

Report of the WFPHA Membership Committee

The committee work was slightly delayed, when it became known that the elected Chair, Paul Madgwick, would not be able to represent the Committee at the General Assembly in Rio. With the agreement of the committee members and the interim Secretary General, Theodor Abelin, Immediate Past Co-President and committee member, took then on the ad hoc Chair.

The Membership Committee had to evaluate three applications for full membership in the WFPHA – from applicant organizations in Burkina Faso, Vietnam and Algeria.

As no list of criteria for acceptance of applications seemed to exist, a first step was to formulate an ad hoc list, as follows:

The organisation should:

- truly represent the public health professionals of the country – not just health professionals in general, or persons devoted to improving health, without including a nucleus of trained public health professionals
- be multidisciplinary – for example not include only medical doctors
- be non-governmental
- have formal Statutes (Constitution and By-Laws), specifying the functions, powers and accountability of the different bodies, the rules, responsibilities and accountability concerning the finances etc.
- demonstrate having a regular program of activities and publications in several areas typical of public health

The three applications were evaluated as follows:

1. Association Burkinabé de Santé Publique

Based on the application form and information from staff of the Canadian Public Health Association who have been working with the applicants, the Association Burkinabé de Santé Publique fulfils the criteria, and the committee recommends acceptance of this candidacy. With French and not English being the main foreign language in that part of Africa, a difficulty will be language – but this should be seen as a challenge to the Federation rather than an obstacle to membership.

2. Vietnam Public Health Association

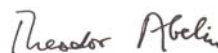
The committee also supports the application from Vietnam. Based on earlier contacts it was known that this Association has close contacts to the Hanoi School of Public Health, and an application had been expected for some time.

3. FOREM – National Foundation for Health Promotion and Medical Research, Algeria

This application goes back to a visit of a delegation from Algeria to the office of the WFPHA Secretary General. Based on the information given in the application and the composition of the delegation, it is not clear whether the criterion is met that the applicant should be a true organization of public health rather than a general organization in the health field, and whether FOREM truly is a non-governmental organization of public health professionals. The committee recommends that the General Assembly should not decide on this application at its 2006 meeting, but should decide to seek further information on how public health and public health professionals are organized in Algeria. This can be done through colleagues knowledgeable of the situation in North Africa. A decision should then be prepared for the 2007 General Assembly.

It is recommended that the question of a list of criteria for full membership be taken up again formally at a future General Assembly.

Berne, Switzerland, 25 July, 2006



Theodor Abelin, ad hoc Committee Chair

Supplementary Report of the WFPHA Membership Committee

Since the Committee Report was written, a further application for membership was received, and the Committee is of the opinion that the report on this application should be submitted to the General Assembly meeting in Rio de Janeiro on August 21, 2006, as well.

The applicant organization is the Public Health Association of Serbia. The application has been forwarded to the WFPHA by staff of the Canadian Public Health Association, which has been supporting this new Association ever since its beginnings in 2003. Information about an upcoming application had been circulating for some time.

The members of the committee have examined the application and the attached documents, and recommend to accept the Public Health Association of Serbia as a full member.

The Committee is aware of the fact that this additional application has arrived late, but recommends to the General Assembly to still vote in its favour, so that this new member can be formally accepted to membership in Rio.

There are some inconsistencies in the English version of the Statutes about the translation of the name of the Association, but the Committee suggests that acceptance to membership should not depend on this, and that this question should be settled later.

Berne, Switzerland, 8 August 2006

Theodor Abelin, ad hoc Committee Chair

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