

Advocacy for Children Working Group Minutes of the meeting

Session Chair: Pieter Sauer

Prague May 12th 2012

Advocacy Group

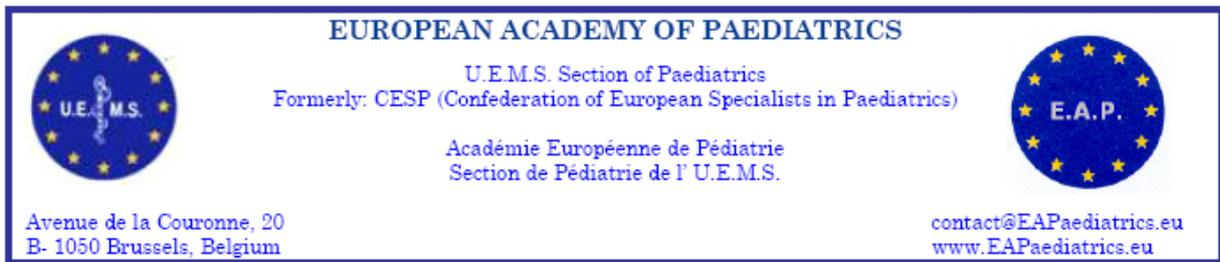
Unfortunately Alf Nicholson could not be present today, the meeting was chaired by Pieter Sauer.

The following agenda was approved:

1. Minutes of the meeting Dec 2011 Brussels.
2. Progress since the last meeting.
3. Potential topics for the advocacy group:
 - age determination in asylum seekers
 - female/male circumcision
 - how to reduce inequalities among children within the EU
 - obesity and options for children to play outside
4. Meeting together with the adolescent group

Issues Discussed:

1. Minutes of the meeting in Dec 2011 Brussels were, as far as present by members, approved.
2. Since the meeting of Dec 2011 no activities have taken place. This is most likely due to the new formation of the group, more progress can be expected in the near future. A somewhat unstructured discussion followed on how to get further with this group. Finally it was agreed that for each topic one member of the group should prepare a paper that must be distributed ahead of time before the next meeting to all members of the group. Per item it must be decided how action must be taken, it can be a statement in a journal, a press release or other actions. Important is the implementation of a statement once it is made. Paediatricians are not so very good in following advises.
3. **Potential Topics:**
 - **Age determination in asylum seekers.** Alf Nicholson prepared an excellent background paper on this topic. Unfortunately, this paper was not read by all attendees. Therefore, it was decided that Alf's paper, together with the statement prepared by Pieter Sauer, will be sent to all members ahead of time for the Brussels meeting 2012. A decision then can be made and a proposal sent to the general assembly.



- **Circumcision.** A statement regarding female circumcision was approved already by the general assembly; unfortunately this statement is not yet published. Action will be taken by Peter Hoyer to get this published in the Archives. A statement regarding male circumcision was prepared by Pieter Sauer and will be sent to all members of the group before the Brussels meeting 2012.
 - **Prevention of obesity.** Finally prevention of overweight/obesity was briefly discussed. It was suggested to make a statement indicating that all children in the EU should have the capability to play safely outside. Playing outside is a very cheap way for children to be active and might be important to prevent the development of obesity/overweight. A further discussion on this topic needs to be done in Brussels 2012.
4. It was agreed that a meeting of the advocacy group together with the adolescent group might be fruitful.

The session was closed after having a very active contribution of all attendees.