



Minutes of the ESAM Executive Committee Meeting Naples (Italy) on 18th - 19th February 2012

Place: Royal Continental Hotel – Naples (Italy)

Time: 18th February 09:15 - 19:00
19th February 09:25 - 11:45

Persons present:

Roland Vermeiren, Elena Cataman, Kevin Herbert, Paolo Tosco, Carla Ledderhos, Lilla Ungváry, Patricia Jung, Uwe Stüben, Declan Maher, Anthony Wagstaff, Lars Tjensvoll, Vincent Feuillie. Ries Simons sent apologies for inability to attend.

The meeting was opened by President Roland Vermeiren.

Projector offered at €2400 for the duration of the meeting and declined. A discussion about purchasing a projector was settled when Declan offered to bring his projector to the EC AB meetings on a trial basis.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda of the present meeting was accepted and approved.

Dr .Patricia Jung was introduced to the EC - AB and presented a brief summary of her CV. She had been proposed “in locum parentis” for Dr. Andreas Adrian who was unable to attend in recent times. An expression of goodwill was made by the assembly to Andreas.

2. Approval of the minutes of the EC & GA meetings in Bucharest

The minutes of the EC meeting in Bucharest, 14th September 2011 and those of the GA in Bucharest, 16th September 2011 were approved by the EC.

3. Registration new Statutes in Germany

Carla described the requirement for the registration of the new statutes. Two members of the EC must go to the notary. This can be the president and, or the two vice presidents, or allow the delegation of other members. Roland can go anywhere in Europe and see a notary, then Carla can access a local notary and the signatures can be sent to Cologne, but we now have a change in the EC and this has to be recorded. He will go to Brussels with a copy of both the old and new statutes and the minutes of the GA and the registration of ESAM, as held by Paolo. Carla briefed the EC with the requirements.

The logistics were teased out. This will be a cumbersome task to be repeated all the time on each election. Kevin said ESAM needed to have the high level of proof of registration in the early years, but perhaps the new president could look at a new system to be considered. ESAM should continue to be registered and also to have insurance when we will need protection against a claim for damages etc.

A discussion followed about the various forms of insurance that are available and which types would be appropriate. E.g. Personal Liability for the President and the two vice presidents as these are the only individuals sanctioned to speak on behalf of ESAM. Public Liability Insurance could be sought for meetings.

Roland said there might be a need for the Treasurer and the registration to be in the same country. There is no hunger to make a change, but if the rules become too onerous, then a move could be considered. Uwe suggested it can be put in the statutes that there is a decision that one person is appointed as a delegate of the EC as per the protocol that is drawn up here today. Only this documented right is given to the delegate.

Decision: Uwe will explore Accidental and Personal liability Insurance. A final decision will be based on the results.

Kevin referred to the old statutes that are extant. Andreas is being replaced by Patricia for the remaining period until the next GA, when her nomination will be added to the notary.

4. GA 2011 and virtual GA with electronic voting

Practical organisation (attendance, last minute problems with voting)

Electronic vote President-elect and 2nd Auditor

Roland said we need to start up the electronic voting system again for the new EC. The deadline is September 2012. Kevin noted that if the notary doesn't support the electronic voting system, then it has major implications for the working of the GA and the voting.

Roland thanked Lilla and Kristoffer for their input making the electronic voting a successful procedure. Paolo will contact the societies for contact details every three months. More than one contact person can be offered by member organizations. We should make available more information about events and non confidential information regarding the EC. Dissemination of the information via the website is most efficient.

Decision. Current methods:

- 1) Paolo will chase contacts, every three months by sending a reminder.
- 2) Contacts update from a drop down list on the website with hyperlink to allow correction.
- 3) Carla will need to update the contact details for billing members.

A unanimous vote for Kevin a president elect and David Doyle as second auditor was recorded.

A review of the electronic voting procedure took place. Lilla pointed out that the head of the nomination committee needs to be very precise and that there should be a clear process. Kevin said it should be the head of the Nomination Committee who organizes an efficient vote, known in advance, whether it is real or virtual.

It worked well. There was one complaint that a representative ran out of time to vote. The representative should be able to delegate to another member. Kevin made it clear that delegation can be by proxy, the standard form still needs to be produced. If electronic voting is not brought in, then there will be a requirement for proxy voting.

Decision: Kevin will present the electronic voting and proxy update in his blog to update and include Lilla's role.

5. Advisory Board

AB report

Activities / position papers: FTL position text / insulin proposal / scientific ESAM Journal online (+ report E-Journal meeting 17 February at 18:00 in the hotel)

Space medicine subgroup

Appointment AB members

Ries was unable to attend the meeting but had prepared a comprehensive statement about insulin treated pilots that was discussed at length and in great detail. This has been detailed in the AB Report.

Paolo will contact Prof. Stollo requesting the addendum on the paper. The proposal for a dedicated AeMC per country for these applicants has been made.

The first comment related to the issue of “tight” versus “loose” glucose control; the cardiovascular risk paradox, along with the ethical issues of exposing the pilot to potential risk set by a regulation rather than therapeutic indication. The second comment was the need for the other crew to know what to do and what to watch out for in the insulin dependent pilot. Type 1 may be motivated to tighter control, better monitoring and compliance probably, compared to the Type 2 group.

EASA has already accepted to consider the use of insulin, asking Roland to re-write the text on endocrinology. It is probably not a question of “If” the change will occur, but “How” to implement the change.

The EC debated the input of specialist medical advice to EASA to assist in its rule making/AMC tasks.

Disappointment was expressed that EASA had not allocated any funding for such external expertise, despite being a large and well-funded body

Views were expressed that such advice should be withheld unless it was paid for. The opposing view expressed felt that to do this risked being marginalised, at a time when ESAM has achieved some influence.

It was acknowledged that ESAM is not in a position to fully fund the breadth of advice required. A suggestion was made to build up a fund for such advice. It was acknowledged that the ultimate responsibility for poor regulation rests with EASA, and that ESAM should maintain its independence as an advisor. Any advice given by ESAM should be based on a review of the best available science, and/or on access to a wide range of expert opinion. Scientific data are needed to improve the regulation.

Roland requested papers on anti-coagulation; diabetes; epilepsy; consequences of sudden incapacitation, its probability and on risk assessment for aero-medical decision making (the 1% rule). FTL for medical emergency operations (airplanes and helicopters) should be considered.

Reference was made to last night's meeting headed by Prof Jürgen Graf. In summary; initially there will be no journal, but a group that will assist those who wish to be published, but have not the access or experience to do this, The aim would be to allow publishing in the Blue Journal, and start by a review of the publish status in Europe by year, state and topic.

Uwe retired from the AB committee and has proposed Prof. Jürgen Graf to take up the role of vice chairman.

Roland proposed Ries as Chair, Declan as Secretary and Jürgen Graf as Vice Chair to the AB committee, and Vincent as an additional member of the AB from SOFRAMAS.

Roland proposed, Kevin seconded and the EC accepted.

6. GA & ECAM 2012

Update ECAM 2012 / website / flyers and posters

Search for candidates EC / co-opted members EC

Nomination Committee appointment & electronic voting

Kevin presented an overview of ECAM 3 highlighting the content of the weekend. There will be a progression in content from medicine in the most stable to the most extreme environments. The meeting will be opened by a government minister. Scientific abstracts will be presented. The content will be tailored to the papers submitted. The Gala dinner is sponsored by The Hyperbaric Association of Britain. On Sunday morning, there will be the space to allow the presentation of 17 abstracts. Declan will organize the scoring. The GA is a two hour slot during lunch, with a break for tea and coffee. It is possible to attend the GA free of costs, but lunch must be paid for. The space element is part-funded by AsMA. The meeting will finish with a brief panel discussion and close at 17:30.

Kevin outlined the protocol applied to papers/posters etc. Uwe offered the prize money for the paper presentations. Abstracts will be published on the website, but a discussion followed regarding the medium used to hand out the abstracts to attendees.

12 hours of accreditation points are anticipated. Roland asked that Elena, Kevin and Ries will look at the accreditation of points as a base and then forward it to the CMO subgroup for their assessment. Elena suggested inviting all non-resident UK AME's to ECAM as a refresher conference with 12 hours

In parallel and for the partners, there will be a guided tour of Westminster Abbey with lunch, then free time until the Gala dinner. On Sunday, there will be a bus to London for free time. Further details are available on the dedicated website already in place. Insurance cover is in place. No sponsorship to date. ESAM, BHA, AAME offered to sponsor the drinks reception.

Roland invited the members of the EC to consider their positions as candidates in the upcoming GA election for the new EC. The new EC may consider co-opting members such as Roland, as Liaison officer to EASA; and Elena, as Liaison officer to the IAC and Eastern Countries.

The former Nomination Committee remains extant as no new committee was proposed at the last GA due to oversight. A discussion followed about how to rectify the deficit with a number of options proposed, including an extra-ordinary GA.

Decision: Kevin will highlight this issue in the Blog, and Paolo will forward an invitation to dissent to all societies. A period of two weeks will follow awaiting a response. In the absence of dissent, the extant Nomination Committee will continue to function.

Roland has started a timetable which includes which votes and appointments have to be made each year.

7. Budget

End fees 2011 and start 2012

Membership certificates

Carla presented an overview of the current budget and of the financial state of ESAM.

The EC should suspend members who have not paid in past two years.

Kevin as per the statutes, write a letter to the concerned members advising of suspension in the absence of mitigating circumstances, within the period of one month, and payment of the fee. The letter will be signed by Roland. Carla will double check the fees.

All agreed that Mr. Seppe Celis be paid his fees and commented on the quality of his work and a willingness to continue to engage his services to ESAM.

Roland will await the report of the auditors to be returned to him on behalf of the EC. Kevin asked if there will be a tax liability. Carla said that we will be notified when we need to forward the accounts.

Decision: The accounts have been approved by the EC and they will now be sent down to the auditors in accordance with the statutes.

Carla showed the options of the membership certificates. Roland will be responsible for creating an electronic version and sign the certificates. Afterwards they can be sent out electronically by Carla.

Kevin said we are on target for the bank balance as per the financial plan in 2011. Keep the 2011 fees plan for 2012. Consider what the money ESAM has will be used for. Will it be as an assist for people to attend the ECAM? Lars and Anthony suggested that there be a support fund. The EC would investigate how individuals could apply for subvention if they present an accepted paper at ECAM. Elena pointed out that fees and salaries vary across Europe. The criteria for subvention need to be established.

CAMA would apply in the near future for associated membership. The Baltic States and Portugal were contacted to apply to ESAM, but are not yet ready The Ukraine and Belarus groups are still considering membership. Elena and Paolo pointed out some of the issues that have presented difficulties to progress for these groups.

8. EASA

Review group & expert

Meeting Medical Group

Debriefing 3 ESSI groups

Roland presented an overview of the current review group Part Med and expert group for cl3 ATCO. For this purpose Roland asked for the presentation of Elena on the mutual recognition of refresher training across Europe.

After each SSCC Roland publishes a summary. Rulemaking could be carried out in future by stake-holder groups under EASA supervision, but Annette Ruge has stated that this will remain the preserve of EASA for medical issues. A long discussion about the mechanisms at play and their implications in the rule making process ensued.

There will be no central database due to many national differences in definitions of unfitness.

A European medical textbook for aviation is very unlikely at short term.

Roland clarified the position regarding him at the Medical Expert Group (MEG). Uwe and Jürgen will represent ESAM as Roland represents Eurocontrol in the MEG.

Anthony (EHEST ESAM Representative) gave a briefing on the history and development of the safety systems with a goal to reduce the accident rate by 80% in 10 years from 2006 to 2016. The International Helicopter Safety team, IHEST works with that group through EASA. There has been a slight reduction in accidents, but now have to look at why it has not been as

dramatic. Every country in the world is expressing interest in being involved in this process. The subgroups work very hard and come at the problem from many angles. We need to be more than just the observers at such a group. We would need to be active in the subgroups. What is our mandate? What is our expertise? What should our involvement be?

Lars spoke about the work of ECAST. In 2005, the ECAST looked at the areas where input was needed. They are trying to find out how to work with agreements and all the participants have signed a pledge that they will take the information back to the industry and implement them. Lars proposed that the EC and The AB to look into the safety plan framework. They have five issues. If we have medical experts relating to these issues then we can move forward. Elena led a discussion regarding human factors in incidents and the need for their recognition.

Roland mentioned the European Human Factors Advisory Group (EHFAG), do they have experts? Anthony put the question, "How do these groups achieve what they do?" Do we apply their processing techniques to our work? Maybe we should set up subgroups for us to work in? E.g. on fatigue. Is it of value? These people are very well educated. We could discuss the concepts of changing our protocols and ask if they thought that they are of use. I think we need to engage with the pilots. Standards should have to do more with the function and the operational input of the medical issue in the pilot's activity.

Roland asked Anthony and Lars to find mechanisms that could be useful to ESAM and how we could engage in this process

EGAST sub group report not available.

Decision: Patricia will report on the next meeting. Anthony said the paradox is that we don't have anyone to be there about LAPL.

9. AsMA

ESAM Scientific Meeting during AsMA Congress in Atlanta May 2012

AsMA / ESAM lunch

Publicity in the Blue Journal / committees & luncheons flyer

Future participation AsMA during congresses

Representative from AsMA

With the exception of Lilla and Paolo the EC-AB will be in Atlanta. Roland confirmed details of speakers etc. have been forwarded to Seppe. Prof Felice Strollo will attend AsMA only if the cost can be shared between ESAM and The Italian society.

Since lunch food from the hotel is very expensive, we will bring typical (and acceptable to the customs) food from our countries to the meeting, but beverages will be bought by ESAM.

The publicity for the ESAM scientific meeting at AsMA will be published in the April (congress) issue.

Roland asked Hans to set up again the very useful annual lunch of AsMA and ESAM leaders to discuss further collaboration especially since the AsMA congress in Europe has been deferred.

We have invited AsMA to confirm who the representative to ESAM will be.

10. Training

Input of conferences to the CMO Forum

Elena presented the current status of the syllabus, now referred to as the Learning Objectives. The document is very good. The only issue is that the ATCO and cabin crew component might require some experience of their working environment. The new ICAO Competency based training is the way forward. The new regulations including AME training will be more rigid under EASA than under the JAR.

We will see how to use the ICAO syllabus as a base line. A discussion followed regarding the role of ESAM in training and where the emphasis should be. Roland said we can offer technical advice, but the European process means that our advice can or cannot be taken into consideration. It was agreed that we should continue to make statements regarding our concerns, e.g. about LAPL and GMP, not to do so equates to agreement. A discussion about private health care ensued.

Decision: Elena was asked to draw up a statement detailing the concept of the full medical file and the basic level of training that is required to examine for the LAPL. Elena, Uwe, Anthony, the French University representative will meet in early April to draw up a statement of the competences required by AME's. Dr. Tony Bachelor, the head of training in aviation medicine in UK and other ESAM members will be invited for the meeting. The final EASA review of the text will be by January 2013.

Anthony suggested setting up a survey of the impact on flight safety with the introduction of LAPL. Consider the use of training for GPs to assist them. Uwe expressed concern that everyone is waiting to get the training for AME, because doctors think they don't need it anymore. Most of the Class 2 will revert to LAPL and get the medical by the GP. Elena will look at the safety data and the impact by changes such as the introduction of the NPPL.

Roland said ECAM is now included as an acceptable source of training, but no refresher courses submitted yet by the national associations to get the accreditation points equally accepted throughout Europe.

Decision: Paolo will write to the national associations asking them to seek European accreditation of their refresher courses by sending them to ESAM. This should also be highlighted at the website.

11. Website

Status debriefing

Publication external papers

Lilla spoke of how the website is hit and used by the members. The search items are there to assist in planning for the future. She is open to ideas as to how it can be developed including opening up to the public and plans to have a photo competition and offer prizes. Lilla presented a summary of a proposal from a free-lance journalist interested in working for ESAM. A discussion followed regarding the merits and perils of engagement with the media. Kevin said we have good communication with the people that we need to speak to. Elena felt we should invest in the website. A discussion followed regarding the ramifications of media involvement. We need to set up someone to be that speaker with media training and have the sanction of the EC to respond to an invitation to the media. They should have media training.

Decision: Lilla will propose a communications plan.

Discussion took place of the type of issues that can be published and their location on the website. These papers do not reflect the views of ESAM. We should develop criteria that dictate what can be published.

Decision: Ask Ries “what the criteria would be in the AB for publication on the website?”

We should start a glossary in all published texts in order to find back in future which discussions were held and decisions already made, via a software search system.

12. Contacts

ECA: next meeting

Interstate Aviation Committee

Roland offered to invite ECA Representative to the next 3rd ECAM.

Sergei will come to 3rd ECAM as IAC Representative according to Kevin. No formal contact yet.

13. Next meeting

The time of the next EC - AB meeting on the 30th June – 1st July in Budapest (Hungary). Lilla will arrange it and communicate location and lodging information as soon as possible.

Kevin will travel to ICASM in Melbourne, Australia.

Special gratitude was unanimously and warmly expressed to Prof. Uwe Stüben with thanks for all his efforts over the years.

The meeting was closed by the President Roland Vermeiren.

Naples, 19th February 2012

Declan Maher
AB Secretary

Paolo Tosco
EC Secretary General