



AN OPEN LETTER from the PRESIDENT
of the EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF PSYCHOANALYTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIES
to ECPP MEMBERS in RUSSIA

Dear Colleagues,

I am taking the unprecedented step of writing an open letter to you, in response to the disturbing and totally false allegations being spread by Prof. M. Reshetnikov, concerning the ECPP. We know that these have caused concern and confusion – and you have a right to hear the truth from the President of ECPP

First of let me assure you that **the ECPP is a totally legal organisation, based in Austria and subject to Austrian law.** This has been true from the beginning – and nothing has changed.

- We have Statutes, Officers, an office based in Vienna - and we are legally accountable there;
- We have a Treasurer, bank accounts and published accounts;
- We have verified documentation from the Austrian Police Department to confirm this.

So, to call the ECPP “illegal” and “criminal”, as Prof. Reshetnikov has done, is totally untrue.

Secondly, let me assure you that **nothing has changed in the ECPP** (other than officers in post.). *It is essentially the same organisation which Prof. Reshetnikov headed previously as President from 2008 to 2012:*

- It has the same Statues – which he now attacks;
- It has the same Code of Ethics, Complaints Procedures and “Codes of Internal Policies” – which he introduced and now says he does not understand;
- It has the same Branch structure – which he says is a ‘non-existent’ relationship;
- Many of the National and Branch delegates on the Board, whom he now brands as ‘criminal’, have been his friends and colleagues for many years.

Thirdly, on the matter of **Finances:**

- Our Treasurer reports our finances monthly to the Executive, twice a year to the Board – and formally every two years to the General Meeting; they are reported publicly.
- In September we changed our accounting procedures, making the balance smaller for 2018
- Our budget is small but stable; we have not increased our fees for several years.
- Prof. Reshetnikov’s organisation has not paid fees for 2018.
- He has taken received fees from his members for 2018, part of which was to cover Branch and Registration fees for the ECPP – but these have not been passed on . (Is that legal?)

Fourthly, **the ECPP is the only psychoanalytic/psychodynamic European-wide Accrediting Organisation in the European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP)** – and will remain so.

- Prof. Reshetnikov is offering a **false vision of his organisation’s place in Europe;**
- He has structured the naming of his organisation to mimic the ECPP;

- He has applied for membership of the EAP with the proposed name, "Interregional public organisation, 'European Confederation of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy' acting under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation".

As a former President of the EAP, and as a current member of the EAP Membership Committee, **there is no chance that Prof Reshetnikov's organisation will be admitted to the EAP with that name.** And, if *you* were the EAP, would you grant membership to an organisation which betrays its colleagues and doesn't pay its bills?

We know that current developments in the Russian ECPP community have been distressing and confusing to many practitioners. We have been trying very hard to create a structure which honours the loyalties of all ECPP practitioners in Russia. Prof. Reshetnikov is frustrated that the Board of ECPP did not accept all his demands in that process. However, we *do* have a process agreed – and we wait for ECPP-Russia (MOO) to respond to that process. I look forward to receiving a full report of MOO's General Meeting – paying particular attention to the provisions of sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of the Articles of Association.

The ECPP recognises that not every ECPP member will be comfortable in committing to join either ECPP-Russia (MOO) or ECPP-Russia (MPO PPD) – or to being forced to leave the ECPP. We will respond to that if the need arises. Please direct any enquiries to our Registrar at:
registrar@ecpp.ngo

Finally, colleagues, can I say at a personal level, I have tried hard to engage with Prof. Reshetnikov, to answer his questions as best I could & to negotiate a fair deal in the problems being experienced in Russia. I have offered to meet with him and his Executive - online or in person; I have offered to attend MOO's General Meeting – either in person or online. He has rejected all of those attempts to continue dialogue. Indeed, he seems to treat my attempts at building bridges as weakness. He is mistaken. It is the psychoanalytic way. But so is primitive splitting!

My fear is that Prof. Reshetnikov will initiate even more attacks – on me and on the ECPP. He is welcome to attack me personally; leaders are subject to all sorts of projections. But let him not attack the ECPP any further. We will defend our organisation and its reputation vigorously.

My concern is for the welfare of our practitioners – and the profession of psychoanalysis. **We will not abandon members who might be taken out of the ECPP if MOO leaves,** Should anyone have questions, **please contact me directly.**

Adrian M. Rhodes,
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