



Meeting of the European Brain Council and National Action Group in Poland.

20th November 2009
Nowy Swiat 35/7
Warsaw, Poland

Participants

Prof. Aleksander Araszkiwicz – President of Polish Psychiatric Association
Prof. Wojciech Maksymowicz - Polish Association of Neurosurgeons, representing President of Polish Neurosurgical Association – Prof. Henryk Majchrzak
Prof. Grzegorz Opala – Ex-President of Polish Neurological Association
Tadeusz Hawrot – European Brain Council, Project Manager
January Gralik - lawyer

Agenda:

1. European Brain Council (EBC): introduction of the EBC –Tadeusz Hawrot
2. Discussion about transforming Polish Action Group into Polish Brain Council (PBC)
 - Association, fundation, federation?
 - Defining relations between members, membership fee for associations and representatives of industry, patient organizations.
 - Assuring substantial role of main associations in decision-making process; numbers of representatives to the Board, voting rights, parities, supporting members
 - Relations between PBC and EBC
3. 2011 Polish Presidency in the EU preparatory actions and actions towards announcing the European Year of the Brain according to the program discussed at the meeting with the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek – Prof. Opala, Prof. Maksymowicz, T. Hawrot.
4. Conclusions and arrangements regarding the next meeting to officially establish Polish Brain Council. Dates.

Ad. 1. – Tadeusz Hawrot presented background and aims of the EBC, explained what is a National Action Group and a National Brain Council and what they do and outlined EBC plans to encourage launching the European Year of the Brain

Ad. 2. January Gralik conducted analyses of possible legal forms of Polish Brain Council (PBC). Three options were mainly taken into account: 1. Ordinary association, 2. Federation of associations, 3. Foundation. Only “Federation of associations” meets the following needs of PBC: Members – only legal entities, minimum 3 member associations, a possibility of ordinary membership – legal entities without commercial/business activity (the membership fee to be determined by PBC Board Members or at a General Assembly) and supporting membership (legal entities engaged in business activities, their membership fee can be set at a higher level).

Mr. Gralik will prepare a constitution of PBC to be submitted to presidents of associations involved in creation of PBC. It is desirable that the ordinary members are medical scientific associations and patient organizations. Supporting members could consist of industry – pharmaceutical and medical devices companies.

Ad. 3. – A possibility of prioritizing brain during Polish Presidency in EU in 2011 was discussed. In order to achieve this there needs to be collaboration between respective brain associations. A very important role falls on PBC as a coordinating platform. It is essential to gain support from Polish



Government, particularly from the Minister of Health, the Ministry of Education, Polish Academy of Science as well as Polish Parliament. Participants of the meeting declared their willingness to approach these institutions.

Ad. 4. – The participants will summarize the outcome of the meeting to their respective associations to gain the approval for the proposed form of setting up PBC: Federation of Associations <Polish Brain Council> (draft name) and to have the approval for drafting its constitution along with securing funding to cover the costs of it as well as other organizational costs.

The next meeting will be called according to the decision of the involved parties and Prof. Grzegorz Opala will be the coordinator of further activities.