



Annual Report 2005 – 2006

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Overview

This GA ends EBC's second two-year working term.

In **October 2005** the second meeting of EBC's Industrial Partners was held. On this occasion the delegates elected their representative on the EBC Board. Dr. A. Benbow, GSK, was elected and accepted to take on a second term of office. Dr. A. Sleight, Roche, accepted to act as Dr. Benbow's alternate. It will be the industrial representative's task to inform the members of the industrial board on the ongoing activities of the EBC so that a major input from the delegates and sponsors becomes possible. The next meeting of the Industry Board was scheduled for March 2006.

In **December 2005** EBC was invited to take part in the EC Consultation Meeting for the definition of priorities within the 7th Framework Programme (2007 – 2013). The meeting took place at the EC Offices in Brussels and delegates from other major European scientific associations attended the meeting. The summary of the EBC Consensus Document, outlining relevant and important areas and topics in the field of "Brain Research" to be potentially covered in the 7th Framework Programme, was used as a discussion document at the meeting.

January 2006: The writing of the EBC "Consensus Document on Brain Research in Europe was finalised. The Consensus Document was published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry and will be distributed among EBC's membership.

In **March 2006** EBC was invited by Prof. J. Buzek, Rapporteur for the 7th Fr Pr of the European Parliament, to present its work and views on the possible implementation of brain research within the 7th Framework Programme at the European Parliament of the final results of the two-year study "*Cost of Disorders of the Brain in Europe*".

May 2006: EBC took actively part in the Green paper Consultation launched by DG SANCO and submitted its proposal prepared by R. Elgie, J. Mendlewicz and I. Ragan. The results of the Green Paper consultation will be fed back into DG Research and the work parties on the 7th Fr Pr. DG SANCO official, Antoni Montserrat, expressed DG SANCO's interest to work with EBC and non-mental health groups. Epidemiology of brain disorders and their cost to society could be a strand of common interest.

June 2006: EBC, together with Stockholm Health Economics (SHE), completed the SSA "Resource allocation to Brain Research in Europe - RABRE" project. RABRE analysed the size and allocation of the funding for neuroscience in Europe. The size and allocation of both private and public funding for neuroscience have been analysed and divided into categories according to function or disease target. The project assessed the potential benefits of further funding efforts for neuroscience in Europe in relation to costs. The EC, and DG Research in particular, expressed great



interest in the final results of the project especially in view of the finalisation of the 7th Framework Programme.

The RABRE results were received in June and will be submitted for publication in FENS' official journal, the European Journal of Neuroscience.

EBC was invited to participate in the European Parliamentary Public Hearing on the Mental Health Green Paper. EBC's intervention at the hearing resulted in an increased emphasis on brain research in the Motion for a European Parliament Resolution on improving the mental health of the population submitted by John Bowis (Rapporteur for the EP response to the Green Paper).

July 2006: EBC was invited to take part in the 5th FENS Forum (Vienna, Austria – 8-12 July 06) which hosted its second EBC Symposium “Tools for Brain Research in Europe”.

Throughout 2005 - 2006 new national brain councils were set up. EBC devised guidelines for the setting up for national brain councils establishing the working relationship between EBC and the national councils. Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Hungary and Denmark are setting up national brain councils. These councils, modelled on EBC, will address at a national level many of the issues that EBC tackles at a European level. EBC will work towards the creation of a European Brain Council Web to be hosted on the EBC website

The collaboration with WHO was taken ahead and a meeting with Dr. Matthias Muijen, Regional Advisor for Mental Health, WHO Europe (Copenhagen, Denmark) has been planned for September 2006.

EBC Website – www.europeanbraincouncil.org

The EBC website was thoroughly revisited and expanded.

A “Members Only” section was created. Access to this section is limited to EBC board members and board members of the EBC member organisations. The “Members Only” section hosts minutes of Board meetings and GA's, financial reports, business plan and progress reports.

Legal process

EBC has moved its registered address to the Club de la Fondation Universitaire, Rue d'Egmont, 11 – 1000 Brussels. The necessary legal steps for such have been completed and the new legal address has been published in Le Moniteur Belge (January 2006 issue - www.ejustice.just.fgov.be).

EBC's statutes and bylaws underwent major revision and the revised documents have been circulated for this GA.

Finance

The audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2005 will be tabled at the GA.

Substantial funding was received from a number of industry sources, allowing immediate progress to the next stages of development.

EBC activities, RABRE project were also funded through an EC grant.



Dr. Lorraine Leeson resigned from her EBC position in December 2005.

A new part-time Executive Director, Dr. Ian Ragan, was appointed. Dr Ragan commenced work in this capacity in January 2006.

Membership

EBC's member societies will shortly be invited to pay membership dues for 2006, and this matter will be discussed at the General Assembly.

Rules and fees for Associate Membership to EBC have been established.

Julien Mendlewicz
Evelyn Sipido

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