

# Minutes of the ESAM Executive Committee Advisory Board Committee Meeting

## Dublin (Ireland) 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

**Location:** The Gresham Hotel, Dublin, Ireland.

**Time:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 09:00-18:10, 14<sup>th</sup> October 09:15-12:12.

**Officers present:** Roland Vermeiren, Kevin Herbert, Elena Cataman, Carla Ledderhos, Lilla Ungváry, Patricia Jung, Ries Simons, Declan Maher and latterly Vincent Feuillie. Apologies from Hans Pongratz, Jurgen Graff and Annette Ruge.

Dr. Paolo Tosco was absent due to health issues. Email was duly sent to Paolo wishing him a speedy recovery.

Jurgen Graff sent his apologies as he was on annual leave and unable to attend.

The meeting was opened by the President Roland Vermeiren at 09:00.

**1. Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

### **2. Approval of the Minutes.**

Roland thanked Paolo and Declan for generating the minutes for the EC-AB meeting in Budapest. Kevin had a copy for review in Paolo's absence. The minutes were accepted

### **3. Membership.**

Roland reported on our attendance at the CCAMC in Kiev, Ukraine. They are keen to join ESAM and Elena has offered to assist them in the formation of an association. Alexis told Declan that it was their strong intention to join ESAM and that he would be in London at the ECAM.

Iceland has been talking to Roland and although their number is too small to form an association, they can form a group that could join ESAM. Their unique position straddling the USA and Europe would be welcome.

To date there has been no communication from Portugal. Ries offered to make contact with the Portuguese. Kevin noted that three AME's from Kosovo will attend the ECAM and could join ESAM as a group. There has been no communication from NATO either. Elena made the point that we recognise all specialists from all countries independent of political status or position.

#### *4. Statutes.*

Roland presented a summary of the recent developments in the ongoing saga of seeking recognition of the new statutes. It was a long and convoluted affair that was steeped in complications. The final answer might take up to two years! As of the moment of the meeting, the “new statutes” were not operational. In their absence, electronic voting, President elect, co-opting, appointments etc were not possible and this would need to be acted upon at the GA. The ramifications and operational difficulties were teased out, all in the hope that they would not be needed and that the statutes would be incorporated in time for the electronic voting and for the GA.

Kevin told us of his discussion with Lars in Naples about the concept of statutes. There was a suggestion that the statutes would be a central set of rules acting like a spine, from which supporting documents acted out the practical implementation of the core statutes. In this manner, the statutes would be small in number and broad in detail allowing for them to remain unchallenged, whilst the associated documents would tease out the finer detail and were subject to the vagaries of the time or context where a change was required and requested by the body of ESAM. Roland agreed that this format could be much less cumbersome, but that the overall requirement for clarity and transparency was utmost for ESAM. Carla felt that such a structure may not be acceptable to the court in Germany.

#### *5 The Budget*

Carla made a presentation of the budget and the account status to date.

Summarised below:

ESAM has 44 Members right now: 35 Regular Members and 9 Associated Members

October 11th, 2012 ESAM had:

Savings account:           €49.484,19           Checking account:    €3.125,24

Total Assets:               €52.609,43

€19.788,00 Income and       €11.185,29 expenses for 2012 to date.

Seven regular member associations have not yet paid. They have until the 21<sup>st</sup> October to pay and therefore be entitled to vote. Six associated members have not yet paid their fees. A discussion involving particular issues relating to non-payment followed and it was agreed that every assistance would be offered so as to facilitate their ability to vote.

ASMA has given ESAM three free ads to date, this can act in lieu of payment.

Kevin pointed out that David is no longer a member of the committee of the SAAME (but may still be their ESAM liaison) and that Ramon’s position in Spain has changed. Neither will attend the GA. Can their report be submitted by email? Carla said she would forward the papers to them as auditors.

The accounts need to be signed off for the notaries.

There will be a projected loss of €12,000 for this year to date, and could be as much as €20,000 once all expenses are included, according to Kevin. The purpose of the membership fee was to support the biennial ECAM, but what is more important; membership or the account balance? A discussion around next year's fees covered a pro-rata reduction, suspension of the fee or capping the fee. A vote settled the debate with a fee per declared member at €10 discounted to €7.50 for early payment for the year 2013.

Lilla and Ries suggested a survey of the members asking what they want from ESAM and perhaps address this in the Communications Meeting provisionally set for the new year. According to Roland, the AME numbers may be dropping from over 4000 to much less across Europe. ESAM needs to be able to represent the larger number of AME's to remain a credible body that needs to be heard. Next February, the Secretary General will send an invoice for the annual fees based on the declared membership which can be corrected by the member association.

#### **6. Nominations:**

##### Contact list

Paolo and Carla had worked on the Contact list in the recent past and have produced an active contact list that was used for the invitation to participate in the electronic vote for the new EC. There had been some historical difficulties making contact with some societies, but new contacts have been established. Kevin highlighted the need for a complete contact list available immediately in advance of the electronic vote.

Concerns were expressed about elements of the website and its function. It was decided that Kevin would contact Kristoffer directly and request a copy of emails sent to Lilla, in the event that there was a breakdown in message delivery. A number of issues that required clarification and correction was drawn up and discussed with Kristoffer.

##### Voting.

Elena said we need to send down a letter explaining how to vote electronically, using a copy of Kevin's election summary. Carla asked to send the invitation to vote with a read receipt. Kevin explored the possibility of the electronic system failing, leading to the need to do it at ECAM, but will there be enough present to vote? According to the statutes, we can extend the period of voting.

A discussion regarding the merits and pitfalls of both electronic voting and voting from the floor followed. Concern was expressed that candidates should be presented who are willing to work with and for the EC and it is favourable that people seeking high office should have working experience of the EC in advance of such an application.

Break for Lunch at 13:10

We were joined by Dr. Tom Gaffney CMO of the Irish Aviation Authority.

The meeting re-convened at 14:15

### **7. GA 2012**

Kevin gave a presentation of the ECAM programme. The meeting will start at 09:00 on Saturday and continue to 17:00 on Sunday. There will be six presentations on Saturday afternoon to be chaired by Declan, and two sessions of five on Sunday morning before the Space session. Attendance at the GA is free and open to all ESAM members. Elena asked that an invitation letter be sent to all member associations requesting their input. Lilla agreed to do this. The GA will be held on Sunday from 12:15 to 14:15. Due to the fact that neither Gabor nor Simone will be present, Declan will request a report. When Lilla stands down as Communications Director, she can then present the Nomination report as an ordinary member. Until Paolo's return, Declan will act as Interim Secretary General. The Agenda for the GA was generated so as to be available in accordance with the statutes. The Auditors' report for 2011 is required for the GA. A new Nomination Committee for the election of Auditors and the President Elect will be required. Ries spoke of the need to consider the future position of the ECAM in light of the current and recent experiences.

### **8. ECAM 3 2012**

Kevin presented a report of the current status and of the number of delegates registered. He expressed concern and surprise at the low number of delegates from outside the UK. Details of the costs and projections of shortfalls and their financial implications were delivered. Further negotiations would be needed to reduce the cost burden from the existing contract. From all accounts, a late surge is common and should be anticipated. The remaining concern was of the magnitude of that surge that is required! Elena said there were some issues involving visa procurement and that some intending delegates were unable to get clearance in time.

This ECAM will have the highest number of delegates of any ECAM yet. There will be a satellite room available for various functions. There will be an overall loss to be carried for the lower numbers than expected. The attendance certificates will be issued at the end of the meeting on Sunday and no duplicates will be given. Each delegate will have a colour coded badge for the days they are attending and have tickets attached. To date, there has been a response from only two sponsors. Ries said the Scientific Committee will sponsor, in part, five delegates from Russia at €300 each. This will cover the delegate fee and the Gala dinner, but they will need to pay flights and accommodation. Kevin knew of ten who might seek support. Ries will send a letter to those whose abstract has been accepted by the Scientific Committee.

### **9 Advisory Board.**

Ries gave a report on recent activities of the AB. If Declan is successful in his candidature, there will need to be a new representative on the AD committee. Consideration of a number of candidates followed with a view to having a committee of five, where the Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary would attend the EC meetings.

He continued with the concept that everyone would stay onboard and remain active. We need to become inclusive of the other large states such as Spain, Italy, Sweden, Poland etc. It is a bit static at present. We have some new approaches. There was a problem regarding anti-

coagulation which Rene will take up, he offered to look at the 1% rule. Ries suggested we look at it with AsMA. He has asked a Dutch neurologist to consider a report on Epilepsy and then find a group to follow that up, Ries presented on Diabetes at the FAA course in Berlin. Roland said that we must keep in mind that some of the funds might be needed to pay for expert services. Ries suggested it as a “thank you” gesture. We are waiting on the response from Felix regarding the Metabolic Syndrome. The EASA review group for part MED have not accepted the new anti-coagulants. Kevin suggested consideration of Anthony regarding the 1% rule. Ries agreed, Tunstall Pedoe and followed by Stuart Mitchell both wrote good papers on the 1% rule. Poussin says that the trend now is towards absolute risk. Again the legal concepts arose.

Future ECAMs might include a morning session that would deal with current issues in a similar way as the Wiesbaden group model, followed by the GA over lunch and the formulation of a policy in the afternoon session. This would lead to a purpose to, and a product from, the ECAM . Most experts don't require CME points!

A review of the recent debacle regarding the Position paper on Diabetes included a request for dissenters to make their concerns heard through the AB. A possible change to the rules regarding Diabetes and insulin has been put on hold. There is no urgency due to the current political position.

1. If you have new data send it to the AB.
2. We welcome your rep on the AB that will prevent the undermining of the opinion.

[ESAM journal](#),

Ries sees no point for a meeting in ECAM 3, as Jurgen will not be there. Analysis of the product out of Europe is needed first as suggested by Anthony at the EC-AB in Budapest. We will see about setting up a new meeting.

[Space Medicine](#)

Ries: I will see Claudio to produce a paper on Space Tourism. Roland said that EASA will look to America for the basis of the rule rather than commission their own. Ries said the rule making process refers to pilots rather than the passengers! Also all of this is still experimental. I'll send the paper to the EC, SOFRAMAS and the Belgians who are working on cardiology.

**10. Training.**

Roland: Our curriculum has been accepted by EASA. Competence based training will be considered at the next meeting.

**11.EASA**

Review group. Question of whether or not IDP can be accepted. EASA will probably wait for ICAO before changing the Rule. Patricia spoke about ESAM representation problems at the ESSI group EGAST:

- Language barriers.
- The absence of new medical issues.

- Human factors are more of an issue.
- Organic pathology was included.

Elena questioned the use of OTC medication? There is a difficulty getting data according to the different legal structures found across Europe.

Roland spoke of Lars frustration with the ECAST group. How does Anthony feel? Pat said that although we have little impact/influence being there, it is beneficial to be present. Patricia will stay. Roland invited her to write a report.

### SSCC

Debrief by Roland. There are moves to decrease the number of full members of the SSCC. There is no representative for General Aviation. EASA wants SSCC to become more active and representative. We might need someone to come in and act in the different SSCC-subcommittees. We would need a medical input in Aerodromes. Dr Gaber from Fraport (Frankfurt Airport) could be this person. Also somebody is needed in the flight-standards subcommittee. There are a few other areas where we could be active in the future. Elena spoke about the area of Emergency Planning. Annex 14, technical requirements which includes the medical standards. Without such involvement, Europe runs the risk of losing the skill sets to determine the passengers who are fit to fly etc. Roland will host the next meeting of the SSCC workgroup at EUROCONTROL, which will make proposals to EASA to review its structure.

### Human Factors.

No contact from the group to Ries. He has seen all the information from Elena. He will re apply directly.

### *12. CMO Forum.*

The MEG will incorporate in future the members from the CMO forums. The CMO forum will probably disband after the Zagreb meeting on 12 and 13 November.

Currently, 10 hours have been offered for ECAM, AsMA and ICASM. Ultimately, it is the national authority who sets the accreditation, not EASA.

Adjourned at 18:10 Meeting again tomorrow at 09:00.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012.**

Present, as Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

### **13. AsMA. 2013**

Ries said we need to consider another topic other than “The ageing pilot” as this is being covered at AsMA.. Martin Hudson is setting up two panels panel at AsMA. Roland will be in the “alcohol and drugs” panel. Ries might represent ESAM on the “ageing pilot” panel as he has produced a report on ageing.

Kevin suggested “The dust settles: Do we have white-out?” an overview of the biggest change in regulation at the end of the first year of implementation of EASA. Roland could present the regulatory changes and Kevin could speak of the impact at the AME level, including casework. What will be the impact if a state does not implement the change? He would have an example of casework. Ries said we could invite a view from the FAA. We could also ask Stuart Mitchell to speak about risk analysis and the 1% rule.

Lilla asked to include consideration of laser therapies in Ophthalmology with the implications of such therapies in the near future. Kevin spoke of Claudia’s presentation in Bonn and suggested asking her to speak.

ESAM representation.

Hans has recovered and is interested to continue. He might not be in Alexandria. It is important that there is a strong international involvement. Roland will be a candidate for Vice President of AsMA International Services.

Blue Journal.

Nothing new to report.

### **14. Academy.**

Melbourne.

Kevin reported on the recent ICASM in Melbourne. The attendance from Europe was low, but there was a huge representation from the Australian AME’s. Most of them had not been at a large international meeting before and they enjoyed it. The conference was extremely well organised. The content was good, pitched at the regular AME. The Ernsting panel was the highlight, training pilots in hypoxia i.e. whether, or not, the simulation training was reproducible with the same symptoms seen again. The social element was fantastic. The cost was high at \$2k only for the conference. He was presented his medal for the Academy. Tracy Smart, Commodore in the Australian AF was awarded the Order of Australia. There was a large input from China. The presentations were fine tuned, but there was no opportunity for questions. If we could forge our links with Russia and develop links with China it would be seen as a new position for ESAM. Having a joint conference with China in the future would be a unique position. The aviation mores in China is developing in aviation safety etc. Consider how to develop the links at the Strategy Meeting in the New Year.

IAASM.

Roland spoke about the history of the ECAM and the ICASM, noting the need to avoid conflict. Consideration should be made to the idea of merging our congresses but that might realistically be at least five years away, given the experience of the combined AsMA ECAM which is now shelved.

Coffee Break 10:50

### ***15. Website. Lilla's report.***

Expressed happiness of her experience over the past four years and opened doors to a new way of life for her. She referenced Kevin's blog. Giving a personal approach and a little bit of fun. Hope that others will follow through. The site has increasing hits. We need to be able to analyse the statistics from the site. Include the web report at the GA. It was acknowledged the huge amount of work that Lilla did. Kevin said It was a tribute to Lilla that AsMA felt that their website was tired and so revamped it on seeing the ESAM site. Kris is an excellent activator and Lilla an excellent theorist. Patricia and Lilla will communicate by Skype for the handover. Use not only text, but other media needed as well. Consider the use of "apps" for ways to get others involved, to update calendars, etc. Kevin said we need to have a members' registered area, to get the information to the member rather than just to the Association contact. You can configure it so that when a new event/blog is set, it alerts the members of the content update.

### ***Photo competition.***

We have one entry! Kevin will need seven days notice to set a prize.

In the early phase of the new EC, the Communications Director, President and Webmaster should meet and have talks about what is expected. There are issues that need to be addressed. Lilla asked where the demarcation was between the role of the Secretary General and Communications Director? The contact lists need to be managed by one person and annually updated. Roland said there should be a single activities, courses and congresses calendar that can be linked from all sites. This may be done by the MEG as it includes the CMOs.

### ***16. Contacts.***

Invitation to Annette Ruge to attend the next meeting.

ECA link to be followed up.

### ***Debrief of Interstate Aviation Committee, Kiev (KKAMC32)***

Roland gave a presentation at KKAMC. One discussion was on the AME training. They had difficulty with duration of the training programme citing their six month module. Kevin said there is a more pragmatic approach in Europe, to match the requirement of the job. In Russia the role is different. There will be a resistance from academies and universities, but there is interest from certain sectors. In Hungary the rule will be sought for a 4 year training and exam. So Gabor opened it up. Elena said we will produce a summary of the KKAMC meeting. Declan



said we should put the presentations on the web and a diary of the week as a synopsis of the meeting. Roland and Elena will give a two day presentation at the university in Kiev.

### *17. Next Meeting:*

Next meeting: Location not set. ? Germany 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013.

### *18. Varia*

Co-opting of East and AsMA representatives. To be addressed in accordance with the new statutes on their implementation.

Insurance.

Kevin said Accidental damage will be inexpensive; professional statement liability would be expensive

Moscow Congress invitation for November 2012. Regrettably, no one can attend

Dr. Anthony Wagstaff Sr. Notice of his recent sudden death and expression of sympathy for Anthony and his extended family.

Roland stated that this was the last time that he would chair and close a meeting. He thanked all present and all that had worked with him in the past. He told us how he had enjoyed the experience over the past six years and how he looks forward to working with the new EC in the future.

Meeting closed 12:12

### *Addendum*

Since this meeting, it has come to pass that Paolo's condition was more serious than we ever expected. Hind sight holds great clarity! In Dublin, we missed his presence, but we had no idea that we would miss him more and never again be in his company. He has brought a passion, a viewpoint and a warmth that was unique.

Having worked with Paolo on the minutes over the years, I feel a great loss and sadness in his passing. He was both generous and magnanimous in his references to my input. It is my deepest regret that I was not able to pay my respects in person.

We are all doctors, used to the fragility of life and the potential immediacy of death, but his passing has touched us all, as children, we have lost a brother. Many have said it already; we are all physicians, scientists and regulators... but more than that, we are all, family.

Declan Maher.

Interim Secretary General, ESAM.