

FESNAD HAS NOT “EXPELLED OR VETOED” THE GROUP OF DIETICIANS-NUTRITIONISTS OF SPAIN

By unanimous agreement of all its members, in compliance with its Statutes and the stipulations of Law 1/2002 governing the right of association, FESNAD has taken the appropriate legal decisions in response to the dissolution of the AEDN. The scientific associations and societies of the group of dieticians and nutritionists it represented will be able to join our Federation if they are interested and can satisfy the requirements laid down by the Statutes.

The public statement published on the FEDN’s website clearly distorts and conceals the truth, makes serious accusations against our president and board of governors, and deludes the group of dieticians and nutritionists. It casts doubt on the decisions FESNAD took after the dissolution of AEDN and we would like to set the record straight and explain why those decisions were taken and what really took place between the FESNAD, the AEDN (now dissolved) and the FEDN.

- It is absolutely false that FESNAD has expelled or vetoed FEDN. FEDN has never been a member of FESNAD.
- AEDN is the only association that has been a member of FESNAD. Its dissolution – registered in the Registry of Associations – prevents it from continuing to be so.
- FESNAD’s Statutes provide for members being able to leave the federation if they give six months’ notice and specify the requirements for new members. However, AEDN has not given notice of its dissolution nor informed the board of FESNAD that it would be leaving. Neither has FEDN informed the board of its desire to become a member of FESNAD.
- AEDN and FEDN are two organisations of different legal status and governed by different laws. In terms of being members of another group, it is not possible to ignore all legal and statutory processes, assume that there is a legal continuity and that FEDN can occupy the position that was previously occupied by AEDN,.
- FESNAD’s governing board has merely attempted to respect the letter of the law and the Statutes, and it has expressed this attempt in all its agreements and in all the correspondence exchanged with the president of FEDN.
- The law and the Statutes do not allow a foundation to be a member of a federation of associations and, even less so, to act as secretary without having been appointed nor registered in the Registry of Associations.
- If the FEDN had been allowed to take over the position held by AEDN in FESNAD, the governing board would have been responsible for breaking the law and not upholding the Statutes.
- All the correspondence sent by FESNAD to the president of AEDN and FEDN has insisted on the fact that FESNAD is always available to its associates. More specifically, an email sent on 2 February 2015 contains the following paragraph:

As far as the group of dieticians and nutritionists is concerned, the doors of FESNAD are open to those who, in compliance with our Statutes, wish to join and take part in developing and complying with the aims of our Federation. We regret that you can

no longer be a representative because of the dissolution of AEDN but it is obvious that FESNAD cannot and should not judge the decisions of its members. It is an important group for this Federation and it has made an important contribution. However, should you wish to become a member of FESNAD once more, you should follow the application procedure described in our Statutes.

From the above, it can be seen that, in contrast to what was published on FEDN's website FESNAD has not been party to dishonesty, bad intent, veto or expulsion.

All we have done is to uphold the law and the Statutes against a foundation who has ignored all legal procedures and indirectly attempted to 'gatecrash' our Federation, probably fully aware that there was no legal way of doing so.

If the dissolution of AEDN has meant that, today, the group of dieticians and nutritionists of Spain is not represented in FESNAD, the responsibility lies with those who agreed to the dissolution. FESNAD cannot accept the responsibility that belongs exclusively to AEDN, who should have been aware of the consequences of the decision they took.

Finally we would like to say that to protect our honour and interests from the lies and accusations in FEDN's statement, FESNAD reserves the right to make use of all the legal and non-legal actions at our disposal.

FESNAD's Governing Board

Madrid, 5 February 2015