



European Society of Aerospace Medicine

Minutes of the ESAM Executive Committee Meeting Antwerp (Belgium) on 4th July 2010

Place: Elzenveld Congress Centre – Antwerp - Belgium

Time: 4th July 2010 09:00 -17:00

Persons present: Roland Vermeiren, Elena Cataman, Lilla Ungváry, Paolo Tosco, Kevin Herbert, Ioannis Diamantopoulos, Ries Simons, Declan Maher, Hans Pongratz, Lars Tjensvoll.

The meeting was opened by the 1st Vice-President, Elena Cataman. President Vermeiren arrived and took the chair at 12:00.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the EC Meeting in Florence on 26 & 27 February 2010.

Minutes of Florence were accepted by all.

3. ECAM - AsMA

Ioannis sought clarifications about Andy's lectures: he could give 2 sessions, one at the flight safety panel and one at the GA, where he will both speak as AsMA Representative and work on the international relationships. Kevin proposed an invitation to Prof. Bagshaw to attend ECAM. Roland asked Kevin to formally invite him, and advised that he had invited Annette Ruge (EASA CMO) as a key speaker on certification and regulation. They both would be invited with a view to holding a panel discussion.

Ioannis gave an overview of the status of the preparation for ECAM 2. The anticipated cost is € 43,000. A number of possibilities were considered. There is a lot of turmoil which persists. On June 16th an additional sponsor to Greek Government was found. A program for a three days meeting was spoken of. We were keen to maintain the quality of the location of the event.

We will be using HAF Military Hospital on the first day for the welcome reception and lecture. Many abstracts had been submitted to date. It is not possible, however, to move the abstract deadline forward. The GA should be held on Saturday morning. All attendees should be encouraged to stay at the main venue to avoid penalties to the Hellenic Society, but a number of people will undoubtedly stay in other locations, as this would be considerably cheaper. A lot of Industries should be contacted for support. A specific form will be prepared and published by Greek organising Committee. There is ample opportunity for sponsors to display their products. The financial situation has made it much more difficult than it would have been 2-3 years ago. We have had already advertising on the German Aerospace Magazine and on the FAA website. A lot of work and a lot effort has gone into making Athens a viable venue.

Taking into account that the difficulties are real, after a broad discussion, EC decisions were:

We will go ahead with Athens. The political and economical status of Greece allows this. Changing to a different venue at such a late stage would present serious problems.

The desirable number of delegates is about 100-120; in order to get this, Paolo will contact each individual association to invite applicants.

We need about fifty to sixty abstracts (at the moment they are about forty) that will require peer review. Each abstract will be sent both to ESAM and to Greek Scientific Committee. We expect a good conference with high quality content. Otherwise, the reputation of ESAM could be compromised. The ECAM 2 would show our strength.

We need to continuously keep our lines of communication open, to disseminate every information to all members. EC asked Ries to identify topics that could be used to inform non-medical attendees, e.g. pilots, ATC, etc.

We are expecting € 30,000 from the main sponsor. So each EC member is requested to spread information about the sponsorship opportunity.

Elena asked Ioannis to pay attention to the problem of visas, needed for some non-EU member States, as these delegates would require a written invitation.

Hans Pongratz thanked the EC for the work to date and invitation to speak. He presented a report of his meeting at Phoenix, as follows:

I attended the AsMA Council-Meeting on Sunday May 09, 2010, the General Assembly on Tuesday May 11, 2010 and the AsMA Council-Meeting with the new officers on Wednesday May 12, 2010.

One of the main topics, which was discussed, was the financial situation by our treasurer. Last year there were a lot of cancellations due to the swine flu. This deficit could be covered by savings which were made in the past. Problems will come up, if the next meetings do not cover their costs. The Journal is quite expensive but of very high standard, an advert for the ECAM will be placed in it. Discussions were on-going to see if life-membership, and other discounts on the subscription will continue to be available. It was felt that increasing the subscription level was too risky.

The By-Laws-Committee proposed that every Association should provide it's - Membership lists. International members advised that data protection legislation in many countries, particularly in Europe, made this impossible.

The new Executive Director Jeff Sventek is very engaged and I think his appointment was a wise decision, made by the President Dr. Bob Weien. The New Director of the Journal is Dr. Frederick Bonato. The downsizing of the industry traveling budgets will have an impact on the numbers attending the meeting. 25 % of the membership of AsMA is from overseas but most of the awards are presented to the home members.

On Thursday some representatives of AsMA and ESAM came together for lunch. From the AsMA-Side the President Dr. Bob Weien, the Executive Director from AsMA Dr. Jeff Sventek, AsMA International Chair Dr. Gabor Hardicsay, from ESAM the President Dr. Roland Vermeiren and ESAM Information Director Dr. Kevin Herbert, the representative of AsMA to ESAM Dr. Andy Bellenkes and the representative from ESAM to AsMA Dr. Hans Pongratz.

The new AsMA President, Dr. Marian B. Sides PhD was not able to join. The main topics of the discussion were the interchange of information between the organisations, by each being given an area on the others website. The idea of a joint meeting, to be held in Europe in the future was discussed.

AsMA will not be able to organize a Panel at ECAM, but Dr. Andy Bellenkes will give a presentation pointing out the goals and the common interests with AsMA.

The next Council-Meeting will take place in November 17th 2010 in Alexandria followed by the Scientific-Meeting November 18th and 19th.

The Meeting of ESAM on Wednesday at AsMA was very successful, it was well attended and the presentations were of a high standard.

Thereafter, Hans communicated that The German Academy of Aerospace and Travel Medicine will have a FAA-Refresher at Wiesbaden end of August, and possibly at the same time there will be a meeting of the ESAM Advisory Board, and the German Association of Aviation and Space Medicine will have the Annual Scientific Meeting also at the same place in Wiesbaden from August 27 to August 28, 2010.

Kevin too spoke at the meeting in Phoenix. He suggested a 'Letter to America' bimonthly in the Blue Journal, penned by him to give news about developments in Europe. At present there is a lot of news, but if ESAM committed to this, there is need for other contributors. He volunteered to take charge of this, and Roland approved the idea and knows that there is a hunger for this format in the USA. The contact to Kevin would be at the website.

The possibility of a AsMA-ESAM joint Meeting was discussed at some length. There are some hurdles to overcome. It is likely take four to five years following the approval of the council, possibly 2016. A site needs to be identified as a European venue that is financially attractive to AsMA. Such a location could be Naples (Paolo) at ITAF Academy as a no cost location, or Ramstein (Hans), where GAF Flight Surgeon meetings are commonly held. However, there are many options for locations. ESAM needs to start discussions regarding proposals for an European location.

4. Membership status

There is no news at the moment about the application of IFATCA/EAAP. Lilla was asked to make a formal contact with the Psychologists Society. Paolo confirms that there had not been any application form from Bosnia (but they are associated member).

5. Budget

Seventeen Associations have just paid their fee. The offer a discount for early payment has been very successful. Four more Societies have paid directly in cash via Elena. The situation of the French Society (SOFRAMAS) was outlined. The EC agreed the fee for current year is based on 180 really active members. SOFRAMAS paid the full rate for that number.

6. Advisory Board

Ries gave an overview of the existing activities. EC decided that the Advisory Board, as scientific body of ESAM, should prepare a number of "Position Papers", in order to inform the official ESAM policies.

The agreed topic are:

- Use of Insulin in diabetes therapy and medical assessment for fitness to fly: a proposal for the standardisation of requirements/common protocol across Europe.
- Flight crew fatigue risk management.
- New rulemaking (NPL) changes proposal.
- Cabin crew medical certification. To clarify the differentiation between the medical examination of cabin crew for licensing or occupational health purposes.
- Competence based training.

All papers should be "evidence based"

Elena relayed a report from Uwe Stueben which spoke of the disappointment of the ESAM Expert Groups about the poor response to their statements and requests for comments.

It is agreed that following the publishing of the EASA Opinion later this year, the proposal of the Expert Groups will be directly forwarded to the European politicians. In the meantime the JAR FCL 3 amendment V will continue until April 2012. The convening of a new EASA Rulemaking Group will probably not start until mid 2011, and Uwe will consider the need for an ESAM specialist group in Wiesbaden in August 2011.

7. EASA - SSCC - ESSI

Lars spoke regarding the request for him to submit a report. He advised that the minutes of the ECAST meeting are only available for ECAST. Lars will prepare a summary report based on the topics that have discussed at ECAST. There are no confidential issues, but the contents are very detailed and a precis is required. The SSCC has become a very large forum. Lars outlined the structure and function of the SSCC.

They have created regulatory impact assessments and set up a ranking of the most important issues that EASA would have to work with. There was a concern that EASA was not paying equal attention to all the groups. ---. It is important that ESAM is present at the SSCC, because the changes are constant and the decisional process is dynamic. The SSCC appears to be a consulting body with no rigidity, allowing for open discussion. We should use our positions to highlight those issues that we feel to be of medical relevance.

The SSCC helps to set the priorities. Roland will be at the next SSCC meeting. ---. His political skill will be very valuable for an effective presence of ESAM at the SSCC and can influence their decision-making process.

EC agrees that there is a need to be very careful that we do not act in a way that would be detrimental to the work of the SSCC. Only the areas that are appropriate to ESAM should be discussed. It is possible to tell our members that EASA has agreed to talk about a particular topic. The work of the SSCC has potential to have impact right across the industry. Care must be taken that we don't just report the work of others. Lars will made a presentation at the GA at Athens.

EASA, ECAST and SSCC want to work on trust and want to know how the reports will be used and how they should be implemented to be a benefit for all. Discussions are ongoing. ---

ESAM really supports ECAST for information. It is a very quick forum for preparing recommendations, working in a smooth way that allows EASA to take the results to the industry or relevant body. The members of ECAST have made a pledge to follow the advices of ECAST and bring them to implementation.

A new committee EASAC -- would have direct access to the Executive Director of EASA mr Goudou responding to ECAST and SSCC. It would bring -- a speedy process for -- changes.

We will respond to the pledge by the EC and circulate any ECAST papers to elicit a response. Following this, the AB will present to the EC and forward it to Lars for ECAST.

Lars reminded the EC about information available on the ECAST website.

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The report by Lars and the pledge for commitment of ECAST members will be attached to the minutes, as soon they are ready and sent to Paolo, for the archives.

It was agreed to postpone any contact with the EU Commission & Parliament by Kevin and Roland, until it is clear which areas with which ESAM has problems, remaining in the final proposals of EASA.

8. EUROCONTROL: cl. 3 medical certification of ATCO

In Jan 2011 the Eurocontrol Directive will change to an EU Regulation to be implemented within two weeks. Important : ATCOs must be examined by authorised Class 3 AME's.

Operational training, including visits to the tower etc. will be expected. Roland will take care of all aspects of this issue.

9. CMO forum

the CMO Forum is intended to a harmonised implementation of JAR FCL 3 Amendment 5 and established as an informal coordination body. Only European Union States are represented.-- During last meeting attended by Roland, potential proposals for Class 1 and Class 2 certification in the following cases: Use of anti-coagulants, SSRI's, and the extension of the dioptré limits (possibly the removal of the limit) were discussed.

10. Training and Accreditation in Aviation Medicine

Elena presented an overview of the situation following the proposal of Uwe regarding the application for an ISO certificate that can allow for training. She looked at the requirements for ISO certification for an Avmed. training course. There are many different courses already in existence, including significant ones in Germany. There is a need for more information from Uwe about the direction of his work

Ries spoke of the large amount of work involved in attaining an ISO in his experience.

Kevin's felt that there is an opportunity for ESAM to be involved in the training area, but we need to know to understand more fully the processes and requirements of a competency based approach.

Roland described the role that EASA could take to outline the requirements for a training course. Perhaps Elena and Uwe would look into how ESAM may proceed in the area of getting accreditation. EASA sees no role for itself in the harmonisation of training and accreditation, so it would remain under the regulation of the host country. The ideal situation would be for each national CAA to give accreditation only to a curriculum that meets the ESAM standard. Roland advised that national CMOs will retain responsibility for the time being.

Roland ended with an overview of what will happen in the area of accreditation. The national CMO's will keep the accreditation process. The ESAM accreditation may be accepted by them with time.

11. IAASM: October 2010 at Singapore

Roland plans to be there, representing ESAM.

12. Website

There is a need to have information on the web that is contemporaneous and brief. We could have a "blog" that would have a few bullet points that relate to interesting developments, such

as the areas of discussion at the EC meeting, available before the full minutes, as they need EC sanction before publishing.

Paolo proposed we can prepare a draft of the minutes within a month or two. It should be possible to approve the minutes by e mail, rather than waiting for the next EC meeting.

The blog allows for freedom of information about the meetings coming up, AsMA activity (Hans), SSCC activity (Lars/Roland: they hard worked to be a part of the SSCC and they should inform members via the blog about this rule making body). It would also be possible to write to the blog. Elena suggested to put blog at the right side of web page, using current flash points to inform the members about activities and the areas that we are working on. We should include the reports of national activities, both as individual and cooperating, and the pertaining reports. A clear translation is expensive and it is a problem translating the technical information. Kevin suggested a link to Babel Fish which provides a free translator for the reader.

Elena and Paolo discussed the need for technical changes to the site. A column just as the ECAM website was suggested. Technical problems were found in opening windows in the horizontal line of homepage of ESAM website.

Roland asked that we make public the fact that ESAM has been accepted by the EU by virtue of being invited to be represented at the SSCC, including an explanation of the body and its important role as part of the rule-making process.

EC confirms that hyperlinks to national associations websites and vice-versa to ESAM website are compulsory, first of all, at present time, with Hellenic Aerospace society.

Kevin spoke of need to have brief high impact information and to have an e-mail process which streamlines the decision making process by setting a deadline for comment. We need to decide that it is a majority decision and not a unanimous one. He also presented an overview of what the website should contain, and the concept that it should become the first website a journalist would visit when seeking information on aerospace medical matters. He suggested links to reports such as the Cranfield Report, and other current areas of research. Lilla described her work in the development of a website, highlighting the development of the website, links and clarity. She spoke of and presented a number of national aeromedical websites.

Roland asked Lilla to present her opinions about changes to the website, collate the idea and put it to the next EC.

Lars will pass every information to Kristoffer regarding the setting up of a blog and solve problems within ESAM website.

13. Nomination Committee

Elena read a mail from Gabor regarding the nominations to date. Nominations are sent by: DGLRM – GAAME (both German Societies) – UK AAMEs. Russian CAMA indicated that they have no nominee. They will support Elena's re-nomination.

Kevin proposed a brief presentation by candidates, possibly augmented by a recent photo and max of 100 words. People need to know that they will give a presentation and be aware of what they are a candidate for.

Roland said that It is possible to have new positions set up within the EC. These posts could be malleable and fluctuate to get more involved in the work. There is a need for more societies to be involved. We will look at the whole area. It should be possible to create such posts by co-option without the need to change the Statutes.

14. Task List – Working groups

Discussion detailed above.

16. Other business

The invitation to Eurocontrol to have a stand at ECAM with our publications & posters, and a personal invitation to the designer (Seppe Celis) was unanimously approved.

17. Next meeting

The next meeting of the ESAM Executive Committee is planned to be at Athens Greece Royal Olympic Hotel, Wednesday 10th November 2010 (Ioannis).

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

Antwerp, 4th July 2010

Paolo Tosco
Secretary General