STATUTES

OF THE

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
OF ORTHOPAEDICS AND TRAUMATOLOGY (E.F.O.R.T.)

These Statutes were

♦ Adopted by the General Assembly meeting on 11 November 1992 in Paris.

♦ Amended during the General Assemblies held in:
  - Paris, 19 April 1993
  - Vienna, 19 October 1994
  - Munich, 3 July 1995
  - Barcelona, 23 April 1997
  - Rhodes, 5 June 2001
  - Groningen, 25 September 2004
  - Geneva, 21 June 2006
  - Berlin, 22 May 2012
  - London, 3 June 2014
  - Prague, 26 May 2015
  - Geneva, 31 May 2016
  - Vienna, 30 May 2017
  - Barcelona, 29 May 2018
SECTION 1. GENERAL MATTERS

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of the Federation shall be “EFORT”. EFORT stands for the European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology.

ARTICLE 2. LEGAL STATUS/SEAT

The Federation is constituted as a society in conformity with Swiss Law (Article 60 et sequentes Swiss Civil Code) and has its legal domicile in Switzerland at the location of its administrative office (see ARTICLE 62).

ARTICLE 3. FINANCIAL STATUS, NON-PROFITMAKING CHARACTER

The Federation shall be non-profit making. It acts selflessly and does not pursue its own commercial aims. The funds of the Federation may only be used for the aims of the Federation. The members of the Federation receive no share of this profit and, as a result of their membership, no other grants from the funds of the Federation. No person shall benefit from expenses which are either contrary to the aims of the association or which constitute disproportionally high remuneration. In the case of dissolution or cancellation of the Federation, or in the case of cessation of its present aims, the funds which remain after liquidation shall be transferred to the community of its legal domicile which must use them directly and exclusively for the aim provided in ARTICLE 5.

ARTICLE 4. LANGUAGE

The language of the Federation shall be English. In verbal communications within the Federation English shall either be spoken or made available by simultaneous translation.
ARTICLE 5.  THE AIM OF THE FEDERATION

5.1 The aim of the Federation is to promote the restoration of musculoskeletal health, mobility and quality of life by supporting education and stimulating research in the field of orthopaedics and musculoskeletal traumatology, in particular:

5.2 To stimulate the exchange of knowledge and ideas in the fields of the prevention, the conservative treatment and the surgical treatment of diseases and injuries of the musculoskeletal system.

5.3 To stimulate education and research in these fields.

5.4 To co-operate with scientific and professional associations concerned with the requirements for training and practising the speciality in Europe.

5.5 To co-ordinate and represent the efforts undertaken by its Members on the European political platform.

5.6 To promote ethical behaviour in all aspects of practice, education and research.

ARTICLE 6.  TO ACCOMPLISH THESE OBJECTIVES, THE FEDERATION WILL:

6.1 Organise European Congresses.

6.2 Organise educational programmes and collaborate with qualified institutions.

6.3 Stimulate basic and clinical research.

6.4 Undertake any other activity which could be useful in fulfilling its objectives.

ARTICLE 7.  DISSOLUTION

The Federation can be dissolved by the General Assembly at an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly, convened for this purpose. The required quorum shall be two thirds of the Delegates and a deciding majority shall be two thirds of the votes cast. In the event of dissolution, the funds of the Federation shall be used according to the rules stated in ARTICLE 3.
SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 8. a) The **Ordinary Members** of the Federation shall be the National Societies of orthopaedic surgery and musculoskeletal traumatology from European countries.

b) The National Societies from European countries, which do not wish to become ordinary members, may apply for **Observer Status**. An application for Observer Status must be approved by the General Assembly. National Societies with Observer Status may send one observer to the General Assembly. Observers shall have no voting rights. Except as otherwise determined by the General Assembly, the Observer Status is valid for two years only.

c) National Societies from countries outside of Europe may apply to become an **Associated Scientific Society**. Such application must be approved by the General Assembly. The president or another representative of the Associated Scientific Society may attend the General Assembly. Associated Scientific Societies shall have no voting rights.

ARTICLE 9. The National Societies listed in Annex 1 shall become Ordinary Members of the Federation by filing a written declaration of membership with the EFORT Board.

ARTICLE 10. Application for Membership from other European National Societies must be addressed by the board of the applicant Society to the Secretary General of the Federation at least four months prior to the next meeting of the General Assembly. The General Assembly decides on accepting any delayed application.

ARTICLE 11. At the next meeting of the General Assembly after receipt of the application for Membership, the President shall put the application to the vote of the Delegates (see ARTICLES 16 ss.) of the General Assembly. A simple majority of the votes cast shall decide.

ARTICLE 12. Applicants for membership must meet the following conditions:

a) The Society must devote itself to orthopaedics, orthopaedic surgery and musculoskeletal traumatology in general.

b) The applicant Society must be open to all orthopaedic or musculoskeletal surgeons from the country in which it is active.

ARTICLE 13. The individual members of the National Societies are not members of the Federation. The National Societies shall act in the interests of their individual members within the Federation.
ARTICLE 14. Membership in the Federation of a National Society may be terminated:

a) By resignation in writing addressed to the Secretary General of the Federation.

b) Upon exclusion by resolution of the General Assembly following a vote in favour of a proposal for exclusion put by the EFORT Board. For this purpose the quorum shall be two thirds of the Delegates and a deciding majority shall be two thirds of the votes cast. The proposal must be published at least 4 months in advance of the meeting of the General Assembly at which the resolution is to be taken. The EFORT Board may make a proposal for exclusion either on its own volition or upon request for such a proposal from at least one third of the Ordinary Members.

c) The Membership shall be suspended at the discretion of the EFORT Board if the Society has not paid its dues after two requests for payment, separated by six months. The membership suspension shall only stand if it is subsequently approved by the General Assembly. The suspension can be revoked by the General Assembly if the Member has fully paid its dues.

ARTICLE 15. RIGHTS OF ORDINARY MEMBERS

The Ordinary Members exert their membership rights during the General Assembly through their Delegates.

The Delegates shall use their voting rights during the General Assembly according to their best knowledge and conscience. They shall act in the interest of the Ordinary Member they represent.

Each Ordinary Member has the right to bring motions, questions, proposals or complaints to the EFORT Board through its Delegates, by direct address to the President. Each Ordinary Member may ask for information concerning the business of the Federation at any time.
SECTION 3. **BODIES OF THE FEDERATION**

The Federation shall be administered by two Bodies:
- The General Assembly; and
- The EFORT Board.

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**COMPOSITION**

**ARTICLE 16.** The General Assembly shall be composed of the Delegates.

**ARTICLE 17.** The Delegates shall be designated by each National Society being Ordinary Member of the Federation (see ARTICLE 19). At least one Delegate should be a member of the executive board of the National Society.

**ARTICLE 18.** Delegates shall take office on the first day of January following their designation and written notice by the relevant National Society to the President of the EFORT Board.

**ARTICLE 19.** There shall be only two Delegates from each country. If there are two Ordinary Members from a participating country, the Ordinary Members shall each have one Delegate. If there are more than two Ordinary Members from one participating country, each Ordinary Member shall designate one Delegate. Two Delegates shall then be chosen by and amongst the Ordinary Members in a rotating system.

**ARTICLE 20.** If a Delegate is unable to attend, he or she may transfer his or her right to vote to the other national Delegate, or to another person who has been designated by his or her National Society, with the consent of the prevented Delegate, as Delegate for this specific purpose (but see ARTICLE 49). In case of vote for modifications of the Statutes (ARTICLE 34), the vote may only be transferred to the other Delegate of the same country.

**ARTICLE 21.** The Delegates shall be appointed for two years, renewable twice.

**MEETINGS**

**ARTICLE 22.** Annual Meetings. The General Assembly shall meet each year. Meetings shall be convened by the EFORT Board by written notice to all Ordinary Members of the Federation, which shall establish the date and place at least three months prior to the meeting. If a modification to the Statutes is put on the agenda, a written draft
ARTICLE 23. a) Extraordinary meetings. Extraordinary meetings can be convened by the President or at the request of three Ordinary Members of the Federation at any time after giving three months’ notice of the date, place and agenda to all Ordinary Members of the Federation. If a modification to the Statutes is put on the agenda, a written draft of the respective modifications shall be distributed to all Ordinary Members of the Federation at least six weeks prior to the extraordinary meeting.

b) Written resolution of the General Assembly. In urgent matters, the EFORT Board may arrange for a written resolution by all Delegates of the General Assembly (in Swiss legal terms called *Urabstimmung*). For any such resolution, all Delegates must express their consent, dissent or abstention from voting in writing and a resolution may only be passed by a qualified majority of three quarters (75%) of the votes cast.

FUNCTIONS

ARTICLE 24. The General Assembly decides in all matters of the Federation unless such matters are transferred to the EFORT Board or to committees. The General Assembly is therefore the highest authority within the Federation.

ARTICLE 25. The General Assembly shall ensure that the aims of the Federation are implemented.

ARTICLE 26. The General Assembly shall elect the members of the EFORT Board.

ARTICLE 27. The General Assembly shall receive through the Secretary General, and then approve or reject the Annual Report of the EFORT Board.

ARTICLE 28. The General Assembly shall receive and process applications from National Societies for membership of, and applications of the EFORT Board for exclusion from the Federation (see ARTICLES 10, 11, 12, and 14).

ARTICLE 29. The General Assembly shall determine the country of legal domicile of the Federation (see ARTICLES 2 and 62).

ARTICLE 30. The General Assembly shall have the power to set up Standing Committees and to transfer to them specific functions. The EFORT Board shall determine their composition and functions in the Organisational Regulations (see ARTICLE 37).
ARTICLE 31. The General Assembly shall determine the Annual Dues.

ARTICLE 32. The EFORT Board shall determine the venue of the Congresses of the Federation and inform the General Assembly thereof. Ordinary Members may file applications with the EFORT Board to hold a Congress, which applications shall be duly considered and evaluated by the EFORT Board.

ARTICLE 33. The General Assembly shall have the power to take decisions necessitated by emergencies not foreseen in the Statutes.

ARTICLE 34. The General Assembly shall have the power to change the Statutes. For this purpose, at least two thirds of the Delegates of the Federation’s Ordinary Members (see ARTICLE 16 s.s.) must be present or represented (see ARTICLE 20, second sentence) at the General Assembly (quorum) and a deciding vote shall be a two-thirds majority of the votes cast (qualified majority).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the quorum for amendment of the Statutes is not reached, the General Assembly shall be entitled to resolve on the amendment of the Statutes if the Delegates present or represented at the General Assembly were produced by National Societies that in the aggregate present more than two thirds of all domestic members of the National Societies that pay dues to the respective National Society.

ARTICLE 35. For all purposes other than those referred to in ARTICLES 7, 14 and 34, a deciding vote shall be a simple majority of the votes cast at a properly convened meeting of the General Assembly. Each Delegate holds one vote, subject to ARTICLE 20.

ARTICLE 36. The decisions of the General Assembly are to be put into the minutes of the meeting, which shall state the voting results signed by the Secretary General.

THE EFORT BOARD

COMPOSITION:

ARTICLE 37. The EFORT Board shall be composed of 10 Members as follows:

- The President
- The 1st Vice President
- The 2nd Vice President
- The Immediate Past President
- The Secretary General
ARTICLE 38. The President and 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents shall be elected to their offices for a one-year non-renewable period. The President, at the end of his term, remains a member of the EFORT Board for a further one-year period.

ARTICLE 39. The President shall chair all meetings of the EFORT Board and of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 40. The 1st Vice President shall deputise for the President if the latter is unable to exercise his or her function. In this case he shall have all the rights and powers of the President.

ARTICLE 41. The 1st Vice President shall become the President at the end of the latter’s term of office, and the 2nd Vice-President shall become 1st Vice-President at the end of the latter’s term of office, unless alternative names are proposed by both Delegates from one member country and seconded by both Delegates from two other member countries. The General Assembly shall then vote as described in ARTICLES 48, 49 and 50.

ARTICLE 42. The Secretary General and the Treasurer shall be elected for a two-year period renewable twice. Their terms of office shall be arranged in a manner so that they are one year out of phase with each other.

ARTICLE 43. The three Members at Large shall be elected for two years renewable once. The Young Member at Large shall be elected for two years non-renewable. The term of office of one of the three Members at Large and the term of office of the Young Member at Large shall start one year later than the terms of office of the other two Members at Large, so that the terms of office will remain out of phase.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EFORT BOARD:

ARTICLE 44. Candidates for the position of 1st and 2nd Vice-President must be either current or former Delegates to the General Assembly, or former presidents of National Societies, or current or former members of the EFORT Board, or current or former Chairmen of EFORT Standing Committees.

Candidates for the position of Secretary General and Treasurer must be current or former members of the EFORT Board, or of EFORT standing committees, or present or former co-opted members of the EFORT Executive Committee. The
Treasurer may also be selected from those who have fulfilled the same role in one of the National Associations or major European Specialty Societies that participate annually in the EFORT congress, or an organisation of similar size and financial complexity.

Candidates for the positions of Members-at-Large must be current or former Delegates to the General Assembly or members of the executive board of their own National Society or of another international orthopaedic or musculoskeletal society.

Candidates for the position of Young Member at Large must be nominated by their own National Society.

**ARTICLE 45.** Candidates for membership of the EFORT Board must be under 70 years of age. Candidates for the Young Member at Large position (ARTICLE 43) must be under 35 years of age.

**ARTICLE 46.** Each member of the EFORT Board shall have his or her residence in a country which is different from those of the other members.

**ARTICLE 47.** The names of candidates must be proposed and seconded by two or more Delegates of the General Assembly three months prior to the election. These names shall be passed to the EFORT Board.

**ARTICLE 48.** The election shall be held by secret ballot on the occasion of the General Assembly meeting. If the ballot results in a tie, there shall be a second ballot, and if necessary subsequent secret ballots until a majority is obtained (see ARTICLE 49). The election of members of the EFORT Board shall be in the following order: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer, three Members at Large and one Young Member at Large, as the posts become vacant.

**ARTICLE 49.** In the election of the EFORT Board each Delegate at the General Assembly shall have only one vote. Transfer of the vote to the other National Delegate is not permissible in this case.

**ARTICLE 50.** The candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be deemed elected.

**ARTICLE 51.** The newly elected members of the EFORT Board shall take office seven days after the relevant General Assembly meeting or at such other date as determined in the relevant General Assembly election resolution. Outgoing members of the EFORT Board cease to hold office at the time the newly elected members of the EFORT Board take office.
ARTICLE 52. Upon election to the EFORT Board, an elected Delegate of the General Assembly shall be known as Executive Delegate.

ARTICLE 53. Executive Delegates shall remain in the General Assembly for as long as they are on the EFORT Board as well as Delegate of the relevant Ordinary Member.

ARTICLE 54. With the exception of the President, the Executive Delegates shall have no voting right at the General Assembly. The President (or in his or her absence the 1st Vice President) shall have a casting vote, save in respect of secret ballots.

ARTICLE 55. An elected Delegate of the General Assembly shall be replaced in the General Assembly by a further Delegate from his country of origin. The further Delegate shall be designated in accordance with ARTICLE 17 by the relevant National Society, which has designated the Executive Delegate, for the remainder of what would have been the term of office of the Executive Delegate.

ARTICLE 56. If a member of the EFORT Board withdraws from his or her office prematurely by death, illness or resignation, a successor is to be elected as soon as reasonably practical whose period in office begins with the election and ends with the period of office of the succeeded member.

MEETINGS:

ARTICLE 57. Meetings of the EFORT Board shall be called, as necessary, by the President.

FUNCTIONS:

ARTICLE 58. The EFORT Board shall take all decisions necessary for the day to day running of the Federation. The EFORT Board shall adopt the Organisational Regulations of the Federation.

ARTICLE 59. The Federation is legally represented by the President and the Secretary General. They have sole power of legal representation.

ARTICLE 60. The EFORT Board shall maintain the records of the Federation.

ARTICLE 61. a) The EFORT Board shall be responsible for the finances of the Federation.
b) The EFORT Board shall prepare an annual report of its activities and decisions for submission to the General Assembly. This report shall include a statement of the Federation’s finances prepared by the Treasurer.

ARTICLE 62. The EFORT Board shall determine the location of the administrative office of the Federation within the country of legal domicile determined by the General Assembly (see ARTICLES 2 and 29).

ARTICLE 63. The EFORT Board shall be represented by at least one of its members in the Congress Committee with regard to the scientific and administrative organisation of Congress events.

ARTICLE 64. The EFORT Board shall receive reports from all Committees of the Federation. Action based upon these reports must be approved by the EFORT Board.

ARTICLE 65. The EFORT Board shall implement decisions of the General Assembly. The members of the EFORT Board and its co-opted members (see ARTICLE 66) have the right to participate at the General Assembly without voting right (except as foreseen in ARTICLE 54).

ARTICLE 66. The EFORT Board shall have the power to appoint working groups and to co-opt individuals for special tasks or purposes. The EFORT Board together with the co-opted individuals are referred to as the Executive Committee. The term of office of any co-opted member of the Executive Committee ceases three years after its appointment by the EFORT Board but is renewable once.

ARTICLE 67. A quorum is established if a simple majority of the members of the EFORT Board is present. The President, the 1st Vice President, the 2nd Vice President, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the three Members at Large and the Young Member at Large shall each have one vote. Co-opted individuals shall have no voting rights. In case of a tie the President and, in case of his absence, the 1st Vice President shall have the casting vote.

SECTION 4. FINANCES OF THE FEDERATION

ARTICLE 68. The revenues of the Federation shall be derived from the Annual Dues of the Members, from grants, donations or any other sources.

ARTICLE 69. The revenues may be used for any purpose related to the aims of the Federation.
ARTICLE 70.  a) The Annual Dues of the Ordinary Members shall be determined by the General Assembly. The contribution of each Ordinary Member of the Federation shall be calculated according to the number of a National Society’s domestic members who pay dues to the National Society. The Annual Dues shall equal the amount resulting from multiplying the number of the Society’s domestic members who pay dues to the respective National Society with the Annual Basic Contribution. The Annual Basic Contribution shall be determined by the General Assembly in EUROs and set out in the EFORT Contribution Regulation, which Contribution Regulation shall be an integral part of these Statutes. The Contribution Regulation may be amended from time to time by the General Assembly with a simple majority of the votes cast.

b) Associated Scientific Societies shall pay no dues.

ARTICLE 71. In advance of the preparation of the Annual Accounts, the General Assembly shall appoint a chartered accountant to audit the Annual Accounts of the Federation.

ARTICLE 72. The fiscal year of the Federation shall commence on the first day of January.

ARTICLE 73. The Federation shall be responsible for the representation allowances and the expenses of the members of the EFORT Board, but not for the expenses of the Delegates of the General Assembly.
The EFORT Board for the year 2018/2019:

President: Ass. Prof. Dr. Per Kjaersgaard-Andersen
Secretary General: Mr. David Limb
First Vice President: Prof. Dr. Philippe Neyret
Second Vice President: Prof. Dr. Klaus-Peter Günther
Immediate Past President: Prof. Dr. Önder Aydingöz
Treasurer: Prof. Dr. Theofilos Karachalios
Member at Large: Dr. António Cartucho
Member at Large: Prof. Dr. Enrique Gómez Barrena
Member at Large: Prof. Dr. Pietro Ruggieri
Young Member at Large: Prof. Dr. Mirza Biscevic

Barcelona, 29 May 2018

__________________________________________
Ass. Prof. Dr. Per Kjaersgaard-Andersen
EFORT President 2018/2019

__________________________________________
Mr. David Limb
EFORT Secretary General 2018-2020
ANNEX 1

List of National Societies being Ordinary Members of EFORT according to ARTICLE 9 of the Statutes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Abbreviations</th>
<th>Full name of the association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>A.A.O.S.T.</td>
<td>Albanian Association of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Ö.G.O.</td>
<td>Austrian Society of Orthopaedics and Orthopaedic Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Österreichische Gesellschaft für Orthopädie und Orthopädische Chirurgie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>B.R.S.M.T.O.S.</td>
<td>Belarus Republic Scientific Medical Society of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeons</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>B.V.O.T.</td>
<td>Belgian Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Belgische Vereniging voor Orthopedie en Traumatologie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>S.O.R.B.C.O.T.</td>
<td>Belgian Royal Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Société Royale Belge de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de Traumatologie</td>
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<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>O.T.S.A.B.H.</td>
<td>Orthopaedic and Traumatology Surgeons Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>B.O.T.A.</td>
<td>Bulgarian Orthopaedics and Traumatology Association</td>
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<tr>
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<td>C.O.T.A./H.U.O.T.</td>
<td>Croatian Orthopaedic and Traumatology Association</td>
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<td>Hrvatsko Udruzenje Ortopeda I Traumatologa</td>
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<td>Croatian Orthopaedic Society</td>
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<td>Hrvatsko Ortopedsko Drustvo</td>
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<td>Ceska Spolecnost pro Ortopedii a Traumatologii</td>
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<td>D.O.S.</td>
<td>Danish Orthopaedic Society</td>
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<td>Dansk Ortopedisk Selskab</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>D.G.O.U.</td>
<td>German Society for Orthopaedics and Traumatology Deutsche Gesellschaft für Orthopädie und Unfallchirurgie</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
<td>H.A.O.S.T.</td>
<td>Hellenic Association of Orthopaedic Surgery &amp; Traumatology Ελληνική Εταιρεία Ορθοπαιδικής Χειρουργικής και Τραυματολογίας</td>
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<td>Irish Orthopaedic Association</td>
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<td>Kosovo Society of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgeons</td>
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<td>L.O.T.D.</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
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<td>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)</td>
<td>M.A.O.T.</td>
<td>Macedonian Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology</td>
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<td>Country</td>
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<td>Full Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>A.O.T.S.M.</td>
<td>Association of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgeons of Malta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>A.M.O.T.</td>
<td>Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology of Montenegro</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>N.O.V.</td>
<td>Dutch Orthopaedic Association</td>
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<td>Nederlandse Orthopaedische Vereniging</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>N.O.F.</td>
<td>Norwegian Orthopaedic Association</td>
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<td>Norsk Ortopedisk Forening</td>
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<td>P.T.O.I.T.R.</td>
<td>Polish Orthopaedic and Traumatologic Society</td>
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<td>Polskie Towarzystwo Ortopedyczne i Traumatologiczne</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>Portuguese Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology</td>
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<td>Sociedade Portuguesa de Ortopedia e Traumatologia</td>
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<td>Societatea Romana de Ortopedi si Traumatologie</td>
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