiators with back-up from the Executive Committee of the ENS. At the 1st Business meeting in 1990 it was stated that 2 separate European Societies would not be a good idea but the members of the ENS did not see immediate ways to change that.

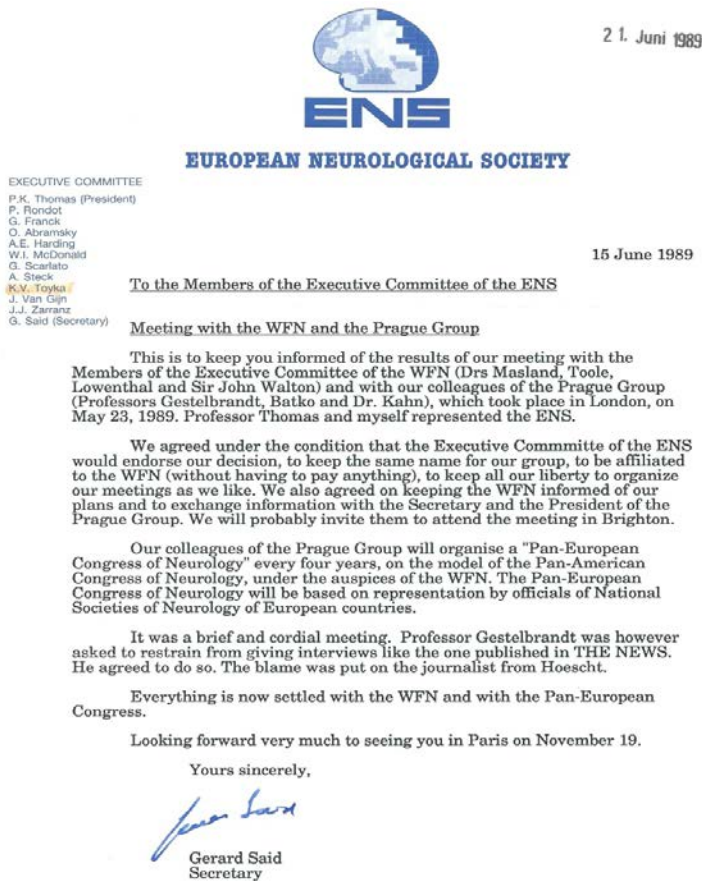


Figure 9: First negotiations with the "Prague Group" under the auspices of the WFN

In 2000 a meeting of the three presidents (past, present and elect) of both societies took place in Milan to again discuss joint meetings, closer collaboration and eventually consider a merger of the two societies. The driving force of this strategy was the wish of many neurologists in Europe to have only one European Society. In addition the sponsoring pharmaceutical industry was also in favor of a single European Society.



Figure 10: Negotiations with the EFNS 2000. From left to right: K. Toyka, W.D. Heiss*, S. DiDonato, J. Olesen*, D.A.S. Compston, K. Selmaj* - * EFNS Presidential group

Milan , December 5th, 2000

Ref. : Paris Meeting held on December 2nd, 2000.

Final version of the Meeting Report
Meeting held on November 11th, 2000

At the Library of the Istituto Nazionale Neurologico C. Besta , CB-INN Milano
The meeting began at 12:15 and ended at 14:45 followed by a brief late lunch.

First meeting of the EFNS-ENS representatives.
Object : possible fusion of the ENS and the EFNS.

EFNS representatives: (Members of the Managing Committee :Prof. Jes Olesen (President), Prof. Wolf-Dieter Heiss, Prof. Kris Selmaj (Vice President); ENS representatives : (Members of the Executive Board): Prof. Stefano Di Donato, Prof. Klaus Toyka (President Elect), Prof. Alastair Compston (Prospective President 2002)
Assistant to the meeting: Dr. Rosalind Hendricks (CB-INN, Milan)

A)General discussion among representatives about the possible fusion of the EFNS and the ENS: reality and timing.

The mandate from the membership and particularly the young members is to merge the EFNS and the ENS. It was laid down by the representatives that some specific activities are represented primarily by the EFNS (e.g. rules for special education, lobbying in Brussels etc.) while others, e.g. scientific meetings, are more clearly represented in the ENS. Therefore a merger would help to bring all these activities together. However, the EFNS and the ENS are bound by contracts until 2003, e.g. meetings of the ENS have been scheduled in Paris, Berlin and Istanbul. A joint meeting might take place in 2004 in Paris (Pre-contracted by the EFNS) or in another centrally located European city, and the constitution and bylaws should be prepared by 2004. Members of the council of the EFNS and the membership of the ENS will have the option to vote and discuss the fusion of the two societies at a joint Business Meeting.

It is suggested that in 2004, a joint meeting will take place lasting at least a half day where the Executive committee of the ENS and the Managing Committee of the EFNS might be ready to vote and sign a merger. Problems between the two societies must be solved so that individuals in the respective boards are motivated to work together.

It was also clear that a single organisation could prove to be more powerful in competing with the North Americans (Science, Journals etc.), as well as in maintaining some independence of European Neurology from the Pharmaceutical Industry. The new society must be independent from the pharmaceutical companies but it must not forget that funding from these industries provides some financial support to the society activities. Members of the new society must decide on codes for the relations between scientists, management of the new society and the pharmaceutical industry.

B) Commitments and mission of the new society.

The representatives of the two societies agreed that a strong focus must be placed on scientific research and a better grip on understanding the differences between the EFNS and the ENS is vital when discussing the merger and preparing the new bylaws.
Education and high scientific output, choice of speakers and tutors based on scientific weight are important in giving the right balance in the new joint society, which will be based also on

Figure 11: Minutes of negotiations with the EFNS in 2000

In the following year the Executive Committee voted against a close collaboration with the EFNS for the near future because of differences in opinion .

In 2005 the attendance at the ENS Meeting in Vienna dropped which induced momentum to discuss the future of the ENS. There was an increasing number of subspecialty meetings, such as the Stroke Conference and the ECTRIMS meeting, both attended by thousands of neurologists. This was largely driven by invitation sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. At the same time the financial support to the ENS meetings was decreasing and earlier suggestions by these sponsors were reiterated suggesting a merger of the two European societies for all fields of neurology. At the Business Meeting in Vienna these aspects were discussed leading to the decision of the members at large electing a task force. This group of former and present Executive Board members headed by G. Moonen should look into the

future demands of the ENS and discuss structural alterations within the ENS. In 2006 G. Moonen and the task force drafted a memorandum as to these aspects

Report on the future of the European Neurological Society (E.N.S.)

To the members of the executive committee

Author: G. Moonen

March 2006

1. Introduction

The ENS was established some 20 years ago by a small group of academic neurologists who were convinced that Europe needed a neurological society that would be the European equivalent of the American Neurological Society. Education has been a major priority of the ENS since its creation and its activities have been mostly education-oriented: annual meeting, publication of *The Journal of Neurology* and fellowships. Without a doubt, it is clear that ENS has achieved its objectives. However, over these 20 years, the neurological world has changed to such an extent that some people think that if ENS does not adapt, it will disappear, which no one who has been an active member of ENS wants to see happen. The more limited success of the Vienna meeting led to a discussion of the current problems of ENS. G. Moonen was asked to prepare a report (appendix A). This report was discussed by the members of the executive committee at their annual winter meeting in Paris. They decided that they would send their remarks and suggestions to G. Moonen before January 10 2006 (appendix B) and that G. Moonen would write a second report to be sent to the members of the executive committee before May 1 2006 and to be discussed at the Lausanne meeting (May 27-31 2006).

2. The problems

Interest in the ENS annual meeting has substantially decreased over the last few years, judging by its attendance. Although it is likely that the Lausanne meeting will be more successful than the Vienna meeting, the longer term trend will probably not be reversed. In other words, better attendance of the Lausanne meeting than of the Vienna meeting should not fool the executive committee: there are too many red flags and too many people think that ENS needs to change.

The reasons for this flagging interest have been discussed previously (appendix A) and include the following:

External:

- Increasing success of the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS)
- Increasing success of sub-specialty meetings (ECTRIM, Stroke, sleep, epilepsy, movement disorders...)
- As a result pharmaceutical companies have shown less interest for ENS
- Increasing implication of national neurological societies in education

Internal:

- Increasingly narrow scope of the meeting with MS becoming a major topic and competition with ECTRIM becoming a major issue. In that respect, it is worth pointing out that AKN is involved in both ENS and ECTRIM meetings, which raises the issue of a potential conflict of interest.

1

- As a consequence, ENS meetings are becoming too heavily dependent on MS-involved pharmaceutical companies with major consequences if one of these companies were to withdraw from ENS meeting sponsoring
- Too few people are effectively involved in running the ENS. This was perfect in the early years as it was both effective and cheap. However if the number of people involved in ENS management does not increase, i.e. if the number of neurologists who feel concerned by ENS does not increase, it is likely that these people (and their colleagues and co-workers) will become more active in EFNS or more specialized societies "at the expense of ENS"
- The founding fathers of ENS were active - and field leaders - in both clinical and preclinical research. This aspect has faded over the last years making the ENS meetings less attractive to young academic neurologists

3. Suggestions

- Members have to make a clear decision as to whether they want ENS to continue or not. It is much better to decide to stop ENS rather than to see ENS go through a slow death over the next ten years
- To decide to go on means :
 - To be ready to "invest" in ENS
 - To be allowed to "invest" in ENS
- If there is a consensus to continue, then in decreasing importance:
 - **The management of ENS should be modified so that more people are concerned. G. Said has sent a proposal that could serve as a basis for future by-laws (appendix C).**
 - In addition to neurological sub-field committees, administration and policy-oriented committees should also be established and should be put in charge of, for instance, membership, relations with companies, finances, relations with the EU. These committees should meet once a year during the annual meeting.
 - ENS has to capitalize on previous presidents and members of the executive board and should turn to them for advice and help. Many of them are opinion leaders in their countries or in their fields (companies always follow opinion leaders).
 - ENS needs more and better neuroscience: a better integration of clinical and preclinical research within the structure of ENS is absolutely necessary; the teaching of neurologists in training, continuous education, the teaching of cutting edge knowledge and research should be integrated.
 - Better visibility of ENS in the Journal of Neurology.
 - An ENS website for continuous education with interactive procedures should be organized for ENS members. This is time-consuming but it would be foolhardy not to invest time and energy in the modern means of communication

4. The following steps should be taken without delay

- A by-laws committee should meet shortly and draft a proposal to be submitted to all members of the society.
- All ENS members should be allowed to apply as committee members. An appropriate balance between current cooptation and more classical election procedures is needed so that both continuity and renewal are guaranteed.

2

Figure 12: Report by Executive Committee member and then second Secretary General G. Moonen on future developments of the ENS

In 2007 negotiations started anew by the Executive Board including former and present ENS presidents to work towards a merger of the two European societies after it became clear that the future tasks included optimal collaboration and joining forces in all areas of neurology, reaching from neuroscience to specialty board examinations and European health politics.

From 2009 to 2012 following a series of decisions by the executive committee of the ENS and the work of a Transition Task Force (G Moonen, C. Bassetti and J. Ferro for the ENS) an agreement on a road map was reached with the EFNS. An ongoing planning about the structure of the unified new society named the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) took place.



Figure 13: The ENS-EFNS Transition Task Force preparing the foundation of the European Academy of Neurology as a merger of the ENS and the EFNS. From left: D. Kömpf*, C. Bassetti, G. Waldemar*, G. Moonen, José Ferro, j. de Reuck* - * Delegates of the EFNS

The last congress of the ENS was held in 2013 in Barcelona. It was a huge success and was attended by over 3000 delegates. At a joint meeting of the ENS and the EFNS held in Istanbul in 2014, the first Board of the EAN was elected by the General Assembly with equal participation of 45 elected members of the ENS and 45 national delegates of the member societies of the EFNS. The new society will have its first meeting in Berlin in 2015.



Figure 14: Past Presidents of the ENS at the Barcelona Meeting 2013.

From left: J. Ferro, I. Milonas, Z. Argov, C. Krarup, G. Comi, H. Reichmann, G. Moonen, K.V. Toyka, T. Brandt, A. Steck, S. DiDonato, C. Bassetti (G. Said, D.A.S. Compston, J. van Gijn and E. Tolosa were not in attendance)

PART II - ENS MEETINGS /CONGRESSES -

Scientific sessions, Teaching Courses, and other activities during ENS meetings:

The central activity of the ENS was holding European meetings with both a scientific and teaching part. The scientific part consisted of symposia, oral presentations and poster sessions. For many years the scientific part of the Meeting was held from Monday to Wednesday at noon (2 1/2 days) and the Teaching courses were on Saturday and Sunday (2 days). In the last decade the Scientific Part was on Mondays and Tuesdays with more parallel sessions and additional early morning sessions with Workshops. In addition every meeting had Satellite symposia sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. By request of the membership the Executive Board inaugurated neurology subcommittees in the second Millennium that were covering over 15 subspecialties of neurology collecting suggestions from members as to subjects for symposia, special sessions, and teaching courses. The final decision for future programs was made at the annual EC meetings.

(Editorial note: some of the Cover Images of the ENS meetings are missing in the archives .)

The inaugural 1st Meeting of the ENS was held in 1988 in Nice (France) with about 1000 participants.

P. Martin, Congress president, 3 Honorary Presidents

Executive Committee: P.K. Thomas (President), G. Said (Secretary) G. Franck (Vice-President), A. E. Harding (Director of the Teaching Programme), W.I. McDonald (Director of the Scientific Programme), P. Rondot (Vice President), G. Said (General Secretary), A. Steck (Treasurer), P.K. Thomas (President), K.V. Toyka (Director of the Membership Committee); Members at large: O. Abramsky, J. van Gijn, G. Scarlato, J.J. Zarranz

Funding was a major obstacle in the early days of the ENS. All contracts with the venue and companies were negotiated and signed by G. Said. The local organizing committee, headed by Pr. Martin, who also designed the ENS logo, some members of the EC, and the Said family helped with all local activities before and during the congress.

The budget was unusually small with revenues coming from the ENS, the City of Nice and other local agencies. The support from the pharmaceutical industry was only about 5% of the total revenues- see **Fig. 5**. Still, the ENS closed up the budget with a positive balance.

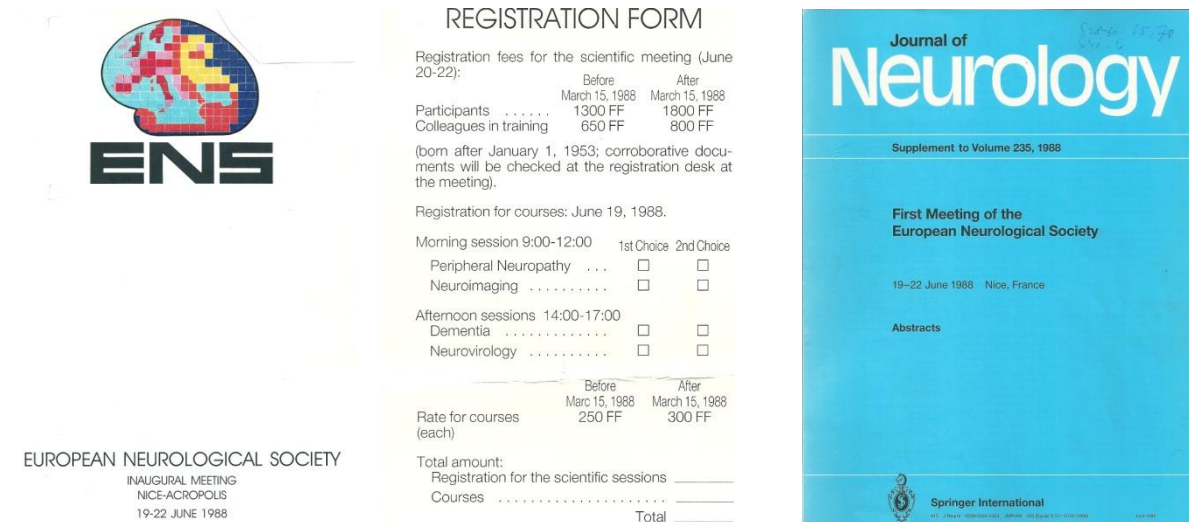


Figure 15: Inaugural meeting 1988 - The logo designed by F. Martin, the first registration form and the cover of the Abstract Book.

The 2nd Meeting of the ENS was held in 1990 in Brighton, UK

PK. Thomas and A.E. Harding, Congress Co-Presidents, 3 Honorary Presidents

Executive Committee: P. Rondot (President), G. Said (Secretary), O. Abramsky, Th. Brandt, S. Di Donato, G. Franck, A.E. Harding, W.I. McDonald, O. Paulson, G. Scarlato, A. Steck, P.K. Thomas, K.V. Toyka, J. Van Gijn, J.J. Zarranz

The 3rd Meeting of the ENS was held in 1992 in Lausanne, Switzerland

A. Steck, Congress President

Executive Committee: G. Franck (President), G. Said (Secretary), O. Abramsky, Th. Brandt, S. Di Donato, G. Franck, A.E. Harding, W.I. McDonald, O. Paulson, G. Scarlato, A. Steck, P.K. Thomas, K.V. Toyka, J. Van Gijn, J.J. Zarranz

The 4th Meeting of the ENS was held in 1994 in Barcelona, Spain

N. Acarin, Congress President

Executive Committee: W.I. McDonald (President), G. Said (Secretary), O. Abramsky, Th. Brandt, S. Di Donato, G. Franck, A.E. Harding, H.-P. Hartung, G.J. Hildebrand, H. Kwiecinski, O. Paulson, H. Petit, G. Scarlato, A. Steck (Treasurer), E. Tolosa

In Barcelona it was decided to have annual meetings starting in 1995 and presidency terms of one year instead of two.

The 5th Meeting of the ENS was held in 1995 in Munich, Germany

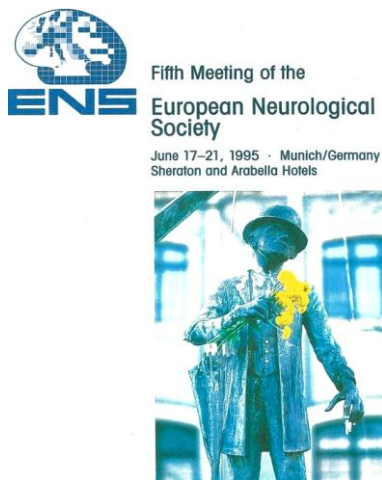


Figure 16: Cover Image of the Munich meeting 1995

T. Brandt, Congress President

Executive Committee: G. Scarlato (President), G. Said (Secretary), Th. Brandt, S. Di Donato, H.-P. Hartung, G.J. Hildebrand, C. Kennard, C. Krarup, H. Kwiecinski, W.I. McDonald, O. Paulson, H. Petit, A. Steck, E. Tolosa, F.G.A. van der Mechè

The 6th Meeting of the ENS was held in 1996 in The Hague, Netherlands

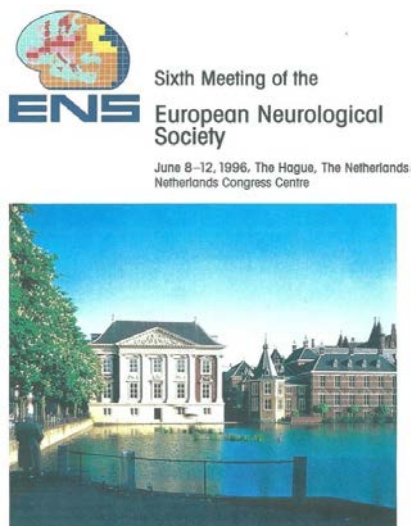


Figure 17: Cover Image of the meeting in The Hague 1996

J.H.J. Wokke, Congress President

Executive Committee; A. Steck (President) G. Said (Secretary)J. Berciano, J. Bogousslavsky, T. Brandt, D.A.S. Compston, S. Di Donato, H.-P. Hartung, C. Kennard, C. Krarup, H. Kwiecinski, D. Leys, E. Tolosa, F.G.A. van der Mechè

The 7th Meeting of the ENS was held in Rhodes, Greece

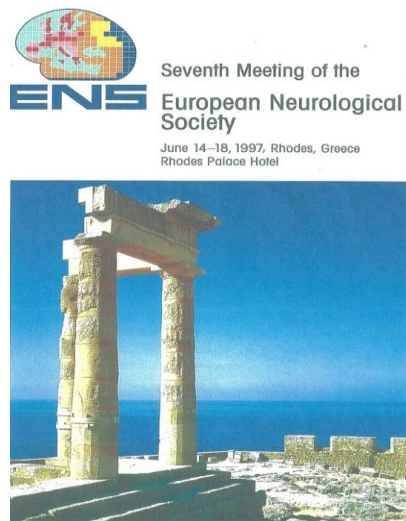


Figure 18: Cover image of the first Rhodes meeting 1997

I. Milonas, Congress President

Executive Committee: J. van Gijn (President), G. Said (Secretary), J. Berciano, J. Bogousslavsky, Th. Brandt, D.A.S. Compston, S. Di Donato, H.-P. Hartung, C. Kennard, C. Krarup, H. Kwiecinski, D. Leys, E. Tolosa, F.G.A. van der Mechè

The 8th Meeting of the ENS (10th anniversary of the ENS) was held in Nice, France

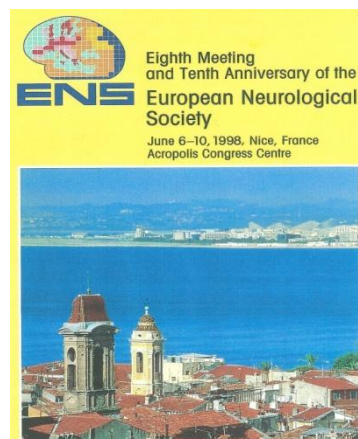


Figure 19: Cover Image of the second Nice meeting 1998

M. Chatel, Congress President

Executive Committee: Th. Brandt (President), G. Said (Secretary), J. Berciano, J. Bogousslavsky, G. Comi, D.A.S. Compston, S. Di Donato, H.-P. Hartung, G. J. Hildebrand

(President Elect), C. Kennard, C. Krarup, D. Leys, I. Milonas, Ph. Scheltens, A. Steck, F.G.A. van der Mechè, J. van Gijn (Past President)

The 9th Meeting of the ENS was held in 1999 in Milano, Italy

G. Scarlato, Congress President

Executive Committee: G. J. Hildebrand (President), G. Said (Secretary), J. Berciano, J. Bogousslavsky, G. Comi, D.A.S. Compston, R. Hohlfeld, C. Krarup, D. Leys, E. Melamed, I. Milonas, Ph. Scheltens, J. Wokke, D.H. Miller (Journal of Neurology ex officio Member)

The 10th Meeting of the ENS was held in 2000 in Jerusalem, Israel

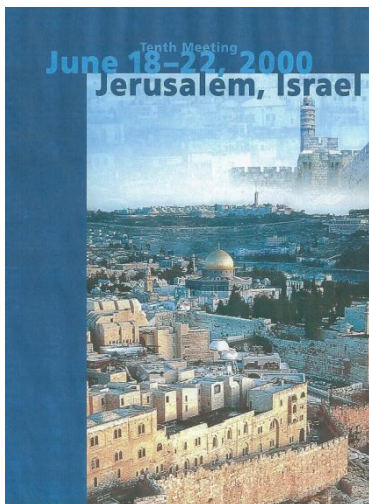


Figure 20: Cover Image of the Jerusalem meeting 2000

O. Abramsky, Congress President

Executive Committee: S. DiDonato (President), G. Said (Secretary), J. Berciano, J. Bogousslavsky, P. Boon, G. Comi, A. Czlonkowska, H.-C. Diener, G. J. Hildebrand (Past President), R. Hohlfeld, C. Krarup, D. Leys, E. Melamed, I. Milonas, Ph. Scheltens, A. Steck, K.V. Toyka (President Elect)

The 11th Meeting of the ENS was held in 2001 in Paris, France

G. Said, Congress President

Executive Committee; K.V. Toyka (President), G. Said (Secretary), P. Boon, G. Comi, D.A.S. Compston (President Elect), A. Czlonkowska, S. Di Donato (Past President), H.-C. Diener, F. Fazekas, R. Hohlfeld, M.-H. Marion, E. Melamed, I. Milonas, E. Nobile-Orazio, Ph. Scheltens, A. Steck, J. Valls-Solè

The 12th Meeting of the ENS was held in 2002 in Berlin, Germany

K. Einhäupl, Congress President

Executive Committee: D.A.S. Compston (President), G. Said (Secretary), P. Boon, G. Comi, A. Czlonkowska, H.-C. Diener, M. Donaghy, F. Fazekas, J. Ferro, R. Hohlfeld, C. Krarup (President Elect), M.-H. Marion, E. Melamed, G. Moonen, E. Nobile-Orazio, A. Steck, K.V. Toyka (Past President), J. Valls-Solè

The 13th Meeting of the ENS as held in 2003 in Istanbul, Turkey

F. Eraksoy, Congress President

Executive Committee: C. Krarup (President), G. Said (Secretary), Z. Argov, P. Boon, D.A.S. Compston (Past President) D.Y. von Cramon, A. Czlonkowska, H.-C. Diener, M. Donaghy, F. Fazekas, J. Ferro, M.-H. Marion, G. Moonen, E. Nobile-Orazio, A. Steck, E. Tolosa (President Elect), J. Valls-Solè

The 14th Meeting of the ENS as held in 2004 Barcelona, Spain



Figure 21: Cover Image of the second Barcelona meeting 2004

J. Valls-Solé , Congress President

Executive Committee: E. Tolosa (President), G. Said (Secretary), Z. Argov, P. Boon, D.Y. von Cramon, A. Czlonkowska, H.-C. Diener, M. Donaghy, F. Fazekas, J. Ferro, C. Krarup (Past President), M.-H. Marion, I. Milonas (President Elect), G. Moonen, E. Nobile-Orazio (Teaching Courses), A. Steck (Treasurer), J. Valls-Solé

The 15th Meeting of the ENS as held in 2005 in Vienna, Austria

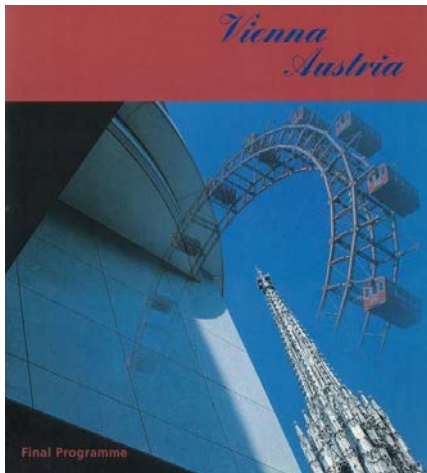


Figure 22: Cover Image of the Vienna meeting 2005

F. Fazekas, Congress President

Executive Committee: I. Milonas (President), G. Said (Secretary), Z. Argov, C. Bassetti, D. von Cramon, M. Donaghy, C. Elger, F. Fazekas, J. Ferro, M.-H. Marion, G. Moonen, E. Nobile-Orazio, R. Soffietti, A. Steck, J. Valls-Solè

The 16th Meeting of the ENS was held in 2006 in Lausanne, Switzerland

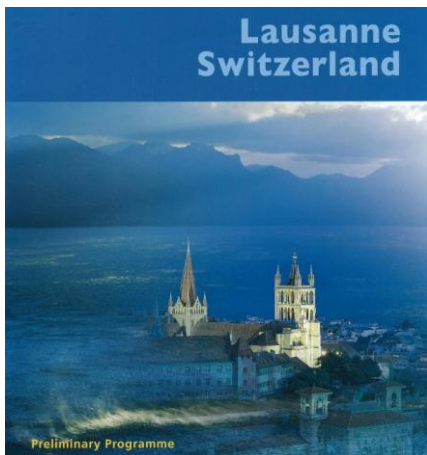


Figure 23: Cover Image of the second Lausanne meeting 2006

J. Bogousslavsky, Congress President

Executive Committee: G. Comi (President), G. Said (Secretary), Z. Argov, O. Bajenaru, C. Bassetti, O. Combarros, D. von Cramon, M. Donaghy, C. Elger, J. Ferro, C. Krarup, G. Moonen, Y. Parman, R. Soffietti, A. Steck, M-J-D- Vidailhet

The 17th Meeting of the ENS was held in 2007 in Rhodes, Greece



Figure 24: Cover Image of the second Rhodes Meeting 2007

I. Milonas, Congress President

Executive Committee: G. Comi (President), G. Said (Secretary), Z. Argov, O. Bajenaru, C. Bassetti, D. von Cramon, M. Donaghy, C. Elger, J. Ferro, C. Krarup, G. Moonen, Y. Parman, R. Soffietti, A. Steck, M.J.D. Vidailhet

The 18th Meeting of the ENS, 20th anniversary, was held in 2008 in Nice, France



Figure 25: Cover Image of the third Nice Meeting 2008

C. Desnuelle, Congress President

Executive Committee: G. Moonen (President), G. Said (Secretary), Z. Argov, O. Bajenaru, C. Bassetti, H. Cock, G. Comi (Past President), C. Elger, J. Ferro (President Elect), M. Filippi, L. Kappos, C. Krarup, Y. Parman, H. Reichmann, E. Scarpini, R. Soffietti, A. Steck, M.J.D. Vidailhet

The 19th Meeting of the ENS was held in 2009 in Milan, Italy



Figure 26: Cover Image of the second Milano Meeting 2009

G. Comi, Congress President

Executive Committee: J. Ferro (President), G. Moonen (Secretary), C. Bassetti, H. Cock, M. Filippi, L. Kappos, G. Moonen (Past President), H. Reichmann, G. Said (President Elect), E. Scarpini, A. Steck, M.J.D. Vidailhet

The 20th Meeting of the ENS was held in 2010 in Berlin, Germany

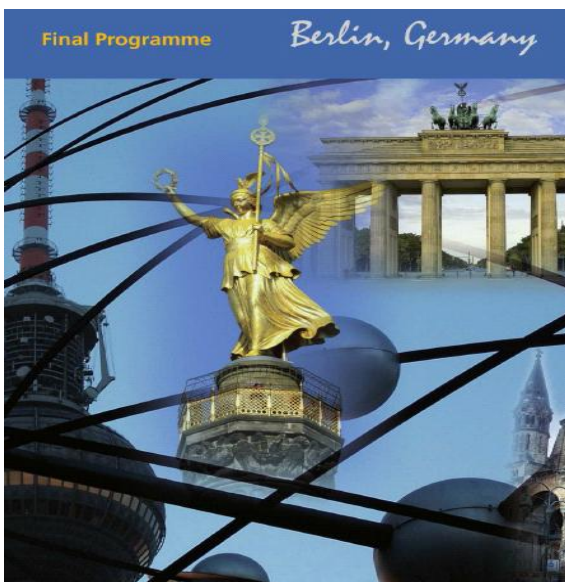


Figure 27: Cover Image of the second Berlin Meeting 2010

K. Einhäupl, K.V. Toyka, Congress Co-Presidents

Executive Committee: G. Said (President), G. Moonen (Secretary), Z. Argov (President

Elect), C. Bassetti, H. Cock, J. Ferro (Past President), M. Filippi, L. Kappos, H. Reichmann, E. Ruzicka, E. Scarpini, A. Siva, A. Steck, G. Stoll, M.J.D. Vidailhet

The 21st Meeting of the ENS was held in 2011 in Lisbon, Portugal



Figure 28: Cover Image of the Lisbon Meeting 2011

J. Ferro, Congress President

Executive Committee: Z. Argov (President), G. Moonen (Secretary), C. Bassetti, K. Bhatia, H. Cock, M. Filippi, L. Kappos, H. Reichmann (President Elect), E. Ruzicka, G. Said (Past President), E. Scarpini, A. Siva, A. Steck, G. Stoll

The 22nd Meeting of the ENS was held in 2012 in Prague, Czech Republic



Figure 29: Cover Image of the Prague Meeting 2012

E. Ruzicka, Congress President

Executive Committee: H. Reichmann (President), G. Moonen (Secretary), Z. Argov (Past

President), C. Bassetti (President Elect), K. Bhatia, H. Cock, M. Dieterich, M. Filippi, L. Kappos, E. Ruzicka, E. Scarpini, A. Siva, G. Stoll, A. Verdelho

The 23rd Meeting of the ENS and last solely organized by the ENS was held in 2013 in Barcelona, Spain



Figure 30: Cover Image of the third Barcelona Meeting 2013

X. Montalban, Congress President

Executive Committee: C. Bassetti (President), G. Moonen (Secretary), K. Bhatia, H. Cock, M. Dieterich, F. Fazekas, L. Kappos, D. Pareyson, H. Reichmann (Past President), E. Ruzicka, A. Siva, G. Stoll, J. Valls-Solè, A. Verdelho

In preparation for the merger of the ENS with the EFNS the ENS members of the Transition Task Force, Claudio Bassetti (President), Gustave Moonen (Secretary General) and José Ferro (Past President) had arranged the election of a General Assembly by the membership at large.

At the Business Meeting 45 members of the ENS were elected to represent the ENS at the joint ENS-EFNS Meeting in Istanbul.

The last Meeting of the ENS, jointly with the EFNS was held in 2014 Istanbul, Turkey



Figure 31: Cover image of the second Istanbul Meeting 2014

The General Assembly made up of 45 representatives from the EFNS and 45 from the ENS voted for the final merger of the two societies into one Society named **European Academy of Neurology (EAN)**. Next the officers of the new EAN were elected:

G. Deuschl, President; F. Fazekas, Vice President; D. Leys, Secretary General; M de Visser, Treasurer; A. Frederico, Chairperson scientific committee; D. Voducek, Chairperson liaison committee; S Sørensen, member at large. To complete the board, H. Cock and P. Boon were appointed by the elected members of the board as Chairperson of the education committee and as Chairperson of the program committee, respectively.

The first congress of the new society will be held in Berlin, 2015

Personal testimony of former Presidents and ENS Secretaries

For the membership at large and for those members who held office in the ENS the history of the ENS is also a very personal one: upon the initiative of José Ferro (president 2009) a query with three questions was sent out to all former presidents asking them for a short statement.

A short written interview was completed with former Presidents and ENS Secretaries to collect their personal testimonies on:

1. Why they had joined the ENS?
2. What were in their opinion the more important and distinctive values and missions of the ENS?
3. What were the most important achievements of the ENS during their mandates?

1996 President – Andreas Steck

1. While working in the Department of Neurology at the University Hospital in Lausanne where I was in charge of a laboratory doing work on peripheral neuropathies, I had the opportunity to meet Professor Gerard Said at several scientific meetings. In 1985, attending the Peripheral Study Nerve Group meeting in Mürren, Switzerland, I heard from Gérard Said about his vision and plans to found a European Neurological Society. I was asked by Gérard to join the Directing Committee as a founding member in 1986 in order to organize the Inaugural Meeting in Nice in 1988. Much of what is considered to be a unique ENS success is a result of the combined leadership abilities of the founders of the Society, Gérard Said, P.K. Thomas, Anita Harding, Georges Franck, Ian McDonald, Klaus Toyka, Pierre Rondot and Andreas Steck

2-3. I assumed the presidency of the Third ENS Meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1992, a meeting which saw the vital expansion of the teaching program and the scientific sessions. I was subsequently invited to take over additional tasks, crucial for the development of the Society through the years. One of the first steps was the organization of the teaching courses, a responsibility that I kept for many years, being a regular teacher in the course of peripheral neuropathy. I was elected President of the ENS, an office held from 1996 to 1997. Another major responsibility, which I took in 1992, was that of Treasurer of the ENS. The excellent financial situation of the Society allowed the establishment of the ENS Fellowship Stipend Program, which draw young neurologists into the activities of the ENS.

I was very much interested in facilitating the scientific development and accomplishment of young neurologists. The Fellowship Program grew out of the Society's commitment to advance medical education and research in clinical and experimental Neurology. Essential to the success of this initiative was the work of the Evaluation Committee, a board, which had the responsibility of selecting the best submitted projects, and to evaluate the appropriate research facility for the realization of the respective scientific proposal. I served as Chairman of the Fellowship Evaluation Committee since its establishment in 1997. The 10th Anniversary of the Fellowship Stipend Program was celebrated in 2008. During this time over 80 ENS Fellowship awardees produced outstanding scientific results while carrying out their projects, thus documenting the success of this Stipend Program. I retired from this responsibility in 2009 to give the leadership to Professor Heinz Reichmann. I maintained close contact with the European Association of Young Neurologists in Training (EAYNT) and supported their various activities at ENS Meetings. I was together with Prof. Gustave Moonen ENS representative to the European Board Examination in Neurology (EBN) and a member of the Board's Examination Committee. The first EBN board examination took place at the 19th ENS in Milan, Italy, on June 2009 and was held annually alternating with the EFNS.

I was privileged to assist the ENS in different activities being involved in the promotion of medical education and of scientific excellence. The ENS was a unique organization providing the best forum for an exchange between neurologists from all European countries in all domains of our discipline. I left the ENS Executive Committee during the 21st Meeting in

Lisbon, in May 2011. My departure represented a turning over of the Society's reins to a new generation of Committee members.

1997 President - Jan van Gijn

1. I am a convinced and card-carrying European – I often feel as much French, German, Italian, English, Polish and what have you as I feel Dutch. Even as a student I visited other European countries for medical training.
2. To give young European neurologists the opportunity to be taught by the best European teachers and to meet each other.
3. I do not wish to make personal claims – all actions were collective, with most efforts from Gérard Said and Andreas Steck. The main aims we achieved were firstly continued expansion of the quality of teaching and scientific exchange and secondly the creation of an organisational structure that keeps active neurologists in the lead (retired is retired).

1998 President - Thomas Brandt

1. It was at the second Meeting of the ENS in Brighton in 1990 after the V Gordon Holmes lecture that the first president PK Thomas asked me if I would be interested in joining the Executive Board of the Society. I enthusiastically replied that I was interested, for the Brighton Meeting had already met all the major aims of its founding members. These aims included the establishment of individual clinical scientific quality counts, the vigorous exchange of ideas, cooperation and friendship, and last but not least the promotion of young scientists within a framework of relevant values and financial support.
2. The yearly meetings of the Executive Board remain unforgettable. Gerald Said organized them to take place in Paris in December. They were characterized by an atmosphere of lively, open-minded discussions of all neurological topics, especially the planning of the scientific and teaching program of the next ENS meeting. In the evening the Executive Committee meetings always culminated in a late dinner, during which many young neurological friendships developed deep and long-lasting roots.
3. In retrospect I feel that achievements during my mandate were somewhat mixed. There were outstanding highlights like the organization of the great ENS meeting in Munich in 1995 and the privilege of serving as President in 1998 and as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Neurology for 10 years. Less satisfying were the endless discussions of whether to merge or not to merge with the EFNS. At that time three major barriers prevented unification: first, each organization had a fundamentally different structure (individual membership in the ENS as opposed to national delegates to the EFNS); second, there were overriding personal interests and personal positions to be defended; and third, the problems of competing financial support kept growing, especially from the pharmaceutical industry. However, all has been resolved and we have all made it on board. Now we are looking forward to the first meeting

of the European Academy of Neurology in Berlin in 2015. Still alive, the ENS and the EFNS have both made unique contributions that reflect their independent histories. Metaphorically speaking, two independent plants have been transformed by the horticultural process of grafting into a new plant - the European Academy. It combines the strong qualities of the old with the promise of the new. As we know, Nature often creates the exceptional at such turning points. We wish it a long, productive life.

2000 President – Stefano Di Donato

1. I joined the ENS as a member of the executive committee in 1992, after an invitation by Anita Harding with whom I had an intense professional and human relationship as we were both interested in mitochondrial disorders and ataxias and in Europe.
2. I saw the ENS, at that time, as a fresh society of motivated and cultured professionals in Neurology and Neuroscience with little link with the bureaucratic national societies. I also thought that we, as ENS Executive Committee members, could factually help younger European neurologists in improving their scientific understanding of neurological diseases and their pathogenesis through a cultured multidisciplinary approach. Along some years indeed the ENS tried to behave as a scientific society, but the premature loss of Anita Harding, plus some inevitable pressure of pharmaceutical companies, progressively blanked this cultured-structured, yet probably candid, approach.
3. I strongly favoured a realistic approach to European Neurology and tried, together with some respected colleagues, to officially approach the problem of the fusion between ENS and EFNS. I organized an ad hoc meeting of the Presidents of the two societies in Milano. An argument which I strongly tried to push was Neurogenetics, a key strategy for the understanding of neurodegeneration, but I am afraid that I did not have much audience in this area after all. Overall, the ENS, to me, has been a fresh, stimulating and friendly experience

2001 President - Klaus V. Toyka

1. I joined the founders' group upon invitation by Gérard Said through Austin Sumner's mediation. With the early co-founders PK. Thomas and Andreas Steck, I already had research connections and Ian McDonald was a mentor, friend and music partner for years. As the person in the Directing Committee (Executive Committee) responsible for membership recruitment, I remember that initially our founding efforts were not always appreciated by influential authorities in the larger European national societies. With the clear concepts developed between 1985 and 1988, and through the high quality of the early meetings recognition of the ENS gradually increased and the membership grew.
2. The ENS was the European society with bylaws shaped after the American Academy of Neurology. Members were selected upon individual application on the basis of achievements and interest in the clinical and basic neurosciences irrespective of their nationality. The unique spirit of the society spread out rapidly and helped us to initiate European networks of

collaboration, exchange programs, and joint grant applications for experimental studies. Its organization was simple and straight forward with no intention for politics. Prof. Said's administration was slim and highly efficient.

3. During my presidency we formed a team of the three successive presidents to promote the formal collaboration with the EFNS aiming at running joint symposia and European meetings. These moves did not materialize at that time. Austin Sumner, Ken Tyler - both representing the AAN, and the late John Newsom-Davis and I (for the ENS) paved the way for a higher recognition of the ENS in North America resulting in a formal liaison with the AAN.

2002 President - Alastair Compston

1. I became aware of the ENS through close professional and personal connections with several of the founding members. I attended the inaugural meeting in Nice, and subsequent congresses, and realised that this was an organisation that served as a conduit for presenting the best clinical science in Europe and in an atmosphere of scientific enquiry rather than political expediency. Although inspired by the American Academy of Neurology, I saw the ENS as closer to the aims and style of the American Neurological Association of which I was then a member.

2. I had, from 1989, served as co-chief editor of the *Journal of Neurology* (initially working with Klaus Poeck); and in discussion with the executive of the ENS and Springer Verlag (Dr Thomas Thiekötter), negotiated the arrangement whereby that publication became the official journal of the ENS. This was a good arrangement although some work was needed in order to make the relationship mutually beneficial and profitable, in all senses. Through that connection, I joined the Executive Committee in 1996. Apart from the social and gastronomic benefits of visiting Paris each December for those meetings, this provided additional insight into the organisation and workings of the ENS; and it allowed us to shape the scientific meetings so that these remained of high scientific quality and provided advanced teaching for delegates.

It was clear that there were already at that time rumblings about the justification for having two European Societies – one scientific in its origins and aspirations (ENS), and the other political and with membership based on proportional representation from constituent countries (EFNS). There had been discussions between former ENS presidents and senior members of the World Federation of Neurology about the possibility of merger. Indeed to many this seemed both desirable and inevitable. In the event, this union proved difficult. Much time was spent and tensions revealed as conditions were discussed. Eventually, at that time, the negotiations floundered over style, personal attitude and apparent incompatibility of the origins and aims of the ENS and EFNS.

But now a new factor arose that sealed the long-term fate of one organisation or the other. The ENS had enlarged the scope and size of its meetings; and was now dependent on the support of pharmaceutical companies. Here is not the place to tell the story of how drug treatments for multiple sclerosis changed the climate of education and exchange of scientific

ideas in neurology for all time. But the appetites of the ENS and EFNS were fed by Big Pharma and they it was who indicated that supporting one European meeting each year was preferable to the arrangements then in place. Whatever may now be said about the reasons for merger, it would be my view that this was the force that eventually brought the ENS and the EFNS together. That a healthier and fully representative organisation has emerged in which the best clinical science in Europe will still be presented, and European neurology speaks with one voice, remain to be seen.

Although, disappointingly, it has proved difficult for me to attend several of the more recent ENS congresses, my time with the Society was stimulating and immensely enjoyable keeping me in touch with the best work in Europe on neurology, meeting young people who will shape the future of the subject, strengthening old friendships and making new ones, and savouring the style and congenial atmosphere fostered by the ENS that makes for a rich and varied professional life.

2003 President - Christian Krarup

1. Having returned to Denmark after 2 years in the UK at Queen Square and 8 years in the USA at NIH and Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard Medical School, I was very stimulated in 1995 to join the vibrant and friendly ENS which clearly brought out the best in European Neurology.
2. The aim of the ENS to further academic Neurology in Europa was extremely attractive, and the leadership of the ENS with excellent scientists was in a position to further this goal. The missions of the ENS to organize excellent scientific meetings and teaching courses had great appeal. Additionally the effort to give young neurologists opportunity to carry out research work at European institutions was very important. The friendly atmosphere of the society was extremely important. I look back on the membership of the ENS with great fondness.
3. As President I followed excellent previous presidents of the ENS, and everybody was very focused on bringing about the above stated goals to have high value scientific meetings with cutting edge presentations and teaching. In addition the fellowship programs were extended and clearly highly attractive to young neurologists. Approaching the EFNS was attempted with limited success.

2005 President – Ioannis Milonas

1. I first heard about ENS in the end of 1989 and I did not know any other society of Neurology in Europe. I sent an abstract for a poster in the second ENS Congress in Brighton in 1990.

I was impressed by the high scientific level and the friendly atmosphere in the sessions. Since then I have participated in every ENS Congress with posters, oral presentations, in teaching courses and the multiple sclerosis expert sessions. I became immediately member of the ENS and 1998 I was elected for the Executive Board. Following my activities in ENS a great number of Greek neurologists have attended the ENS meetings.

2. As mentioned before, a crucial value was the advanced scientific level, the friendly environment in the sessions and the high standard of our journal, the Journal of Neurology, which has increased its impact factor throughout the years. Furthermore, I liked to the selection of the invited speakers based exclusively on their scientific background. The thorough review of the submitted abstracts resulted in an almost 20% of rejection and that contributed to the good or excellent quality of the accepted abstracts. As the meetings were attended by a great number of participants from various countries, it was possible to communicate with colleagues all over the world.

3. In 2005 I was elected President of the ENS and next year I organized the Presidential Symposium in Vienna. The title of the Symposium was "Advances in Multiple Sclerosis". I decided that this Symposium would not focus on Neuroimmunology which dominated multiple-and still does- but would cover other aspects of multiple sclerosis as Neurodegeneration, Neuroprotection and Repair. In Vienna in 2005 I proposed again (as I did previously in 1997) that the Congress of our Society in 2007 should be held in the island of Rhodes in Greece. The Congress, under my chairmanship, as the previous one, was a big success not only of the usual high scientific standard but also of the substantial number of participants (more than 3000), after a transient decline in participation in the two previous meetings.

2006 and 2007 President - Giancarlo Comi

1. I joined ENS since the beginning of its life. I remember I was very excited to join others whom I considered the most distinguished clinical neuroscientist of Europe. Since the beginning it was clear to me that the only common interest of those involved in ENS was science, at a time when for many other so called scientific societies the real priority was to establish connections for personal carrier.

2. The key mission of ENS has been to promote exchange of information at the highest level, to attract young neurologist and neuroscientist and to promote translational neurology. I think that what really characterized ENS was the methodology of science applied to the clinical activity, well represented by the figure of the physician scientist.

3. I had an unique experience among the ENS presidents: because of an unpleasant event my turn lasted two years. I had to run the Society during a difficult period because of the initial economic crises, however both annual events attracted many young neurologists and were quite successful. . It has been probably the most important achievement of my scientific life the possibility to serve as President of ENS, after and before so distinguished colleagues and friends.

2008 President and 2009 - 2014 Secretary General – Gustave Moonen

1. I have been in contact with the ENS since its early beginning as my mentor Professor Georges Franck was invited by Professor Gérard Said to become a founding member of the executive committee in the early days of the ENS. At that time, ENS was the only European neurological society. Years later, after I took over the chairmanship of the Department of Neurology in Liège, I was very happy and proud to join the ENS executive committee and this has been one of the best experience in my professional career.
2. Clearly, most important was the top quality level of the symposia and teaching courses during the annual meetings. The ENS was also open to young neurologists including supporting through fellowships those who were involved in research. Finally, I want to stress the spirit of friendship that united all the people concerned with the ENS organization.
3. I have been a member of the executive committee since 2000, was elected president in 2007 and I had the privilege to be the successor of Gérard Said as secretary general in 2009. Gérard has been the spirit of ENS during two decades. Slowly, I realized that there was no future for the coexistence of two neurological societies in Europe and that the neurological Europe had to have a single voice. The collaboration with the EFNS had begun several years before when both societies were invited to contribute to the annual examination organized by the European Board Examination in Neurology (EBN-UEMS). The next collaboration was with e-Brain. Finally, together with my friend Jacques De Reuck, then president of the EFNS, we decided to begin discussion on the integration of both societies. We had an equal to equal partners discussion and could finally succeed because the vast majority of European neurologists shared that view. The transient task force appointed by both societies was the key structure to achieve that goal within 4 years. Its six members became friends and that was one reason for succeeding. The presidents of the ENS (José Ferro, Zohar Argov, Hans Reichmann and Claudio Bassetti) and the president of the EFNS (Richard Hughes) have played key roles during that process as did the administrative directors Sabine Adam for the ENS and Lisa Mueller for the EFNS. We all are proud and happy that EAN is born. To come back to the question, the most important achievement was to have the opportunity to work within a team that made EAN possible.

2009 President – José Ferro

1. When I joined the ENS I was still a resident. My purpose was not only educational, but also to have an international forum to present my own research. The first ENS meeting that I attended was held in Lausanne in 1992. I was impressed by the high scientific standards, the excellent organization and the open and friendly atmosphere
2. Clearly the most important aspect was the high scientific standard, including the relevance of translational research. The importance given to the role of the individual neurologist and researcher and the independence from political power, national societies, and academic hierarchy were all values I found most valuable

3. The most important achievements were a very successful and well attended ENS meeting in Milan and the start of the discussions of the ENS and the EFNS towards the creation of the new society EAN. I was invited to address the participants of the EFNS meeting in Florence during the opening ceremony. In a short speech I stressed the unique values of the ENS, the need and the willingness of the ENS to contribute to a new common European neurological society, which would include all European neurologists. At the end of the talk, Jacques de Reuck and I exchanged our EFSN and ENS ties, in a symbolic gesture to express our friendship and mutual trustiness.

2010 President, 1986 - 2009 Secretary General and inaugurator of the ENS – Gérard Said

From the very beginning the ENS tried to remain free of any political "national" and commercial string. Obviously this worked well for over twenty years. The goal has never been for that period of time to join our colleagues from national societies. Anyway the ENS, one way or another, managed to finance and contribute to the birth of a mega European Society of Neurology.

2011 President – Zohar Argov

1. I joined the ENS very early as I was hoping to have an AAN-like organization in Europe. Also some of the founders and leaders of the early ENS were friends or people I knew well and their joining forces seemed important to me.

2. I think the most important role was breaking the European tradition of chairman and political control of academic Neurology. For me the recognition of scientific merit rather than 'balanced representation' was a concept to promote and ENS aimed at it.

3. The most important achievement during my rein was the realization that European Neurology should be united under one organization. A future of competing societies was disturbing. So my most important moment was signing the ENS-EFNS agreement in Budapest.

2012 President - Heinz Reichmann

1. I joined the ENS because I was impressed by the scientific quality of this society which was my academic home in Neurology.

2. The ENS both established an excellent teaching as well as a scientific program and by the scholarship program was fostering to promote the exchange of countries and centers between neurologists.

3. The merge with the EFNS which should make Neurology in Europe even stronger

2013 President – Claudio Bassetti

1. The first ENS meeting I attended was the 3rd one held in Lausanne in 1992. At that time I was a resident and -according to my interests of that time- I presented some clinical studies on stroke. A decade later, when acting as vice-chair of the neurology department in Zurich, I was asked by Andreas Steck and Gerard Said, with whom I had a longstanding friendship, to join the Executive committee. I was honored and proud by this invitation and I accepted it with enthusiasm. The election took place at the Business Meeting of the 14th meeting in Barcelona in 2004. Subsequently I served the society until the 24th and last meeting in Istanbul in 2014 as chair of the scientific committee, as co-coordinator of the subcommittees for general neurology and sleep disorders, and finally as president.

2. The ENS was considered for many years the leading academic neurological society in Europe in terms of scientific and teaching excellence. The opportunities but also responsibilities of individual members towards the society was a second distinctive value of the ENS. As a result, the society could count upon the support and the activities of the very best continental neurologists during its 30 years history. The high quality of the academic discussions and the strong personal contacts within the executive committee reflected the main missions of the society well and made the yearly meetings of the Executive Board in Paris memorable events.

3. Since the beginning of my time as member of the executive committee I was convinced (and outspoken) about the need to put an end to the sterile „competition“ between the two European neurological societies. In fact, over the years it had become clear that the differences between ENS and EFNS had become less evident, and the goals and activities more similar. Moreover, the strong development of neurological sub-specialties on one side and of basic neurosciences on the other side urged a reflection about the justification, the activities and the organization of a society devoted to general neurology in Europe. According to my personal beliefs about such needs and opportunities, I supported during my 10 years in the board of the society 1) the activities of young neurologists (e.g. taking active parts to their symposia), 2) the cross-talk between neurological subspecialties and between clinical and translational neuroscientists, 3) educational and scientific events dealing with the neurology of sleep (including common symposia and guidelines with the European Sleep Research Society). The main achievement of my presidency was the successful merge with the EFNS. The atmosphere of strong commitment, mutual respect and trust between the 6 members of the task force led to new and strong friendships and made this a unique and inspiring personal experience.

Corresponding author: Klaus V. Toyka

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