

**E.S.P.R.A.S.**  
**Committee on Humanitarian Activities**  
**Preliminary report**

**Introduction.**

ESPRAS recently founded a committee concerned with humanitarian activities. The committee's goals are:

- I. To **facilitate** and better **coordinate** humanitarian activities of European plastic surgeons, and
- II. to improve the quality of humanitarian aid given by European plastic surgeons so that **no harm** will be done and to ascertain that the development that this humanitarian aid contributes to will be **sustainable**.

The committee plans to reach these goals by activities such as: setting up a system for the better coordination of projects, by raising funds for individual projects, working on disaster relief, informing about how to make humanitarian projects contribute to sustainable development, realizing a code of conduct, solving urgent problems and prevent scandals like about the lack of aftercare after humanitarian missions.

**Office.**

An office is essential to perform the committee's tasks professionally and office space has been found in Utrecht at the Royal Dutch Medical Association. The Executive Director will perform the majority of her work there.

**Budget.**

It is estimated, that €60.000 is necessary to start the committee's activities in the year 2007. ESPRAS has been asked to proffer the amount. It is the committee's intention to be financially independent of the ESPRAS treasury as soon as possible. A Subcommittee on Fund Raising has already started to achieve this.

**Future.**

Accreditation of teams: in due course, humanitarian teams will be able to ask for ESPRAS accreditation, which will mean that the ESPRAS committee endorses a particular team's efforts and guarantees, that the team's members are duly registered specialists.

Directory: the committee will run a database; one will not only be able to find individual teams and sponsoring instances in the database, but also developing countries and hospitals where teams are active, as well as health authorities and national societies of plastic surgeons.

Prevent overlap: teams applying for ESPRAS endorsement will be informed whether other teams are active in the same area in the same period.

Evaluation of projects: it is the committee's intention to evaluate projects in order to determine their effectiveness and whether they should be continued under ESPRAS' auspices.

Contacts with other Sections of IPRAS. It is the committee's intention to entertain liaison with as many humanitarian agencies working in the field of plastic surgery as possible, because the committee understands, that plastic surgery teams operate in each other continents.

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ESPRAS Committee on Humanitarian Activities  
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