



European Society of Aerospace Medicine

Minutes of the ESAM Executive Committee Meeting Budapest (Hungary) on 30th June 2012

Place: Aviation Shipping Maritime Medical Centre – Budapest (Hungary)

Time: 30th June 2012 09:00 – 17:10

Persons present:

Roland Vermeiren, Kevin Herbert, Paolo Tosco, Carla Ledderhos, Lilla Ungváry, Patricia Jung, Ries Simons, Jürgen Graf, Declan Maher, Vincent Feuillie. Apologies were received from Elena Cataman, Vice President due to occupational commitments.

The meeting was opened by President Roland Vermeiren.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda of the present meeting was accepted and approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the EC meeting in Naples

Roland presented a summary of the minutes of the EC meeting in Naples in February 2012. The German registration of the change of EC officials was discussed.

The minutes were accepted unanimously without amendment.

Roland cited several action points:

- I. review of the application to the EASA Human Factors Group by Ries.
- II. Public Liability Insurance for EC members.
- III. Personal Liability Insurance for the President and the two Vice Presidents, being the officers entitled to speak on behalf of ESAM.

3. Membership

CAMA

Portugal/EAG

Hugh O'Neill had applied for associate membership on behalf of CAMA. With over 500 members, they are a welcome addition to ESAM's family.

A number of associations continue to express interest in joining ESAM. These include the Baltic States, Portugal, EAG (NATO), Iceland . Mitigating factors appear to be at play including fiscal and financial issues.

4. Budget

Status

German tax

Deadlines

Automatic payments

Certificates

Carla gave a report on the current financial state of ESAM. We have met the financial target set out in the Business Plan that sought to reach €50,000-00.

We have a current balance of €52,524.13 as of 27th June 2012. Currently there are forty four member associations of which thirty five are regular members and nine are associate members. This year only twenty three have paid in full by the above date. Three associations have not paid in the past two years. A discussion followed about the known status of some of the payment defaulters and about how the situation might be addressed. Reference was made to the statutes which are clear in how to react to non-payment. Two potentially opposing issues are at play here, on one hand ESAM wishes to remain inclusive and sensitive to mitigating factors, whilst at the other extreme, respect must be paid to those associations that have complied, in difficult economic climates. It was agreed that the default associations would be contacted and reminded of the need to be fully paid up members to be afforded voting rights. ESAM needs the associations to remain representative and relevant at this time rather than the monetary impact they have.

In 2012 the total expenses have amounted to €7529.37. These are broken down in the Financial Report.

As had been agreed at the last EC meeting prior to AsMA, the travel expenses of Prof. Strollo would be shared equally between ESAM and the Italian Associations.

Kevin pointed out that AsMA offered a free advertisement for two months in the Blue Journal. This was welcomed by all.

There is a hope that there will be no German tax liability. The accounts are currently in the hands of a tax consultant who is assessing the liability. It is important that we make the case for the need to have sufficient funds to offset the financial risks of meetings and congresses etc. This will require an annual financial plan.

A debate followed about extending the reduced fee period for 2012 to the 31st July 2012. There was a general feeling that hard cases would be listened to and individual arrangements made where appropriate.

The direct debit mandate option should be considered. The advantages include the fact that it is easier, cheaper and direct with the option to return the money up to six weeks after payment where adjustments are required. The members are contacted four weeks in advance of the due date based on last year's numbers. They have the opportunity to amend the payment. Roland said it is something that could be put by the next president.

Carla told us that the Membership Fee Receipt Certificates were complete, but it was not possible to display them with the laptop in use.

5. GA 2012 with electronic voting

Practical organisation during ECAM (presentation results by Simeone Izzo)

Start of Nomination Committee and candidates

Electronic vote for EC: period - system

Gabor, chair of the nominating committee arrived at 10:15. He explained that due to personal commitments, he will be unable to attend the GA in London in November. Roland referred to the Statutes setting the deadlines.

The GA will be held in London on the 11th November 2012. The election of the EC officers must take place in advance of the GA. An invitation for nomination of candidates will be drawn up and posted as soon as is practical. Each association can communicate to the nomination committee the names and CV of the candidates, along with an indication of preference for a maximum of three posts. The closing date for nomination shall be the 30th September 2012. The names and candidacy of the nominees will be published after that date. A full list of candidates and their preferred posts will be published on the Agenda for the GA by the second week of October 2012. This will include an invitation to notify the nomination committee of any proxy voting arrangements. Voting shall take place from the 15th to 21st October 2012. Successful candidates will be informed and their acceptance sought. The results will be announced at the GA. In the event of a hung vote, a subsequent vote will take place at the GA.

Kevin opened a discussion about the mechanism of candidate choice and the potential areas of conflict. It was suggested that each candidate could choose up to three offices in order of preference. There also exists a mechanism of co-opting should the EC deem it necessary. He agreed to produce a text outlining the election process and a profile of the EC offices. A pro forma of the candidate's CV complete with recent photo will be posted on the website.

On receipt of the candidates' CV, Gabor will forward them to Lilla for publication on the website. The process complete, Gabor retired from the proceedings and we broke for coffee at 11:00.

6. ECAM 2012

Update ECAM 2012

Sponsoring

Sponsoring by ESAM for presenters

Kevin gave an overview. He is happy with all the arrangements. There is a question as to who will give the space medicine talk depending on the availability of the speaker. Advertisements will feature in the Blue Journal. To date eighty two have signed up but we need two hundred and fifty to break even. Forty five have signed up for the full package and fifty for the gala dinner. The AME's are signing up for the Saturday and the UK AME's are being offered the incentive of a free attendance in 2013 at the AAME conference. Roland said that eighty two is good at this time. The deadline for the early bird fee has been extended to the 31st July 2012 and also the deadline for papers will be extended.

The CMO meeting will be on Monday and Tuesday immediately after ECAM in Zagreb. If the meeting was in London, they could have come more easily to ECAM as well. That would have been an excellent addition. Patricia and Jürgen spoke of the difference in allocating CME points in the German system compared with others.

We have sponsorship from AsMA for Geoff and Andy to attend. ESAM and the National Hypobaric Association are the only other extant sponsors. No one else has offered sponsorship. Jürgen asked if the telemedicine suppliers have been approached. Nothing from AMST to date, Ries will contact them. He also spoke to Sanofi Aventis but has had no response. The budgeting of companies is often set eighteen months in advance. If a late sponsor arises, perhaps they could sponsor the Gala reception or the opening meeting

We have no opening speaker at present. Consider Prof. Bagshaw. Roland said that the Professor is a world leading speaker, Ries agreed. Roland asked Kevin to invite the Professor to speak. We would be honoured and delighted if he accepts.

There will be a ticketing system for attendees. Each speaker get an honorarium of £350 but they pay their way as a delegate. A discussion followed regarding the mechanism of providing support for those submitting a paper. The information is available on the website as part of the application process. Anyone who has submitted an abstract will be entitled to an early bird rate with no deadline. Tony Batchelor suggested this policy as one that will work. Kevin will put it in his blog. Roland said the Scientific Committee decides who is to be accepted and the EC will decide to offer financial support. We can offer up to €420 in the absence of other funding on the acceptance of the abstract acting like a travel bursary

7. Advisory Board

Activities and questions

Laser incidents

Scientific value of EASA FTL rules

Air quality meeting at ASD STAN

Position paper metabolic syndrome

Safety culture of pilots (EAAP)

ESAM Journal: when next meeting (at ECAM)

Ries made a presentation that proposed the functioning procedures of the AB.
The AB committee should:

- a) analyze the EC request;
- b) seek Clarification/Qualification;
- c) provide a response timeline;
- d) disseminate the EC request to the AB;
- e) produce a response.

Ries teased through the current requests from the EC.

Laser incidents should be an issue for the authorities. The scientific effect is well documented.

Kevin proposed supporting the statement of the British Parliament that requests scientific value of EASA FTL rules. Ries offered to draw up a brief text.

Concerning the aero-toxic syndrome Roland said that at this time there is no hard evidence, but we will continue to monitor all results as they are presented at ASD STAN air quality meeting.

Paolo asked that Ries will contact Prof. Strollo regarding the position paper on the Metabolic Syndrome.

Ries said that he has read the paper on safety culture of pilots (EAAP) and that a response is not required.

Roland told how he received an extremely positive reaction at the AsMA Council when he said that ESAM would offer assistance for those wishing to publish in the Blue Journal. AsMA offered a position at the editorial board of the Blue Journal and Roland invited Jürgen to represent ESAM. Jürgen will consider the possibilities and implications of the new post and contact Jan Stepanek. On Sunday morning at ECAM, there will be a separate room available for a meeting of the Journal committee.

Ries spoke of the need for a members' only area on the website for the free discussion of topics. Kristoffer said we need to upgrade the site and include encryption.

Ries mentioned web links regarding passenger health questions such as BA, DLR and LH. Kevin was concerned about that access on our website might increase the risk of litigation.

Patricia raised the possibility that the enquiry might not always come from a bone fide source, but could come from an undisclosed or cloaked source. Lilla pointed to the statutes and the promotion of passenger health as an aim of ESAM.

Ries is having problems with the Space Working Group as there has been no response from Francesco to date. He will try to contact him again.

The area of Risk Assessment was discussed. There was debate as to where ESAM might play in this area. At present the EASA Rule Making position is not yet decided and may lead to a rulemaking task group. ESAM would like to play a part in it. Ries suggested the budget for a complete scientific study for this topic could be of the order of €140,000-00!

On the matter of a database of “unfit” pilots, a discussion followed about the benefits and difficulties of having either an “unfit” and a “fit” list of pilots. Roland pointed out that EASA can only take responsibility for information that it can be in control of. There is such a lack of evidence of a link between medical problems and accidents, that EASA would probably call for a RIA before envisaging to start up such a database.

There is a very tight window in which each Rule Making Group must complete its task. Kevin suggested that ESAM would develop a portfolio of high quality opinions that would influence discussions.

Jürgen suggested ESAM has no right to take a part of the Rule Making responsibility, but that we should be able to analyze the effects of proposed changes and be in a position to offer a response to them. Using structures such as those pioneered by Üwe at Wiesbaden, could afford ESAM the ability to make an enlightened response to proposals in the future.

Roland expects a NPA about the review of medical certification of aircrew in early 2013. It would be wise to have a group of experts that can comment. He said that already there are a number of areas where expert opinions might be required and that these opinions will require funding. Specific areas include: TML period after a seizure; anti-coagulation therapy; risk assessment; the metabolic syndrome, etc. It was agreed that the Wiesbaden system was a worthwhile model to be considered again.

13:30 Break for Lunch. Reconvened 14:45.

8. Training

Meeting FRA

Accreditation procedure

EASA points

The training for AME's was presented by Roland. At present the ESAM syllabus is not yet a competence based process. It is felt that the training will be changed in coming times. The ESAM syllabus is now discussed in the EASA medical certification review group and it will be very easy to be adapted by the national Authorities since it is in guidance material. The criticism is that a syllabus is too fixed, e.g. the training should not teach cardiology to a cardiologist but the other skills required to act as an AME. It is possible to be an expert cardiologist while not being aware of the rest of the rules.

In Roland's opinion ESAM should stimulate associations to use the CMO forum to assess the accreditation of their courses. There was a difference in methodology when attributing the hour rate within the CMO forum in the past. There is also an element of the content apart from the number of hours and the CMO's recognise that they are not an academic board.

The CMO forum assessment will continue to be proposed by Sally Evans-UK and Susanne Josephsen-DK, as long as the content of the course is confined to aviation medicine and aviation. It will be counted in real-time hours only. This proposal has to be accepted by the CMO forum (not "approved") but since the CMO forum has no legal power on itself, each national AMS has the right to accept or deny the accreditation proposal.

AsMA, ICASM and ECAM congresses can be automatically accepted for accreditation, the number of accreditation hours might be in EASA guidance material and thus adaptable.

Jürgen asked what the basis for applying the accreditation is actually. Why is sometimes 19.5 hours being offered for a 24 hour request? There is a need for transparency of the rating policy and an explanation when a discrepancy occurs.

(An AME needs 20 hours in 3 years, 6 of which must be under the direct control of the AMS.). Ries spoke of the different mechanisms of allocating hours/points in different countries. Patricia was concerned about the possibility of getting different points from CMO members.

Kevin said that ultimately the assessment should be made by an independent group as it is in the UK. In time an ESAM expert group might be well enough established to make such an assessment and that there will need to be a mechanism to go through the discrepancy.

9. EASA

Review group: proposal training & endocrinology (diabetes)

CI 3 group

Debriefing 3 ESSI groups

Human factor group (Ries)

Roland spoke of the proposals by the UK CAA regarding diabetes.

The NPA for the Class 3 medical for ATCO are expected in the near future. There are differences in sensorial areas as in ENT and Ophthalmology. An AME will be separately recognised for CI 1 and 3. It will be at the discretion of the National Authority who will decide whether an AME can be certified in whether or both.

Patricia will attend the next ESSI-EGAST meeting in September. Debriefings of groups are not available at this EC meeting.

There appears to be a problem in the area of becoming a member of the Human Factors Group (Ries). Further investigation will be required. Roland will look into this again.

10. CMO forum

Harmonised accreditation points procedure

See above in Training.

The final allocation of the accreditation points/hours must be set by the national competent authority supervising the AME.

Paolo has put the protocol of harmonized accreditation on the website.

11. AsMA

ESAM panel at AsMA congress 2012 (presentations on the web) and 2013 (age limits – risk assessment – epilepsy)

ECAM publicity in the Blue Journal

Lunch ESAM – AsMA (position paper GMP)

The presentations of the ESAM panel at AsMA in Atlanta on diabetes will soon be on the ESAM website.

Ries felt the age related issues would be a nice topic to cover at next AsMA in Chicago. Kevin suggested “Too old to fly, too young to die” as title. A discussion followed about the current issue of ageism and regarding the changes that occur in human systems, particularly in cognition, vision and hearing. Where are the competency texts? The lack of hard tests could be the basis for legal challenge to this application of ageism, resulting in a move to functional capability.

Roland said that the 1% and 2% rules are practical for some illnesses only and we should be thinking about how the rules apply to other conditions. We need to look at rulemaking and the criteria that should be applied. The word “ageing” should be used, according to Kevin. The 1% rule applied to CVD risk over 65, but the rate has been falling over the past three decades with increased therapeutic intervention.

Roland asked people to send their ideas for the panel at AsMA 2013 to Kevin as he will be the new president.

At the annual ESAM-AsMA lunch the AsMA reaction was very strong when there was mention of the future role of the GMP in Europe. There was talk of bringing this issue to the AsMA Council to produce a position paper on this.

Roland said that at the end of the CAMA meeting, there was a firm statement that the FAA will never go ahead with the GMP concept without any training in aviation medicine, stating that it is a step too far.

12. Academy

Joint EU congress

The joint AsMA-ESAM congress will not happen in the foreseeable future due to fiscal constraints. In 2018 Roland will retire, perhaps an ICASM meeting of the Academy with ESAM could be held in Antwerp on 2017?

It was noted that in the case of ICASM a percentage of the presentations, along with a key note speaker, must come from the host country.

13. Website

Update

Publication external papers

Calendar: other congresses

Photo competition

Lilla gave an overview of the detailed communication plan she developed in the recent past. Who do we represent? To whom do we wish to communicate with? What is our most important message? What is our long term strategy? She would welcome feedback and ideas regarding her proposal form all present. She made reference to the statutes. Roland reminded us of the meeting in 2006 where each association made a single slide presentation of their hopes and expectations for ESAM.

Kevin thanked Lilla for her very useful document and suggested that we take this back to our associations and then bring their answers to the questions with us to the next meeting of the new EC along with the old EC i.e. at the first meeting in 2013, setting the strategy for the next 5 years. One day will be spent on the regular business, the other on Strategy planning using the clustering technique. Lilla's document is the framework required to achieve the strategy. We need to include the other members who are and were active, e.g. Lars, Anthony, Gabor, Hans et al. It should be done on Day 1, rather than on day 2, where the business issues can be squeezed.

Lilla spoke of the need for a full time professional press director. In the event of a crisis we will need to be in a position to speak to the press. The position of press interface was rerun. Kevin said we should make the European population as aware of the AME as in the USA with the concept of the Flight Surgeon.

Consideration of Skype-meetings as a tool was agreed to be very useful, but cannot replace the physical interaction of a group in a material location.

According to Ries, the AB can review external papers to be published on ESAM website and hand over to the EC to consider the political implications. Kevin said the BRE press release is expected imminently. We should publish that comment on EASA FTL. The other earlier texts sent in to ESAM are already a done deal and probably don't require publishing.

About calendar of other congresses: Claudia has sent the DGRLM dates, Roland will send AMABEL dates, anyone else should put their meetings also on the ESAM calendar. Most AME's will use Google search to check for when a congress is held according to Jürgen. Which brought Patricia back to the point, who do we want to visit our website. Paolo will contact the societies inviting to send the dates of any meeting.

Kevin gave a detailed summary of the website document delivery system that addresses the issue of notification of new documents. The spam filters are killing the attachments when trying to disseminate documents.

Lilla spoke about the photo competition that needs to be addressed.

14. Contacts

Invitation Annette Ruge for next ESAM EC

ECA

Next Interstate Aviation Committee

Annette Ruge was unanimously invited by the EC for the next meeting for one day. Roland will send her an official mail.

Ries will contact ECA in Brussels, in order to carry on contacts between ESAM and ECA.

Roland felt we should be present at the next Interstate Aviation Committee meeting. Elena will act as conduit. Declan will represent the AB and give a presentation. Jürgen and Vincent may be able to attend. Roland will be there and represent the EC.

15. Varia

Photographer

Each host should take the responsibility of the photos from the EC meeting.

16. Next meeting

The time of the next EC - AB meeting is at Dublin on 13-14th October 2012. Declan will arrange it and communicate location and lodging information as soon as possible.

The meeting was closed by President Roland Vermeiren.

Budapest, 30th June 2012

Declan Maher
AB Secretary

Paolo Tosco
EC Secretary General