



European Society of Aerospace Medicine

Minutes of the ESAM Executive Committee Meeting Florence (Italy) on 26th - 27th February 2010

Place: Grand Hotel Minerva – Florence - Italy

Time: 26th Feb 15:00 -19:10 – 27th Feb 09:30 – 17:00

Persons present: Roland Vermeiren, Elena Cataman, Lilla Ungváry, Paolo Tosco, Hans-Werner Teichmüller, Kevin Herbert, Ioannis Diamantopoulos, Ries Simons, Uwe Stüben, Declan Maher,.

The meeting was opened by the President.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the EC meeting in Milan on 5 & 6 November 2009 and of the GA on 7 November 2009. Presentation during GA's.

There was general consensus on the accuracy of the minutes. They were approved and signed. The original of the minutes to be retained by Paolo for the archives. Copies sent to Lars for posting on the website and to Hans-Werner for the German Registration Office.

Roland sought views of the members as to attendance of the GA. It was felt we should provide a good audience for the lecturers and to do this we need to increase the advertising. Ries's opinion was we should be able to have something between a Symposium and an Assembly, in conjunction with the EC and the AB. EC could invite qualified lecturers to the GA, on topics it had identified. Non medical topics, for example Finance, could be included. The event would be titled a "Scientific Session", and would have a small number of papers (no more than four). The content will be publicised and Uwe will try to get Continuing Medical Education credits for CME/AMEs, to increase interest.

3. Membership status

Paolo gave the details of the application from Cyprus. The application was unanimously accepted. Paolo will send them the official e-mail confirmation..

IFATCA and EAAP have expressed interest to become Associated Members, as IFALPA has in the past. The EC agreed that both would be accepted.. The position of ESAM EC about EAAP role in partnership with ESAM was settled as follows: the formal decision on fitness to fly must be made by an AME. He/she must be a Medical Doctor with training in Aviation medicine. Psychologists may contribute to the doctor's decision by means of scientific and professional advice. There are many already working who have a cross-over of expertise such as Psychiatrist and Psychologist. Upon such a basis Associated Membership of EAAP would be acceptable, taking also into account further information from Lilla, who will attend the Meeting of Hungarian Aviation Congress in Psychology.

EC is still waiting for correspondence from ECA, EAG, Denmark and Portugal. It was agreed that access and membership status information is readily available on the website.

The regulation of representation was discussed. It is clear from the ESAM Statutes that each **Regular** Member is entitled to a single vote during the General Assembly. The EC believes this should remain the situation and is not aware of any reason in European law why each such individual member association cannot have a vote.

Roland had spoke to France and advised them of the response from the GA that there is no situation where larger organisation could receive a subscription fee **discount**.

4. Budget

The 2009 accounts were shown in summary by Hans-Werner.

Details of defaulters were shown. These were Slovenia, Russia, Poland, Croatia, Jordan and Middle East, France and Norway: It was agreed that these fees must be paid and the EC advises them that the non payment of fees for two years will lead to removal from the membership.

The EC stated that the Treasurer should communicate with these Associations stating that if fees are not paid twice, they get a remainder that their membership may be at risk. The final decisions about membership will be taken during the next EC.

Ries discussed the possibilities for EU grants. They are generally given to groups other than societies, e.g. an Institute. They tend to fund specific projects rather than the usual running costs of an organisation..

Uwe proposed the use of courses (Aeromedical Training and Aeromedical Evacuation) as a source of funding through certification by ESAM. In Roland's and Uwe's opinion the current transition period between JAA and EASA provides an opportunity for this. Potentially ESAM could levy a charge for certifying that a proposed course meets the requirements of the agreed syllabus.

Elena reminded the meeting that there are some countries that couldn't pay for training, and so, the EU may be willing to provide funds to set up the certification procedure.

EC proposed that Advisory Board should produce programmes both of "Competence Based" and "Syllabus" mechanisms, pertaining both to Aeromedical Training (Elena and Uwe) and to

Medevac Training (taking into account the Italian expertise in Aeromedical Evacuation - Paolo).

The Advisory Board, with the assistance of EC, will work on setting the level of the requirements. There is a need to act now and not wait too long, and risk EASA or others setting up a rival certification procedure. If such requirements were submitted to EASA, they could accept them as the basic requirements which would be needed by the National Authorities.

Uwe spoke regarding the potential market that will exist after 2012. It should not be left to experts outside the EU to offer certification. The structures already in place can be used to build on this concept.

Hans-Werner is awaiting a response from the German Tax Office about potential "income tax" liabilities for ESAM.

Change of fees: EC unanimously agreed that new fees will be as follows, according to ESAM Statutes, ARTICLE H n. 1:

€ 10 per person of each national regular member association;

If payment is made by 31 May 2010 it will be reduced to € 8,50;

The deadline for payment remains 1 July each year, according to the Statutes.

Such an information will be put on the website in an 'eye catching' way "What about the fees!" (Lars and Kristoffer).

Kevin presented a "Business Plan". It was unanimously approved (Attachment A).

There is a need to build the Society's reserves to a point at about € 50,000. ESAM activities could then be more independent from national support, and it would have the ability to organise an independent ECAM. When an ESAM Representative takes a role to attend an event on behalf of organisation (like Hans into AsMA, or in any other location), all expenses should then be charged to ESAM.

EC agrees that a constant and steady source of income is needed. Sponsorship by a number of Companies, involved in the aerospace field, was proposed by Paolo. ESAM needs to ensure it retains independence from any sponsoring company.

Diversified ways of income are possible. A single event could be sponsored. Another issue is the use of advertising on the website, taking anyway into account ethical consideration. Ioannis proposed the ECAM 2 News on website as a point where people can apply for sponsorship. In Uwe's and Roland's opinion we can sell our website as source of information about training advertising, courses, conventions and wherever CME points are available. The link to and from ESAM and National website must be put on every communication, as Italy has already done. Roland will contact Kristoffer to work on the website, as required.

5. Advisory Board

Ries reviewed the processes to date. A more complete group of Aviation Medicine Experts is in being assembled, based on the similar former expert group that already carried out a meeting and a response document for NPA 17 on August 2008 at Wiesbaden.

Each national association has invited to communicate its own aeromedical specialist representatives. At present time only a few number of them have provided any names. ESAM has a number of issues (e.g. passenger health, toxic air syndrome, etc) that potentially require to have a formal comment from the Society, based on robust scientific grounds.

Uwe presented an option to hold a Expert Group Meeting joint with the FAA German Course and German Associations Events on the last weekend in August 2010 (provisional date 27-29th).

The meeting would review ESAM's position about the CRD that will be published in May, make comments about the NPA and the new EASA medical requirements, that should, ideally, not be a lower level than JAR requirements.

The Implementing Rules cannot be changed without acceptance by the European Parliament.

ESAM EC unanimously approved the ESAM Space Medicine Group Memorandum of Association, proposed by Paolo (Attachment B). The original document of the ESGM was passed to Declan for scanning and distribution to the AB members. It will be returned for storing in the ESAM archives.

A number of groups exist already, both in Human Factor and Space Medicine, and ESAM will promote further involvement. We are seeking the information as to what the individual members see as their area of expertise.

Roland and Ries will contact Lars in the area of FTL issues in the ECAST Group.

6. EASA:

The general impression is that there has been a significant shift in the attitude and direction of EASA. Most of the changes are good and EASA appear to be very aware of the effect of impact of some of their original proposals on the individual countries.

There has been a notable impact from the CMO's group which have increased its exposure and input into EASA. It is hoped that there can be a partnership of the two groups, ESAM and CMO's. It is also felt that really the influence of the CMO's in EASA is, at present time, greater than that of ESAM.

Only the Implementing Rules have been addressed to date, but the issue of LAPL will be dealt with at the next meeting.

The duration of the LAPL certificate will revert to become close to ICAO Class 2 (although the ICAO requirements have not been used fully for twenty years). The separate medical questionnaire for LAPL has been shelved. The effect of this is to remove the proposed criteria for medical LAPL, so there will be a return to the Class 2 criteria. It also removes the self-declaration. What will be left of JAR will be Class 1, but the number of Class 2 applicants might reduce in favour of the LAPL.

The LAPL will require a physical examination to "demonstrate that the pilot is fit to fly". This may discourage some GMP's from doing LAPL assessments.

The Group discussed the GMP role in certification. The GMP will be able, in law, to act as an examiner. There is a requirement to have "sufficient" knowledge to allow an assessment of fitness to fly. The LAPL is a sub-ICAO standard, so the use of a GMP will be at the discretion of the individual member state, and only where allowed by national law.

The position of AME's in ICAO was quoted. There is a situation in Sweden where the GMP can carry out the examination, but only the AME is permitted to issue the certificate.

In the informal meeting with the EU CMO's there was an great majority who rejected of the proposed limits of the LAPL. ---There is a perception that the wide scope of the criteria is too large to be accepted and so, only one country in Europe will accept the proposal. They are looking at the alteration of the limits proposed for the LAPL.

There is a possibility that once you have failed a Class 2, you will be not able to apply for LAPL.

Examination could be carried out during the period before the first "solo" flight. ---

2012 is still the final date for implementation.

The LAPL Meeting will be held from 15th to 18th March. The area of the GMP will be discussed as well. The role of the GMP cannot be deleted from the regulations. There are many potential formulations being suggested as to how the LAPL will occur.

The EC discussed the issues of the practicalities of the practice of the AME's, and the activities of AMS and AMC.

Some adverse individual experiences were described at the meeting.

--AMC may be set up anywhere world wide as long as they are linked to the base AMC in the EASA member state.

For Class 1 the National Authority makes the final decision on fitness to fly. All the CMO's are in agreement. They would have the final word in decision making for Class 1.

Another topic discussed was legality of data transfer.

Roland will circulate issues regarding the AMS, AMC and AME's , which will be disseminated via Declan to the various national specialists, with response back through him to the Advisory Board.

Reactions on the upcoming CND could be discussed during forecast Experts Group Meeting in Germany on July 2010.

Roland will deal with application SSCC with EASA.

EC approved on scientific bases the possibility of new standards for colour vision " new UK colour vision test" to be proposed as a new amendment to the old JAR FCL3 Medical Requirements – 5th amendment.

Roland outlined the current state of the development of the ATC medical certification. It is a three level process that is in train. Eurocontrol will produce an updated 3th version as a specification, that will be incorporated in an urgent EU regulation in 2011. Whilst this is happening, EASA will have to set up a parallel rulemaking process, moving from this requirement to a EASA opinion for a new regulation. Roland himself will follow the matter.

Kevin prepared a draft of letter to Members of European Parliament ([Attachment C](#)).

Such a letter could be generated from each ESAM Member to each National Representative within EP, to voice our concerns at the process and outcomes from EASA. The safety standards have been changed and there is no clear process to recognise the opinions given by aeromedical experts. Every ESAM Nation should send it as soon as possible, by using national or ESAM headed paper. Primarily we must raise awareness of the proposed LAPL, as well as getting ESAM recognised as being a valued resource in the area of Aviation Medicine.

Roland will make contact about these issues with the relevant authorities into EP at Brussels.

7. CMO Forum

Roland will participate to CMO Meetings, and will report on the NPA review.

8. ICAO: Initiative for global AME Training

Roland outlined the mechanism to include ESAM's involvement in the ICAO process. Dr. Gradwell from the IAASM scientific committee would be the contact point. IAASM will be contacted via Dr. Jamal Sing at AsMA as well.

EC settled that Elena, Uwe and Ries will be the ESAM Representative in contact with ICAO, in combination with Advisory Board.

9. Training and Accreditation in Aviation Medicine

All EC members agree that there are still too many differences in the level of experience and training across Europe.

There will be a recording of the basic level of training (see the ESAM Aviation Medicine Training WG leaflet). In the future in Europe we must have holistic training.

It is important that the area of Aviation Medicine should be recognised by National Authorities as a specialty. There are some countries where there is not a specific post-graduate course, and the availability of properly trained Aviation Medicine specialists is limited (e.g. Cardiologists or Ophthalmologists). This is required order to facilitate the availability of a specialist to undertake difficult assessments with limitations or conditions.

We must reduce the risk that an inexperienced recently qualified doctor setting him/herself up as an expert in Aviation Medicine. However there is also a need for raising the bar, to increase respect while not losing the AME's that already work at present. There are many issue too that will require activity in the area of training. --

10. AsMA

Reports from Hans and Gabor about Alexandria 2009 have been sent around the whole group. The European Society of Aerospace Medicine will meet at the next 2010 AsMA Congress on Wednesday, May 12, 12:00-1:30 pm at Phoenix AZ USA.

Roland will send a letter to AsMA President to discuss other there the future links with ESAM, --, and possible AsMA participation to ECAM as well. There should be inclusion of Andy, Hans and Gabor. We should set up a meeting that would be equal on either side. ESAM President, AB Chair, Hans and Ioannis from the ECAM organizing committee, will meet current and past AsMA President. Ioannis will place out an advertisement about ESAM and ECAM in the "Blue Journal". Hans-Werner is authorized to pay the expected expenses of about \$ 300 .

ESAM can give three presentations during AsMA Congress in 2010:

- Roland will present a review of ESAM activities to date, with specific reference to NPA comments and LAPL topic;
- Elena will contact ITAF Lt. (MD) Dario Di Blasio (already appointed as Italian Aerospace Medicine Association Representative) who may be able to do a presentation on Training in Aviation Medicine;
- Ries will give a presentation about Aero Toxic Syndrome.
- Ioannis will present ECAM 2

All subjects will be put on ESAM website, when available from authors.

11. IAASM

Potential conflict of timing between ICASM and ECAM was prevented.

12. ECAM

The date is :10 – 13 November in Athens invited by, and together with, the Hellenic Society.

Ioannis gave an outline of the current status of next ECAM. A joint scientific Committee has been constructed, combining the Greek hosts, Lilla, Paolo, Ries and Uwe.

The flyer is almost ready and will be sent for printing. The welcome message, the organising committee, then the names of the joint committee will be put in. The date of the deadline for abstract is 31st August 2010. Each lecture 15 minutes, questions 5 minutes. 1 or 2 presentation per each individual national ESAM member are requested. We are only limited in the main hotel room, but no limit in the side rooms. There is a need for the names of people who are going to come along and who would be able to be keynote speakers.

We can repeat some of the contents that are presented in AsMA. --We will have a special publication dealing with ECAM and will have a book with the abstracts and a record of the activities of ESAM. There will be some 3,000 copies distributed to the whole industry --- Next issue is a flyer put in the Hellenic website linked to ESAM website (like already done for Italian Congress), and sent to sponsors and to AsMA.

In order to assure suitable and cost/effective location a five stars hotel package has been arranged. There will be a social content to the meeting.

A call for broad Conference Topics, to be included on the brochure, will be spread to national members by our website as soon as possible (Ioannis to Lars and Kristoffer).

Ioannis will include the names of the AB and of the EC as part of the scientific committee.

National Associations are invited to send Ioannis further names they considered of interest to be added to the same scientific committee.

Poster presentations are possible as well. The different modes of presentation will be detailed on the website.

An 'All inclusive' price will be about € 520 for four nights. It was be agreed that that there should be a number of different options: to pay only the conference fee (at present time € 150,00, but might have to be increased if insufficient numbers stay at the main hotel); to choose different hotel (at least two other recommended hotels might be included), to be booked and paid by individuals, paying the attendance fee alone. ---So, showing the all inclusive package and the alternative of the conference fee alone for whom would make his/her own arrangements, is needed as well.

Nevertheless, it has been emphasized that--- the costs are so much better when it is all inclusive. Delegates may encounter problems related to using other hotels location. These problems would have to be resolved by the individual and not the conference organisers.

EC received proposal from Norway and UK for ECAM 2012.

Kevin presented the planned format to the UK meeting. He proposed one day of multidisciplinary approach to aeromedical issues. The second day on scientific presentations. A three/four stars hotel close to a main hub, like Heathrow. A complete package and the alternate of day delegate will be offered. It is hoped to run 1-3 conferences in parallel (e.g. maritime docs, wilderness medicine, etc.) sharing coffee stations and lunches, and the gala dinner.

UK Association will be responsible for keeping the costs affordable, and will enter into the contract with the venue. The aim will be £ 120 per day delegate. Scottish Association may want to co-host the event. Aim for paying for only fee, but get the benefit of the second day free of charge. The Gala dinner will take place on the evening of the first day.

No formal application and tentative program have been yet forwarded from Norway. They have formally offered to host an ECAM, and so EC should offer Norway a chance to make a presentation. UK Association is expecting an answer by the 12th March 2010, as they need to start planning as soon as possible. Care must be taken to avoid any insult potential to the offer of Norway. There is also a need for including the Eastern States and the financial issues that govern their actual ability to travel.

EC invited Roland to propose to Lars that they can set up a plan to hold the 2014 ECAM. In principle, EC goes with the UK offer. We are concerned about the costs, in the light of the current European financial situation.

13. Website:

We should understand why people access the website, and continue to make it easy to navigate and informative. The aim should be to make it the first point of reference for aero-medical information in Europe. We need to ensure that is picked up readily by the major search engines such as Google.

Journalists need to be drawn to the site as a useful resource for both scientific and political issues. –

Each EC member should identify for the next meeting which points would draw an AME to the site.

Every contribution from any national association is welcome.

Publication of newsflashes – a 'blog' could be developed in the future.

Lars and Kristoffer are required to take into account EC directions as above described in managing ESAM website.

14. Nomination committee

As Nomination Committee Chair, Gabor has already sent to ESAM mailing-list a request for nomination for new EC. 31st July is the deadline of responses for candidates. Elections will be held during next GA in Athens.

15. Statutes

Changes in the EC membership will be notified by Hans-Werner to the proper authority according to German law. Paolo will send him the data pertaining to EC members.

16. Task list / Working Groups

The Training in Aviation Medicine Working Group, the Aviation Medicine Expert Group and the ESAM Space Medicine Working Group are at present time set up. Their management will be carried out as above described.

17. Other business

Changes to the Application Form to directly specify the AB Member of an Association has already done by Kristoffer. Now, every form sent by new applicants contains such information. EC thanks Publications & Poster Designer Seppe Celis for kind and very effective cooperation. His is invited to be present as a guest at next ESAM event.

18. Next meeting

The next meeting of the ESAM Executive Committee is planned to be at Antwerp, on Sunday 4th July 2010 (Roland).

Roland ended the meetings by thanking all the members of the two EC sessions for their outstanding work.

Florence, 27th February 2010

Paolo Tosco

Secretary General

Attachment:

A: Business Plan

B: ESAM Space Medicine Group Memorandum of Association

C: Draft of letter to Members of European Parliament