

# **Minutes of the ESAM Executive Committee meeting in Duesseldorf on 22 Jan 2008**

Place: Carat Hotel – Dusseldorf.

Time: 10.15 a.m. – 19.30 p.m.

Persons present: Roland Vermeiren, Elena Cataman, Lilla Ungvary, Paolo Tosco, Hans-Werner Teichmüller, Kevin Herbert, Ioannis Diamantopoulos, Uwe Stueben, Ries Simon, 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 inaugural EC meeting in Budapest 15/11/2008

The minutes were approved.

## 3. Membership status

The EC unanimously approves the AsMA request to become ESAM associated member. The AsMA welcome e-mail will be sent by Paolo, who will also send a welcome e-mail to the Austrian Academy of Aviation Medicine, as a regular member.

Future membership of national associations was discussed, as the EC is cautious about the possibility of multiple small organisations in a country being established in the future in order to increase influence in ESAM by increasing voting capacity. It was agreed that the EC has the decision making power to admit or refuse admission to new members, and would ensure that new organisations were truly representative of a sector of the aerospace community.

Ioannis will check the European rules regarding national representation.

The EAG (NATO-Military) Cyprus and Swiss Society associations remain on “stand-by” at present time.

CAMA would be acceptable as associated member only, due to its predominant USA membership.

The excel spread-sheet will be updated by Paolo with new members.

Certificates of Membership (Paolo), Flyers and Posters (Roland) would be available at the next AsMA congress.

A paper certificate will be issued to members on joining, but subsequent certificates will be sent in an electronic format.

#### 4. Budget

At the present time the fee for regular members is 5 euro for each paid member of the national association or body, and 200 euro for associated members. There is a need to match ESAM's real expenditure with its income, in a manner which does not adversely affect the very small, or larger member organisations. In order to achieve this, the EC decided to explore the possibility a new fee system based on a sliding scale. An "ad hoc" Working Group (Ries, Elena, Kevin, Hans, Ioannis) will consider the options and present these to the EC in the first instance.

ESAM lapel pins continue to be available for 5 euros.

The potential for a liability to German "income tax" will be clarified by Hans-Werner.

Ries will explore the possibility of getting an EU grant, regarding a specific ESAM activity.

EC authorises Roland, Hans, Paolo and Lars to change the bank (from Dresdner to Deutsche), due to more favourable account charges and the presence of branches all over Europe. This is in response to the recommendation of the auditors.

#### 5. Archiving

All documents of ESAM (paper and electronic) have been sent by Hans Pongratz to the new Secretary General Paolo. They will be kept by him, according to Statutes.

#### 6. ESAM Candidates

The EC appointed the following representatives:

AsMA: Hans Pongratz – alternative (alt) Ioannis Diamantopoulos.

ESSI (European Strategic Safety Initiative)

- ECAST: Lars Tjensvoll – alt. Ries Simon
- EGAST: Uwe Stueben (only for one year) – alt Uwe Beiderwellen
- EHEST: Antony Wagstaff – alt. Hans-Dieter Marwinski (unanimously proposed by two German Associations)

#### 7. Contacts

EASA: Final comments by national association or individuals should be sent to EASA by the end of February 2009. Comments by specialists, the opinion of experts, may influence the decisions of EASA. ESAM needs to consider its future actions if the submissions of evidence, particularly the risk assessments undertaken by the ESAM Advisory Board specialists in

Wiesbaden (August 2008) are not taken into account. These highlight the potential for a risk to flight safety if aero-medical risk assessments are undertaken by 'general medical practitioners' with no expertise or training in aviation medicine. ESAM should seek publication in a professional journal, but may need to seek publication in the wider media, and may need to consider any other options to exert its influence..

Ries was asked, and agreed to prepare an article for publication, with the assistance of Kevin, Uwe, Declan and Ioannis , concerning the proposal for medical standard in the NPA, in particular the LAPL, and the possible impairment of flight safety. This will be presented at next AsMA Congress in Los Angeles (USA).

Similar articles might be published on each national press.

Harmonisation of accreditation: The EC is of the unanimous view that accredited refresher training across all European states should be fully transferable i.e. the hours or points given to a course by the AMS in the country in which the training takes place, are recognised by every other AMS.

Safety Standard Consultative Committee. Lilla and Ioannis will liaise to get IFALPA and other groups such as the European Cockpit Association or Regional Airlines Association or Airlines themselves, to seek associate membership of ESAM in order to build effective links with these groups.

Roland and Kevin were asked to contact ICAO.

The EC identified Wolfgang Koestler as a potential point of contact into the CMO medical group of European CAAs. The President will write a letter to the chair of the group.

The EC thanked the editors of the Central European Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and in particular Lilla, for the publication of the ECAM abstracts in their scientific journal.

## 8. Congresses

At the AsMA Congress (Los Angeles USA 3-7 May 2009) ESAM will hold a meeting on Wednesday 6 May in the early afternoon. Roland, Uwe and Elena will try to organise an informal social event during the Congress..

Participation to NAMA (26-28 Aug 2009 Stockholm - Sweden) and ICASM (7-10 Sep 2009 Zagreb – Croatia) will be at the discretion of individual ESAM members who are attending as lecturers or observers.

At ICASM , ESAM will propose a panel to discuss training in aerospace medicine across Europe.

A Scientific Committee is established (Lilla, Paolo, Ioannis and Uwe) to discuss the structure, content and location of the 2010 ECAM. The financial details of the 2008 ECAM will be requested from the Hungarian Society.

9. CD-Rom's of ECAM will be prepared and delivered at next ESAM meeting.

## 10. Status of Training in aviation medicine

The active working group (Elena, Hans-Werner and Anthony, in cooperation with IAASM), will arrange a meeting in Frankfurt on 23 February 2009. All specialists involved in aviation medicine training in Europe are invited. The goal is to improve and harmonize the curriculum of training in aviation medicine and to create an ESAM approved 'model' curriculum for submission to EASA and to national CAAs.

## 11. Website management

It continues to be entrusted to Lars. The development of a "Members only" part was deferred as giving access rights to each individual member of the constituent organisations would be complex and time consuming.

## 12. Priorities for the EC in 2009-2010

- Contact with, and involvement of individual members of all member associations, were assessed as very difficult and probably not possible, because of the restrictions of Data Protection Laws.
- Financing ESAM: Sponsorships have been proposed, and will be discussed in next ESAM meeting.
- Website development for more contacts and newsflashes: problems, cases, news from ESAM members should be sent to President for publishing on website.
- Co-operation with AsMA, as noted earlier.

## 13. Work with the Advisory Board

Close contacts between AB and EC are needed. Conferences, like the Wiesbaden one in August 2008 might take place biannually at least. A meeting of the Advisory Board should be held in Nov 2009, during ESAM General Assembly, in order to discuss new developments, proposals for the new steering committee, and voting for Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary.

## 14. Planning of the General Assembly 2009

EC unanimously decided tentative date and site: Fri – Sat 6-7 Nov 2009 in Italy (Naples or Milan). Further details and decision will be agreed in next EC meeting.

## 15. Statutes

It is clear that some amendment may be needed to the ESAM statutes, agreed at the GA in Brussels in November 2007. Any proposed changes will need to be agreed and documented by the EC, and put to the General assembly. The present statutes allow for changes to be proposed and enacted in this manner, without the need for the involvement of a notary, but Hans-Werner will check our obligations under German law.

## 16. Task list/working group

The working groups agreed are listed in the minutes above.

## 17. Other business

Medical examinations for the cabin crew: Informally the EC is generally in favour, both for flight and passengers safety. It will need to respond formally to the NPA when this is published, and this will require a working group. This may present an opportunity to balance the pressures on AMEs caused by the LAPL, but any submission should be based on a firm evidence base, and avoid the bias of self interest. As part of this, we need to collate the experience of those nations who currently undertake regular occupational health assessments of cabin crew, and use the evidence of medical retirement from flight related occupational diseases, that they may have on record.

## 18. Next meeting

At Fawsley Hall Hotel and conference centre, close to Birmingham (UK) on 5 – 6 June 2009

Roland ended the meeting by thanking all the members and auditors of the present EC for their outstanding work.

Paolo Tosco  
Secretary General