



WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

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S. Kobayashi **U. Türe**

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Historian:

Yong-Kwang Tu

WFNS CENTRAL OFFICE

Českomoravská 2510/19

190 00 Prague 9, Czech Republic

Website: www.wfns.org

Official statement of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies

Date: 19th February 2025

Dear WFNS Executive Committee Delegates,

This statement, which has been reviewed by the legal counsel of WFNS (the Federation) regarding recent legal proceedings and organizational matters, follows yesterday's convocation of the EC meeting which takes place on 24 March 2025 at 3 pm CET digitally, and aims to clarify the following key points which are of importance to all delegates:

1. Summary proceedings verdict – a summary proceedings judgment at first instance (kort geding vonnis in eerste aanleg) has been issued by the Dutch court, addressing the dispute between SENEK and WFNS concerning the 2025 world congress.
2. Congress location and cancellation – In its judgment, the court has ruled that while the Madrid congress may be canceled, this requires explicit confirmation from the Executive Committee (EC). If the EC's approval for the cancellation of the Madrid congress is lacking, or at least if the designation of Dubai as the congress venue (as designated in the poll) is not ratified by the EC at the convened meeting, the Federation might be liable to pay penalties with a maximum of EUR 1,000,000, which will



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lead to the bankruptcy of the Federation. For this reason, it is crucial that all delegates take a well-considered decision, which is in the interest of (the continued existence of) the Federation.

3. Dubai congress preparation – Preparations for the Dubai congress are well underway, with close and productive collaboration with Mr. Muhammed Al-Olama representing the United Arab Emirates.
4. Ongoing legal validity – Contrary to claims by SENEC, the current summary judgment is not ‘final’ or unassailable. To the contrary, it is solely a preliminary judgment that is subject to appeal and does not affect the court of first instance’s ability to rule differently in main proceedings (bodemprocedure).
5. Appeal and legal strategy – The Federation has in fact filed an appeal against the summary judgment at first instance, as it disagrees with certain interpretations of the Constitution, Bylaws and applicable law and believes the judgment is incorrect. The Federation commits to transparency and is proceeding in light of identified financial irregularities regarding the Madrid congress. Next to that, the Federation will seek the removal of any imposed penalties.



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6. SENEK membership – The removal of SENEK, linked to the fact that its actions put the Federation existence at risk, will be a subject of a separate discussion. The Administrative Council believes the removal of SENEK is a logical consequence of its actions and will provide opportunities for further deliberation on this during the World Congress in Dubai.

7. Voting – In accordance with article 7.3 of the latest Constitution, electronic verifiable voting is permitted for (among others) the EC and all committee decision making and voting during official meetings.

The Federation remains committed to transparency, financial integrity, and the highest standards of professional conduct.

Kind regards,

WFNS AC 2023-2025

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