On the future relation between the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the European Society of Pediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology (ESPACI).

Allergic diseases represent an area of interest to many clinical specialists.

EAACI has tried to address this common interest by having Executive Committee (EC) members representing the major clinical and laboratory specialities interested in allergology. During recent years, some societies have been formed, which are independent societies for parts of allergology and clinical immunology.

ESPACI was founded to support pediatric allergology as a speciality and to form a forum for discussions between pediatricians interested in the area of pediatric allergology and clinical immunology.

A significant number of pediatric allergologists are members of both EAACI and ESPACI. Today, there is a sincere interest from both societies to find a close and firm relation to create a stronger party in Europe to the benefit of clinical practice, development, education and research in allergology and clinical immunology.

EAACI has a constitution and a "By-Laws" (BL) which regulates its activities. In the BL the state of sections is defined. Opposite to the constitution, the BL can be changed by the Executive Committee of EAACI.

ESPACI has a constitution that has worked for only two years and, as yet, no BL.

EAACI gives some benefits to members/affiliate members, i.e. Allergy is part of the annual fee, except for junior members, 20% discount on the congress fees, educational grants and travel grants to young allergologists and some free membership to members from East European countries.

ESPACI gives benefits to its members, i.e. Pediatric Allergy and Immunology is part of the annual fee, discount on the congress fees, travel grants and membership grants to East European pediatric allergologists/clinical immunologists.

The societies have a similar corporate structure with Presidents, Secretary General in EAACI and Honorary Secretary in ESPACI, Treasurer and Executive Committee and Council, respectively. A minor group within the Executive Committee/Council, the Board of Officers/Executive Committee, respectively, is responsible for the day to day operations.

EAACI has formed the EAACI programme committee (EPC) to co-ordinate the programmes of annual meetings/congresses, divided into two parts the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) and the Administrative Programme Committee (APC). Furthermore, a co-ordinator has been appointed to harmonise congresses/annual meetings.

ESPACI has also chosen an EPC, mainly to function as SPC, but, as yet, no APC.

Within EAACI the responsibility for the arrangement of a Congress or Annual Meeting is given to a Local Organising Committee (LOC), appointed by the National
Society of the host country and regulated in an agreement between EAACI and the LOC. ESPACI has given the responsibility for the Annual Meetings to a President, organising the event and forming a scientific committee and a local organising committee. It has been no formal agreement between the local organising committee and the Council, but an initiative has been taken to re-organise the Annual Meetings and regulate the responsibilities between the President/Local Organising Committee and the Council.

Within EAACI presently the possibility to establish a permanent administrative office, responsible for recruitment of members, promotion of Congresses, handling of abstracts, the relation to Founder Sponsors etc., is under investigation. Within ESPACI all these functions have been referred to the Honorary Secretary.

EAACI has a group of main sponsors, Founder Sponsors, who sponsor the Annual Meetings/Congresses.

ESPACI has a group of Sponsoring Members, who contribute to the running of the current activities, i.e. running the office, sponsoring of the membership and travel grants, mainly for East European members, etc.. ESPACI has decided to ask their Sponsoring Members to take the responsibility for also the annual meetings, i.e. to increase the annual fee and divide the group into sponsoring members and major sponsoring members.

EAACI has decided to form sections for members of different subspecialties. ESPACI is offered the possibility to form a section within EAACI, the "Section on Pediatrics", organising members of EAACI interested in pediatric allergology and clinical immunology. There are also other subspecialties within the field of allergology which have been offered this possibility, both with and without independent societies within the area of allergology.

The relation between EAACI and ESPACI could have the following structure:

- EAACI will be the official body of the joint activity.
- ESPACI continues to be an independent society, working within the interest area of Pediatrics, but forms also a section within EAACI, the "Section on Pediatrics" according to the BL of EAACI.
- The "Section on Pediatrics" within EAACI organises only members of EAACI, i.e. full members, junior members (< 33 years), affiliate members (non-European members) and junior affiliate members of EAACI. Thus, the Section on Pediatrics will organize pediatricians, members of EAACI only and also those who are members of both EAACI and ESPACI.
- ESPACI will organize members of ESPACI, i.e. pediatricians, members of ESPACI only and those who are members of ESPACI as well as EAACI.
- The President of ESPACI is at the same time chairman of the "Section on Pediatrics" within EAACI and the Honorary Secretary of ESPACI is at the same time secretary of the “Section on Pediatrics” within EAACI.
The EC of ESPACI and the council of ESPACI will at the same time function as EC/steering committee and council/board of the "Section on Pediatrics" within EAACI.

The President of EAACI will be adjunct member of the Council of ESPACI with voting rights.

The President of ESPACI, in his/her position as Chairman of the "Section on Pediatrics", will be adjunct member of the EC of EAACI with voting rights.

The Honorary Secretary of ESPACI/Secretary of the “Section on Pediatrics”, in his/her position as secretary of the "Section on Pediatrics", or someone appointed by the "Section on Pediatrics” will be part on the SPC.

ESPACI will arrange their scientific activity mainly within the framework of EAACI, but can also arrange scientific meetings outside the official programme of EAACI. Then, conflicts of interest should be avoided. Such co-operations should be discussed with the EC of EAACI.

EAACI and ESPACI will mutually promote "Allergology” and "Pediatric Allergology” as specialties in Europe.

The EC of EAACI will adapt its BL to fit the co-operation with ESPACI and similar societies in their role as sections of EAACI. The ease with which BL can be changed by the EC is both an advantage and a risk to ESPACI, since the possibility to rapidly change the BL, the basis for the co-operation with EAACI can be changed within short notice. However, based on the mutual interest in creating a "Section on Pediatrics”, the possibility to adapt the BL by the EC to the needs of the two societies can be seen as an advantage.

The EC of ESPACI will adapt its constitution to fit the new situation, i.e. to act as a section within EAACI and as an independent society (or maybe in the future as a "Section on Allergology” within a possible Pediatric umbrella organisation).

This document forms the basis for consultations within the EC of both organisations, with the aim to have a proposal for changes of the constitution/BL and negotiations regarding the economy, to be decided upon during spring 1996.

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President                      President                  First Vice-President
EAACI                          ESPACI                     ESPACI