

Dear members,

First of all, I would like to thank you very much for your confidence you gave by electing me President of the European Society of Gynaecology.

At the beginning of this presidency I also have to thank all the collaborators who have contributed to the creation of this Society, above all the founder Professor M.-A. Bruhat and the past President, Professor D. Wallwiener. They gave us the possibility of working for four years together with Peter Erard, administrative co-ordinator, and Dr. R. Campo, Secretary, in order to build up a solid base for the future which is founded on three sectors: the journal, the academy and the congresses.

A new committee has been elected. I thank Professor H. Brölmann for accepting the position of Secretary and Dr. R. Lachat to be Treasurer.

Professor K. Neis will continue to organise the newsletter.

Dr. R de Wilde and Dr. F. Vandenbruhle will work on organising the congresses.

The Academy will be organised by Dr. R. Campo with help of A. Wattiez.

Professor P. O'Donovan will continue to edit the official journal of the Society in co-operation with Professor D. Wallwiener.

We hope to keep with us all those who work or will work with the European Society of Gynaecology by involving and integrating them into the three sectors for example the former Board members or organisers of the annual congress.

As the society is yours we especially wish to improve communication. That is why I ask suggest you send us your comments, positive or negative even concerning the congress in Cagliari.

Regarding the future congresses we are preparing the one in Athens which will take place at the beginning of October 2005. We are expecting the confirmation concerning Ljubljana in 2006 and Maastricht in 2007.

You will have understood that we are working towards the aim to open our Society for everybody, students and gynaecologic surgeons with help of the experts and the industry.

I wish you all to have nice celebrations at the end of this year.

Prof. Dr. Jacques Dequesne
President ESGE



Message from the secretary general

Dear colleagues,

After having returned from the beautiful congress venue Chia Laguna in Sardinia, where the ESGE had its 13-th annual congress, entitled 'Evolution of Surgical Techniques to improve woman's health and reproductive function', 14–17 October 2004, it is time to put all the plans, thoughts and intended developments about our young and vital society into perspective. First I want to thank Rudi Campo who has worked so hard to make the ESGE what it is today. I have taken over his job, but all of the developments which are presented below are conceived by him and the former executive board.

Let's introduce myself: I have been trained in Amsterdam as a gynaecologist and practiced for 18 years in the region of Eindhoven in the Netherlands. I have been interested in particular in the gynaecologic endoscopy and was one of the founding members of the Dutch society of gynaecological endoscopy. Since September 2002 I have a chair endoscopic surgery at the Free University of Amsterdam and was elected as a board member of the ESGE at the end of 2003.

In my vision a continental society, such as the ESGE that is in the closest contact with the national societies, must play a major role in developing and disseminating knowledge and skills on gynaecological endoscopy. Collaboration with other endoscopic societies (AAGL, ISGE, soc laparoscopic surgeons) is mandatory and – because endoscopy is a instrumental technique – with societies of related fields of interest like ICS and ESHRE.

The ESGE has an increasing number of 717 members (cf. 285 in 2000), an annual congress, training courses, 7 internal committees, 8 special interest groups, its own journal (Gynecological Surgery) and a news letter. This expansion made the society vulnerable on a organisational level and a reorganisation plan was made, that was ratified by the general assembly in 2003 in Luxemburg. In 2004 this significant change of structure was implemented. According to the bylaws of the Society, four working groups were installed with decision rights within the legal frame of the ESGE and aiming to face and deal with the day to day and long term responsibilities of the Society and its future:

- the congress organisation managed by Jacques Dequene, Frederique van den Brûle and Rudi de Wilde
- the European Academy managed by Rudi Campo and Yves van Belle
- the ESGE journal, edited by Peter O'Donovan and Diethelm Wallwiener
- the central office, managed by Peter Erard and Hans Brölmann

In this way the necessary future developments of the Society will be safeguarded. Each of the working groups will report soon in the Newsletter to keep you informed about their activities.

The central office will be the coordinating centre and the communicational port for individual members as well as for other platforms like national societies, universities, educational centers, industry, etc. The (executive) board meetings will be organised as well as the website of the ESGE with input of all colleagues concerned.

We hope to continue to be for you an open, communicating and accessible European Society Gynaecologic Endoscopy that meets your expectations.

Yours sincerely,
 Prof. Dr. Hans Brölmann,
 Secretary General of the ESGE



The New Executive Board of the ESGE


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XIII Annual ESGE Congress 2004

Pre Congress Work, 13 October 2004

As part of the work and events which led up to the opening of the congress, on the 13th October at the University of Cagliari Prof. Maurice Bruhat was awarded the Laurea Honoris Causa. The honour was wholeheartedly supported by Prof. G.B. Melis in recognition of the important scientific, academic and cultural achievements Prof. M. Bruhat has reached during his career. Prof. M. Bruhat presented a thesis entitled “The evolution of teaching in gynaecological surgery”, which was wildly applauded by the audience, made up of numerous professors from the University of Cagliari, as well as many other esteemed conference participants. A special mention should also be given to the large number of journalists present from both the local and national press, who gave considerable coverage to this important scientific and cultural event.

On the same day a number of scientific meetings took place between various members of the ESGE: the President of the congress Prof. G.B. Melis, M. Bruhat, Prof. Y. Van Belle, the President of SEGi (Società Italiana di Endoscopia Ginecologica) Prof. G. Vittori and Prof. S. Dessole co-president of the congress, from the University of Sassari. These meetings brought to light the need to promote the main theme of the congress, “The uterus during a woman’s life”, and the importance of this subject for a woman’s health, with the local and national press as an essential vehicle of communication.

Live Surgery and the Opening Ceremony, 14 October 2004

On the morning of the 14th October, Live Surgery took place in the operating theatres of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Cagliari.

Prof. P. Koninckx performed a complex, radical operation of laparoscopic ablation of deep endometriosis of the recto-vaginal septum. Prof. T. Gargiulo carried out a sub-total laparoscopic hysterectomy and finally E. Vizza performed a total laparoscopic hysterectomy on a patient with a uterus of considerable size. The surgical operations were recorded and later presented in Hall A prior to the opening ceremony of the congress.

Many surgical procedures were also transmitted from University of Catanzaro (Italy) to the main Hall of the Congress venue in Cagliari – Chia Laguna during the morning of October the 14th, 2004.

The Annual ESGE Congress was formally opened in the afternoon by the Presidents Prof. G.B. Melis, Prof. G. Vittori, Prof. S. Dessole, Prof. A. Ambrosini, Prof. D. Wallwiener and Prof. J. Dequesne.

During the ceremony there were speeches by the highest authorities from the University of Cagliari, the Province of Cagliari’s Medical Association and various political bodies. This was particularly important because



it allowed us to present the various themes and philosophy of endoscopic surgery to the people who manage the economic aspects of the public health sector.

Scientific Aspects of the Congress, 14-17 October 2004

The scientific and technological themes of the Annual ESGE Congress were held from the afternoon of the 14th October to the morning of the 17th October in the conference halls of the Le Meridien Chia Laguna Resort, Domus de Maria (Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy).

The Le Meridien Chia Laguna Resort hosted about 1000 participants from all over Europe, as well as from non European countries.

The main theme of the congress was “the uterus during a woman’s life”. The reports presented focused considerable attention on the embryology of the uterus, on its anatomy in a physiological and pathological condition, as well as on the diagnostics of uterine disorders and their surgical treatment.

Prof. F. Loffer gave a brilliant lecture on "The uterus during a woman's life", which skilfully illustrated right from the very first stages the importance of the uterus, not only as a reproductive organ, but also how its anatomic and functional integrity can effect a woman's psychophysical health.

During the various sessions that followed, all the endoscopic, mini-invasive and conservative techniques were considered up to the surgical techniques currently used in the field of hysterectomy. Indeed a whole session was devoted to the psychological and medical-legal problems that a hysterectomy can lead to.

Prof. V. Gomel gave an extraordinary lecture on the evolution of hysterectomy from Sorano of Efeso to present day, analysing the risk-benefit relationship for each surgical technique and drawing conclusions that the best way to perform a hysterectomy is with the vaginal technique, with a view to a woman's health. The participants showed great interest in the sessions on the therapeutic approach to uterine myomas, from the gasless laparoscopic technique, presented by one of

Prof. E. Piccione's collaborators, to the laparoscopic occlusion techniques of the uterine arteries presented by the Norwegian O Istre, which highlight new alternatives to such radical surgery as hysterectomy. On the theme of infertility considerable focus was given to endometriosis, a pathology which is greatly diffused and much debated by gynaecological surgeons. The report into the treatment of deep endometriosis in the recto-vaginal septum presented by M. Nisolle was of particular interest. The report, in fact, stressed how important complete eradication is in this pathology and how medical therapy has so far not given the desired results. A. Shervin presented a vast range of case studies illustrating endometriotic pathology in Iran, also evaluating some of the aspects which lead to this pathology, among which environmental pollution. D. Wallwiener reported the future of Endoscopic Surgery both during the main lecture of the Opening Ceremony and during the Session devoted to this topic.

The hysteroscopic techniques in the diagnosis and treatment of menorrhagia, were dealt with by a number of experts, I. Mazzon, J Hamou, E. Cicinelli, K Neis, etc.

From the various reports it emerged how mini-invasive techniques have come into use in gynaecological surgery in the last decade, not only in hospitals but also in outpatients surgery. The reports underlined the remarkable progress which has been made, not only in the techniques but above all in the surgical instruments, which allow surgeons to treat the uterine endocavitary pathology and minimise the risks and drawbacks.

Various National Societies were given specific space in dedicated sessions. In particular the Italian SEGi, and the Spanish SEN-SEGO-SEGE made an important scientific contribution both in the treatment of uterine myomas and in the evolution of the diagnostic and surgical techniques in Oncology. To complete the picture, space was also naturally given to hormonal medical therapies, much debated but also very widely used, with a lecture by Prof. P. Sismondi on the new aspects of HT in post-

menopausal women. There was also great interest in the report on the protective aspects of hormonal contraceptives on oncological pathologies presented by AM Paoletti.

Likewise, considerable attention was dedicated to pathologies of the pelvic floor and in particular to the use of prosthetic techniques in the treatment of uro-genital prolapses. The exhaustive overview, chaired by J Dequesne, presented by R Milani on the different prosthetic materials used in urogynaecology underlines how today it is still necessary to seek new results, obtained from randomised studies, in order to arrive at the ideal prosthesis. The surgical approach to cystocele and rectocele was a subject of great interest among the participants, also thanks to the brilliant and exhaustive lecture given by A. Wattiez.

The other main subject of the congress was laparoscopy applied to oncological pathology. Laparoscopy, considering its numerous advantages, it widely applied on all benign pathologies and, moreover, in recent years has been given ample space in the field of oncology. During the various reports all the endoscopic methods in use today in the treatment of cervical, endometrial and ovarian cancer were discussed. The advantages of the endoscopic approach clearly emerged both in the immediate post-operation term and during the patient's convalescence.

However, Prof. D. Dargent's, who gave a first class lecture of great scientific importance, underlined the fact that there are still numerous limits and doubts as to the validity of the laparoscopic approach, both in cervical and ovarian cancer. Furthermore, V. Mais presented a critical point of view into the possible pitfalls in the research technique of the sentinel lymph node, applied to endometrial cancer, which will have to wait new results in the future in order to be accepted as a valid technique since only very few studies have been published so far.

Meetings and Round Tables During the Congress

Due to the important scientific stamp the sponsored lectures and round tables gave to the Congress.

A special mention must be given to the sponsored lecture by Cytoc of A Gallinat about the Novasure.

The Boston Scientific session about the new techniques to perform the endometrial ablation which have had esteemed speakers: Corson from USA, Litta from Italy, Mahadevan and Farrugia from UK.

The Schering round table on hormonal contraception concentrated on the aspects which are currently emerging not only on the field of hormonal contraception but also on the use of intrauterine devices on Levonorgestrel for the treatment of benign functional pathologies.

The main theme of the Conceptus-Karl Storz Symposium, which boasted the participation of numerous speakers of world-wide recognition, including the Italian S Bettocchi, the Dutch M Vleugels and the American R Valle, was the use of mini-invasive techniques for tubal sterilisation with ESSURE.

Urinary incontinence and the various treatments were dealt with in the interesting Gynecare Italia symposium.

The ESGE Assembly

During the congress workshops various ESGE meetings were held, from the Executive and Editorial Board meeting to the ESGE General Assembly, during which the outgoing President and actual past-President D. Wallwiener introduced the new President J. Dequesne, the new Vice-president G.B. Melis, the new ESGE Secretary H Brölmann and the new Treasurer R Lachat.

The European Academy was created and R. Campo and A. Wattiez were elected as chairmen. Furthermore K Neis was indicated as the Newsletter responsible and R De Wiede was elected as the Congress Coordinator

Prof. M. Bruhat was nominated as Honorary Chairman of ESGE.

Furthermore, during the ESGE General Assembly the Association's budget was discussed and future venues were proposed for the next editions of the Annual ESGE Congress: Athens for 2005 and Ljubliana for 2006.

Life During the Congress

In the enchanting backdrop provided by the Chia Laguna Resort, in the intervals between the various sessions, the congress participants had the chance to relax and enjoy themselves. The cocktails and dinners provided perfect opportunities for the participants to socialise and exchange ideas in a truly luxurious environment.

The Gala Dinner was held in the Bouganville restaurant of the Chia Laguna Resort and was characterised by typical Sardinian cuisine. The dinner was accompanied by traditional music and dancing thus giving the dinner guests the opportunity to get to know both the culinary and cultural traditions of the island.

The Closing of the Works

At the end of the Congress the new President of ESGE, J. Dequesne, and the new Vice-president, G.B. Melis, were introduced and they look forward to seeing us all at the new Annual Congress which will take place in Athens next year.

G.B. Melis



Prizes and Grants 2004

During the Closing Ceremony of the 13th Annual Congress of the ESGE in Cagliari, Italy, following grants and prizes have been awarded by the Selection Committee:

ESGE Educational Grant 2004

The prize, granted this year by the Richard Wolf company, consists of a scholarship to the value of 10.000 € and has been awarded to *Dr. R. Socolov from Romania*. He has been elected out of 14 candidates from 9 different countries according to following criteria: curriculum vitae, country of origin, interest in the total field of gynaecological endoscopy, teaching attitude and meeting the spirit of the grant.

After the prize was handed over by the President, Prof. J. Dequesne (photo), the nominee addressed the audience and explained how he will fulfil the objectives of this grant. As a first step, the grant will help him to further develop endoscopy in his own service and, with time, create an endoscopic center. The next step will be to develop endoscopy in Romania, by sharing this knowledge with his colleagues. With these objectives Dr. Socolov proved to fulfil entirely the aim of the ESGE Educational Grant.

Raoul Palmer Prize 2004

for the best oral/video presentation

Presentations have been evaluated on basis of following criteria: originality, presentation, scientific value, importance for gynaecological endoscopy.

The 2004 prize has been awarded to *M.M. Binda from Belgium* for her communication: "Effect of desiccation upon adhesion formation in a laparoscopic mouse model". The presentation scored very high on all of the criteria and is of utmost importance for gynaecological endoscopy because it deals with the very basics of laparoscopy.

Poster Prize 2004

“Ovarian transposition in premenopausal patients with cervical cancer receiving radiation therapy” by *M.A. Martinez Zamora from Spain* has been selected for this prize.

This item clearly shows one of the tasks of the ESGE: not only support and stimulate the development and application of adequate endoscopic techniques, but also watch over their implementation for the enhancement of the quality of life of the patients.

Yves R.M. Van Belle

ESGE Calendar**14th Annual Congress**

Advanced Minimal Invasive Surgery:
in the theatre and in the office
6 to 9 October 2005
Athens, Greece
Info: centraloffice@esge.org

ESGE Workshops

Diagnostische und Operative Hysteroskopie
9 to 12 December 2004
Villach, Austria
Info: karl.oberwinkler@lkh-vil.or.at

Diagnostische und Operative Hysteroskopie
20th to 21st January 2005
Saarbrücken, Germany
Info: etc.saarbruecken@t-online.de

Endometriose- Workshop
3rd to 4th February 2005
Saarbrücken, Germany
Info: etc.saarbruecken@t-online.de

Modern Diagnostic and Operative Hysteroscopy,
Transvaginal Laparoscopy
10 to 12 February 2005
Valencia (IVI), Spain
Info: centraloffice@esge.org

Harninkontinenz- und Deszensuschirurgie
17th to 18th March 2005
Saarbrücken, Germany
Info: etc.saarbruecken@t-online.de

Pre-congress Seminar and Workshop
on Transvaginal Endoscopy
March or April 2006 (date to be confirmed)
Larnaca, Cyprus
Info: centraloffice@esge.org

14th Annual Congress of the International Society of
Gynecologic Endoscopy
3–6 April 2005
London, United Kingdom
Further information: www.isge2005.org

Modern Diagnostic and Operative Hysteroscopy
26th–27th May and 7th–8th November 2005.
RCOG, London, England
Info: centraloffice@esge.org

The following events are organised under the auspices of the ESGE

2004

Workshops on TVE – 2004/2005
(Leuven, Belgium)
Organiser: S. Gordts
stephan.gordts@lifeleuven.be

Workshops 2004
European Gynaecology Endoscopy School
(Verona, Italy)
Organiser: L. Minelli
luca.minelli@sacrocuore.it
www.eges.it

Curso teórico-práctico sobre creación de una neovagina en síndrome de MAYER-ROKITANSKY-KUSTER según la técnica de WILIAMS modificada por CREATSAS
4 to 5 November 2004 (Valencia, Spain)
Organiser: IVI Clinic
docencia@ivi.es

Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Gynäkologische und Geburtshilfliche Endoskopie (AGE)
7 to 9 November 2004 (Wuppertal, Germany)
Organiser: J. Hucke
hucke@bethesda-wuppertal.de

Symposium on Advanced Gynaecological Laparoscopic Surgery
25 to 27 November 2004 (Barcelona, Spain)
Organiser: J. Del Pozo
jdelpozo@grn.es

2005

*10 th International Meeting
on Gynaecological Surgery*
23–26 February 2005 (Avellino, Italy)
Organiser: M. Malzoni
segreteria@malzoni.org
www.malzoni.org

2006

*World Meeting on Gynaecological Pelvic Pain
and Endometriosis*
May 10-13, 2006 (Milan, Italy)
Organiser: M. Busacca
mauro.busacca@unimi.it

Peter Erard

- Polish Society of Gynecological Endoscopy (PSGE), part of the Polish Association of Gynecology
- Portuguese Section for Gynaecological Endoscopy
- Russian Association of Gynaecologists – Endoscopists
- Serbian Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (SSGE)
- SEU-SEGO-SEGE: Sociedad de Endoscopia Ginecológica Española and Sociedad Española de Obstetricia y Ginecología, Sección Endoscopia Ginecológica
- Slovene Society of Reproductive Medicine
- Sociedad Ibero-Americana de Endoscopia e Imagenología Ginecológicas
- Società Italiana di Endoscopia Ginecologica (SEGi)
- Société Française d'Endoscopie en Gynécologie (SFEG)
- Swiss Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy
- The Society of Gynecological Surgery in Finland
- Turkish Society for Gynecological Endoscopy
- Workgroup for Gynaecologic Surgery of the Austrian Society for Gynaecology and Obstetrics

National Societies

Introduction

One of the aims of the European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy is to strengthen communication with the national societies for Gynaecological Endoscopy. Both the ESGE and the National Societies do have the same area of interest and the same target group of colleagues. Having a common interest, respectively on European and on a National level, we are convinced that a network might offer positive opportunities.

Till now, 26 national societies (see list below) subscribed to the ESGE Member Society project. Communication is maintained with 17 more nations.

ESGE Member Society List

- AGE (Germany)
- Association of Gynecologic Endoscopists of Macedonia
- British Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy (BSGE)
- Croatian Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy
- Czech Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy
- Czech Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy and Pelvic Surgery
- Dutch Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy and Minimal Invasive Surgery (The Netherlands)
- Dutch speaking Society for Gynaecology and Obstetrics (VVOG, Belgium)
- Groupement des Gynécologues Obstétriciens de langue Française de Belgique (GGOLFB)
- Hellenic Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy
- Hellenic Society of Operative Hysteroscopy and Laparoscopy in Gynaecology
- Hungarian Society of Gynaecological Endoscopists
- Icelandic Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Contacts with national societies from

- Albania
- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Ireland
- Israel
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxemburg
- Malta
- Moldova
- Norway
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Sweden
- Ukraine

New Board Members

Overview of the Nominations



Zdenek HOLUB
(Czech Republic)

Date of birth: 19.09.1947

Hospital Kladno, Gynecology Endoscopy Centre,
Vancurova 1548, 272 58 Kladno,
Czech Republic (holubz@seznam.cz)

PhD, Head of Department of Ob/Gyn , Hospital Kladno,
Director of Endoscopic Training Center and Assoc. Pro-
fessor, 1st Gyn.Obst.Clin., Charles University in Prague.
Published 81 scientific papers (in Medline), 36 scientific
papers in SCI and IF journals. Prize of Paul-Janssen for
best scientific paper (Oncology), 2002.



Vasilios TANOS
(Cyprus)

Date of birth: 22.04.1961

Evangelistria Medical Center,
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, POB 25441,
1309 Nicosia, Cyprus (tanosv@spidernet.com.cy)

PhD, Head of the Dept of Department of Obstetrics and
Gynaecology. In Nicosia, including IVF and Gyne-
oncology units. Affiliated lecturer researcher at the
Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem and at
Cyprus University. Published 28 articles.



**Frédéric VAN DEN
BRÛLE (Belgium)**

Date of birth: 17.12.1963

Dept. of Gynaecology, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire,
B-35 Sart Tilman, 4000 Liège,
Belgium (f.vandenbrule@chu.ulg.ac.be)

PhD, Chef de Clinique Associé, Centre Hospitalier Uni-
versitaire de Liège; Clinical Professor, University of
Liège; Senior Research Associate, National Fund for
Scientific Research, Belgium.

Clinical activities: Outpatient clinic in Obstetrics and
Gynecology, gynaecologic endocrinology, gynaecologic
sonography, office hysteroscopy and prenatal medicine,
Obstetrical activity, General and endoscopic gynaecolog-
ic surgery. 84 publications.



Fulvio ZULLO
(Italy)

Date of birth: 05.07.1960

University Magna Graccia of Catanzaro,
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Viale Pio X,
88100 Catanzaro, Italy (zullo@unicz.it)

Ass. Proffessor and Director of the Dept. of Department
of Obstetrics and Gynaecology – University Magna
Graccia, Catanzaro.

Activities: surgical endoscopy, oncology, endocrinology
and surgical didactics.

Author of more than 70 publications. Performed 2000
operative laparoscopies and 2500 hysteroscopies. Per-
formed about 200 radical surgeries for gynecologic ma-
lignancies in the last three years;



European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2005

Join (or renew) the ESGE as a member for the year 2005 by completing and returning this form as mentioned below (full information on www.ESGE.org)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Last name (family name) :

First name :

Title :

Institute :

Department :

Street :

Postal code and city :

Country :

Email address :

PAYMENT SECTION (please tick the appropriate check-box):

Amount due in euro: If no amount is indicated, 100 euro will be charged

- Euro 30 Trainees (please prove by document)
 Euro 60 If you are a member of an ESGE Member National Endoscopic Society* from Croatia, Czech Rep., Slovenia, Sociedad Ibero-Americana, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Russia (please prove by document)
 Euro 100 All other members

Please charge my credit card : Eurocard/Mastercard VISA

Card N°: _____

Exp. date: _____

Name of Cardholder: _____

Signature: _____

I enclose a certified bank cheque, payable to ESGE

I will make a bank transfer in EURO to account N° (IBAN) BE74 3101 2633 4607 of the ESGE. Bank : ING, SWIFT code: BBRUBEBB (bank address: ING Belgium, Markt 5, B 3200 Aarschot, Belgium). No costs for the beneficiary

Please Fax/Send completed form to:
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