

July 3rd 2015

The Presidents of National Member Societies,
General Council Members
IFSO European Chapter

Dear President, Dear General Council Member,

Update: IFSO-EC Congress 2016 - European Obesity Summit 2016 (EOS 2016)

Following the success of the “European Obesity Medico-Surgical Workshop” held jointly by IFSO-EC & EASO as a satellite to ECO2013 and of the joint IFSO-EC & EASO Symposium held at our biennial congress in Brussels in 2014, Executive Council has pursued a policy of increasingly close links between the Chapter and EASO (European Association for the Study of Obesity).

The logical conclusion is to hold our congresses jointly in future. Several drivers suggest this strategy.

- The success of the Obesity Week concept in the USA.
- Mutual learning and research opportunities in common with our Internist colleagues.
- Mutual benefits from attracting a wider sponsorship base (the sponsors themselves are driving for this).
- Benefits of “critical mass” and economies in congress infrastructure.
- Greater security of congress outcome – both scientific and financial.

EASO had already chosen Gothenburg as the venue for its 2016 congress (originally “ECO 2016”), whereas a previous IFSO-EC General Council Meeting had voted to hold the Chapter’s 2016 biennial meeting in Moscow, to be hosted by the Russian Society. Sweden was the second choice.

This difficulty has been resolved by the selflessness and generosity with which Professor Yuri Yashkov and his colleagues in the Russian Society have agreed to *step aside* from holding an IFSO-EC congress in Moscow in 2016. We owe them a very considerable debt of gratitude

Accordingly the **Chapter’s biennial congress for 2016 will now be held in Gothenburg Sweden, June 1st – 4th, as an integral half of a “European Obesity Summit 2016”**. Joint work is well advanced on an integrated scientific program that will interleave surgical, medical and truly shared sessions.

There will be a separate Moscow International Bariatric Congress at the end of April 2016, which has the Chapter’s full support and endorsement.

In the view of your Executive Council these are very positive developments which will greatly strengthen the Chapter. It is my personal hope that you will agree and that the meetings will proceed with your strongest support.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Alberic Fiennes.