



WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

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Historian:

Yong-Kwang Tu

WFNS CENTRAL OFFICE

Českomoravská 2510/19

190 00 Prague 9, Czech Republic

Website: www.wfns.org

WFNS UPDATE & NOTICE TO CONVENE meeting of the Executive Committee

Date: February 18th, 2025

Dear WFNS Executive Committee Delegates,

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the WFNS, we, the Administrative Council, hereby invite you to the meeting of the Executive Committee of:

World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, an association (vereniging), having its registered seat in The Hague, the Netherlands, registered in the Dutch Business Register under file number 40411496, hereinafter referred to as: Federation.

The meeting will be held on 24th March 2025 at 15:00 (CET).

The meeting will be held electronically via zoom platform. The link and all instructions with respect to participation will be sent to all eligible delegates.

Explanation

As you are aware, the Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as: EC) decided in its meeting of March 17th, 2022, that the WFNS international congress 2025 will take place in Madrid, Spain, and will be organised in cooperation with the member society SENEC.

However, on June 6th, 2024 the Administrative Council (hereinafter referred to as: AC) decided, for reasons it considers to be in the interest of the Federation, to cancel the aforementioned international congress in Spain, and announced this to SENEC and the EC on June



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28th, 2024. Amongst other things, SENEC failed to submit a detailed acceptable budget and failed to execute the congress contract with the WFNS.

On July 6th, 2024 the AC conducted an electronic poll among the EC. This poll showed that the majority of the EC members with voting rights who participated in the poll, opted for Dubai as new location for the international congress 2025. In that context, as you may know, all the necessary preparations have already been made and are underway as Dubai was designated to organise the 19th World Congress featuring the scientific program and all administrative functions of the WFNS.

However, SENEC disagreed with the cancellation of the international congress in Spain and initiated summary proceedings (kort geding) in the Dutch court, challenging the AC's decision to cancel the congress in Madrid. In first instance of aforementioned summary proceedings, the judge ruled that although this is not stated in the Constitution of the Federation, it should be assumed that the power to cancel a congress belongs to the EC, or at least that the EC must approve a decision of the AC to do so.

The WFNS has good grounds to challenge the judgment at first instance given the incorrect reading of the Constitution and Bylaws and misapplication of the applicable Dutch law. Therefore WFNS has filed an appeal.

For the avoidance of doubt and to be clear: the first-instance judgment in the summary proceedings (kort geding) is not a 'final judgment', as it can be appealed (which WFNS has already done).



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Furthermore, on January 18th, 2025, the AC decided to remove SENEC as a member society of the Federation and notified SENEC accordingly, in the face of a serious threat to the very survival of the WFNS based on the provisions of article 6.7 of the Constitution of the Federation. SENEC has exercised its authority to appeal this to the EC. During the appeal period and pending the appeal, SENEC is suspended and has no voting rights. However, SENEC is entitled to attend the EC meeting in which the appeal against the decision to remove will be decided and may address the EC on this matter. All of which is stipulated in article 6.8 of the Constitution of the Federation.

The purposes of the upcoming EC meeting include (i) validate decisions regarding the cancellation of the international congress in Spain and the designation of Dubai as the new location where the next international congress will be held, (ii) the composition of the AC, following the decisions regarding Spain and Dubai and (iii) decisions on the removal of SENEC as a member society of the Federation.

Agenda

The agenda of the meeting includes the following items:

1. Opening.
2. Announcements from the board.
3. Proposals to:
 - a. with regard to Madrid:
 - (i) to the extent necessary, to confirm and/or ratify the decision of the AC to cancel the international congress in Madrid, Spain;
 - (ii) to the extent necessary, to take the decision to cancel the international congress in Madrid, Spain;
 - (iii) in pursuance of the foregoing, to relieve the current President of the international congress (namely, Mr Jesus Lafuente Baraza, who



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has served as such on the AC on behalf of Spain), from his position as member of the AC with thanks, with effect from today; and

b. with respect to Dubai:

(i) to the extent necessary, to confirm and/or ratify the result of the poll held under the EC members regarding the designation of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as the location for the international congress 2025;

(ii) if and to the extent necessary, to take the decision to reaffirm Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as the venue for the next international congress;

(iii) in pursuance of the foregoing and pursuant to the Constitution of the Federation, to appoint Mr Muhammed Al-Olama, (on behalf of United Arab Emirates) as member of the AC, namely as President of the international congress 2025, with effect from today.

4. Giving the floor to SENEC to address the EC regarding its removal.

5. The proposal to confirm/ratify the AC's decision to remove SENEC as a member society of the Federation.

6. Any questions.

7. To send the link to all members of the Federation with voting rights to cast their votes in respect of the agenda items/proposals mentioned above under 3 and 5, within 24 hours of receipt of the said link.

8. Closing of the meeting, after the aforementioned 24 hours have lapsed and no more votes can be cast.



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Please note that this meeting can only decide on the agenda items/proposals mentioned under 3 and 5. It is therefore not possible to add items to the agenda to be voted on before or during the meeting.

In connection with its suspension, SENEC will be granted access to the meeting after deliberation and explanation of the agenda items/proposals mentioned under 3 and will have 15 minutes to address the EC. After having granted the time to address the EC, SENEC will have to leave the meeting and the meeting will be continued.

We anticipate a good attendance at the meeting.

Kind regards,

WFNS AC 2023-2025