

## Report of the work of the Europe Music Therapist Register (EMTR) Commission 2008

### Preamble:

*After the work leading to the eventual agreement of the EMTR (Minimum Standards) document, the EMTR Commission met twice in 2008. In February, the Commission met for 2 days in Ireland. During the Nantes GA the Commission had 1 hour to meet. This was for operational reasons, due to the overall timetable set up in collaboration with the organisations in France (even the Board and Core Board had not the usual time to meet). The EMTR Commission had only time for overview discussion during this meeting, and again because of time limitations, we could only report back on this during the GA. This document provides a full overview of the work of the EMTR Commission, in context. A further, separate document summarises the work during the February meeting. The EMTR is currently already working towards setting up an overall time-line and structure for making the EMTR operational. This will be reported to the members during the 2009 GA.*

### Background process & context:

The EMTC was set up to make a forum for communication for music therapists in Europe. The work also included preparatory and support work for the 3-yearly European conferences. As well as this work, in the background many people held the idea of a Europe Music Therapist register. This has been a vision of the EMTC for more than ten years.

### **The EMTR:**

The main work on the EMTR was done by the Core Board, and then the Commission was set up in 2005. It has been a slow beginning, because the EMTC members could not agree on a single document. However, the time to debate and discuss has been significant and important. The Commission is now ready to work on the practical details of the register and its process.

The overall view of the EMTR from its beginning is outlined below:

### **2003-4:**

The final work was completed, so that the EMTC became an official organisation, recognised at EU level. From 2003 this brought a new professionalism and motivation to the EMTC. As a result of this, the EMTR was discussed actively at the 2003 Pre-conference in Switzerland. Here a vote was taken to begin the work of the EMTR as a priority. On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2004 all the documentation was complete for the EMTC official

recognition. From this point, the EMTC began work on becoming a more structured organisation.

**2004:**

There was a European conference in Finland. At the Finland EMTC General Assembly (GA), it was decided that the EMTC should meet for a GA every year. The focus of the GA was to set up many procedures about communication and the processes for becoming members of the EMTC. In addition, votes were taken for the Board members. There was a lot of work on these central matters, with discussion about the overall status of the EMTR. The Core Board noted that the EMTR is very important; the EMTR was put centrally on the agenda for the next GA. Two task groups were formed, to continue the work on the definitions. It was felt that understanding the definitions of various aspects of the EMTR(MS) document was necessary for the overall EMTR process.

**2005:**

The GA was held in Bologna, Italy. There was a major proposal for the EMTR – a document stating the Standards, and a request for a Commission to form. There was a lot of time spent discussing aspects of the EMTR document during the GA. A vote was taken – the vote agreed that the EMTR(MS) would be the basis for the work of the EMTR.

**2006:**

The GA was held in Vittoria, Spain. The commission was discussed. One main point was that the EMTR will not speak directly to what is happening in each country, but it can help generally with recognition.

During this same year, The Core Board met in Brussels with 2 members of the EU commission. We discussed the idea of Europe registration and we were advised not to go for formal pathways, but to manage the system ourselves.

**2007:**

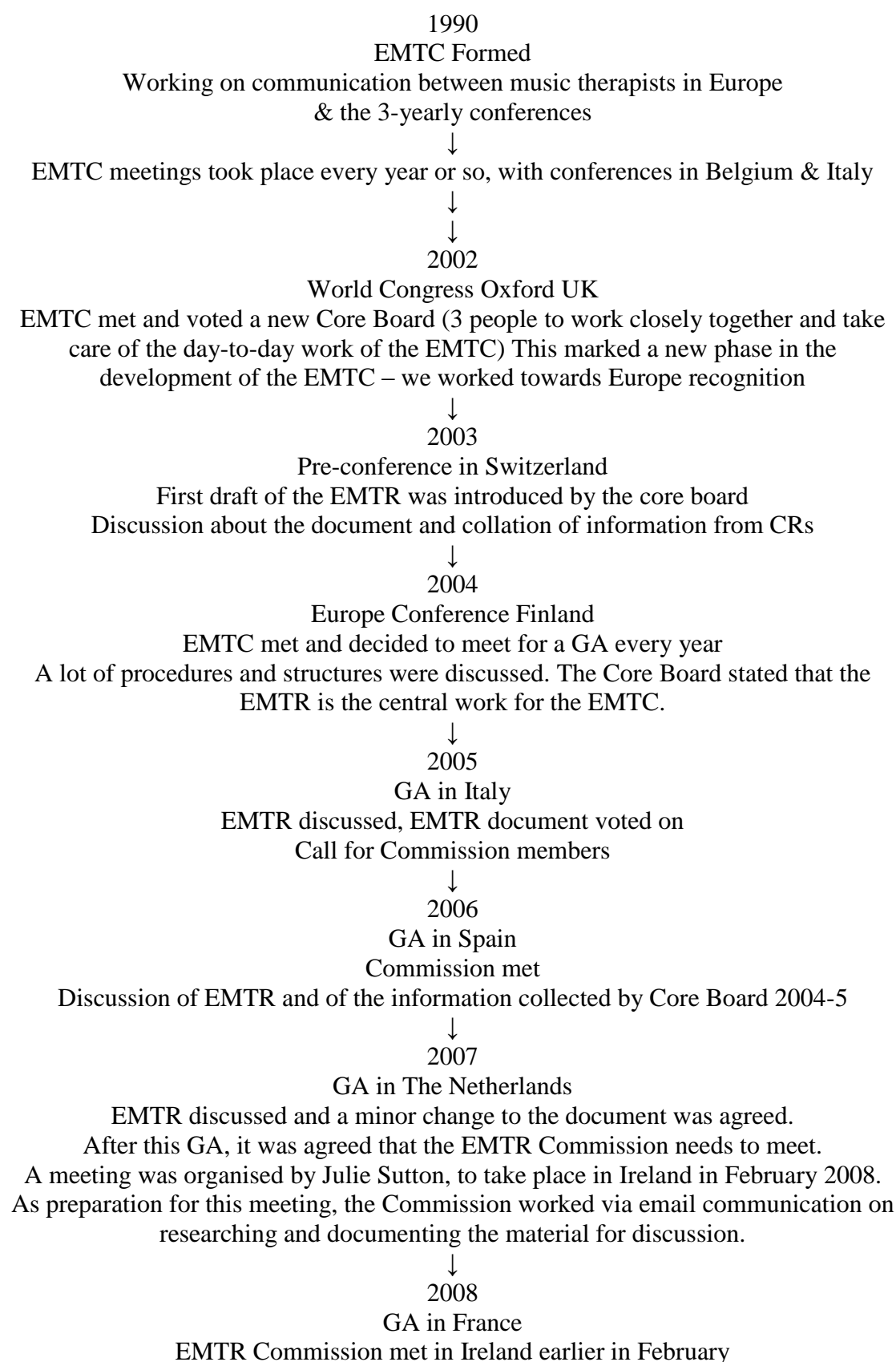
A conference in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. During the GA the EMTR was discussed, and a vote taken to make small changes to the document, concerning the descriptions of membership categories. It was also agreed that the Commission needs to meet for at least a day in the future.

**2008:**

Commission met in Ireland (February) and worked in great detail on the document. A lot of discussion came up about the situation in different countries, and also how there is a challenge for Commission members who are also representing their own country. We made a main proposal about how we change the document (major changes – proposed by the Commission and voted at the GA; minor changes to stylistic matters in the document, and also the actual working of the Commission – to be done by the Commission, and a report given at each GA).

Discussion at the GA about the work of the EMTR, and thinking about a projection for the future, about how fast or slow the work goes. People felt that it should be focused work now, and much more about the way that the register will be set up, etc. One member of the GA wanted detailed information about the work and process of the EMTR; it was decided to produce a report on the EMTR (hence this document).

Overview of the EMTR process in context:



The EMTR Commission members<sup>1</sup>:

Prof. Dr. Jos De Backer & Dr Julie Sutton (co-chairs)

Dr. Monika Noecker-Ribaupierre

Dr. Adrienne Lerner

Prof. Dr. Jaakko Erkkila

Ferdinando Suvini

Ilse Wolfram

Rut Wallius

**Future plans and tasks:**

(1) Produce a document showing the necessary steps to make the EMTR active. Timescale – to present the initial draft of an overall timescale to the GA in Vienna, May 2009. A document is already prepared showing the timescale. Our work should now be about the detail of the different steps, and to document these.

**All this work is being done by email, based on proposals made during the Donegal meeting. Working groups are set up for this work and are active from December 2008.**

(2) During Vienna 2009, the Commission will meet for one half day to bring this process further on.

At the Vienna 2009 GA –

- a. The timeline and detailed process document will be presented. (Hopefully, we will have time to do this earlier so that a copy will be sent to members before the GA).
- b. During the GA the EMTR Commission will speak about the further work they did on this, and what will happen over the next year.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: Members of the Commission do not represent their country associations, but work on behalf of the EMTC as a whole. Therefore, the country of the Commission member is not given.