



Executive Committee & Advisory Board Committee of ESAM  
meeting Aug 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> 2024  
(Observers welcome)

Time: Friday 14:00 - 18:00 CEST

EC-ABC 14:00 CEST

Saturday 10:00-16:00CEST

Venue: Casa dell'Aviatore, Rom

## MINUTES

Friday 14:00 – 18:00 CEST

### Attendees:

	Declan Maher	President	
	Elena Cataman	Co-Opted Member EC	
	Roland Vermeiren	Co-Opted Member EC	
	Diederik de Rooy	Member AB	
	Felice Strollo	Secretary General	
	Ries Simons	Chair AB	
	Anthony Wagstaff	Co-Opted Member EC	
	Marija Osinga	Member AB	
	Claudia Stern	Member AB	
	Francois Bernard	Director EC	
	Jochen Hinkelbein	President-Elect	
	Goran Bogdanovski	Communication Director	joined 14:15
	Francisco R. Tejada	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	joined 16:30 via Zoon
	Manuel Michno	ESAM Assistant	

1. **Welcome by the President**
  - a. The president welcomed the attendees and gave an overview of the organizational structure of ESAM as well as the current research projects of the organization
2. **Adoption of agenda**
3. **Draft minutes from the EC meeting in Eurocontrol**
  - a. Were discussed, no comments on them
4. **Overview / actions of previous EC meetings**
5. **Nominations Committee**
  - a. EC Elections 2024.
    - i. Election process for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president discussed (Vincent and Rui)
      1. Ophthalmologist (Dr. Krisztina Szabó; circle of experts Elena) discussed, Claudia told her experiences with her; maybe become co-opted member
      2. Elena: Lilla: Chairman of nomination committee: Kritzina and Suzana Konjevoda get notified by Declan,  
 → ACTION: Goran talks to Suzana and Krisztina
      3. Declan: concept of Co-opted member as internships.
    - ii. Co-opted members were discussed; Felice was suggesting becoming a co-opted member to make free space; no, he should stay for other two years
    - iii. Declan: other than that, we look good for the elections
6. Jochen takes over:
  - a. was present in EC for six years and he is happy to be back for the next two years; open for voting process and work with everyone
  - b. good mix between fresh wind and experience in the EC
  - c. Next two years: aviation medicine is going to change, that is why the next two years need a good reaction to those changes, AMEs and AMCs need good concepts for future → close partnership with ESAM academy; a lot of interest in becoming an AME
  - d. Number of courses is great but still not sufficient; one goal: to provide enough AME courses in the EU
  - e. Roland: field of aviation medicine is expanding; composition of EC and AB should change in the same way; he is happy that both Rui and Vincent are running for vice president; stresses the upcoming regulation for safety critical ground personnel; EASA is happy with existence of ESAM
  - f. Jochen: not just one focus, many things like space medicine and ground personnel; enlarge the topics ESAM is dealing with
  - g. Ries: more individual risk assessment, so AMEs need to learn another mindset
  - h. Anthony: explosion in young people going to space medicine, ESAM needs to take care of interests in those people too
  - i. Felice: giving talk to physiotherapists about space medicine
  - j. Jochen: in Anesthesiology is also huge interest in flying/aerospace medicine
  - k. Ries: Space Tourism is also getting a lot more important
  - l. Goran: European school of aerospace medicine: attracted pilots (not only doctors are target but also pilots are doctors)

7. GA 2024

- a. Declan: circulate the agenda in advance of the GA
- b. Roland: very little time on this GA, so maybe limit the number of presentations
- c. Also reports in the GA should be brief
  - i. President speech (Declan)
  - ii. Budget (Felix)
  - iii. ESAM Academy (Claudia)
  - iv. AB report
  - v. Election results including introduction time for candidates
  - vi. Questions?

**d. ACTION: TIMELINE ELECTION PROCESS**

8. ICAM 2024

- a. Organizing Committee
  - i. Rui and Portuguese organize very well, so no work for Declan and Roland
  - ii. Scientific and social program is ready
  - iii. Already 602 registrations, more than Paris at the same time had
  - iv. Ries for Rui: How register people that come for refresher course?
    - 1. Portuguese authorities should decide on the points and registration; ESAM is organizing the refresher course → so German authorities are responsible?! Portuguese should organize it
    - 2. Declan: ICAM carries 10 points itself; on top of that Marcos Miranda, national medical assessor Portugal, can assign points to the refresher
    - 3. Elena: already have the possibility for one-day-registration
    - 4. **ACTION: Declan talks with Rui about organizing the points: attendees have to buy one-day-ticket**
    - 5. Roland and Declan: 25 student attendees paid for by ESAM
    - 6. Academic dinner is sold out
- b. Scientific Committee
  - i. Claudia: program is finished; Portugal put together the program
  - ii. 200 abstracts + invited = total little below 300
  - iii. Digital Posters
  - iv. Already sent to European accreditation → everything well organized well in advance
  - v. Plagiarism was a problem → screening of all abstracts
- c. Issues still at play
  - i. Roland: next week there will be a meeting of the organizing committee discussing other topics, Declan will join
- d. Poster Award panel
  - i. Declan: traditionally it was Ries, Declan and Anthony
  - ii. **ACTION: Felice asks organizer to put posters on website**
- e. Next steps
- f. Gala Dinner: Declan will give the speech

9. ESAM Academy – update

- a. advanced course. Belgium
  - i. Claudia: this morning ESAM Academy meeting, Chaired by Ries; Course in cologne theoretical part finished, practical part will take place
  - ii. Prepared general assembly
  - iii. Members of the board were discussed

b. Combined Syllabus.

- i. Class 1 and 3 combined?! More hours of ATCO especially for practical part; thanks to Goran for supporting that from EuroControl
- ii. Also, could lead to new syllabus from EASA
- iii. Roland:
- iv. EC nominated to ESAM Academy Board:
  1. Ries Simons resigns as chair but is willing to stay on the board if useful
  2. Claudia Stern (Executive Director)
  3. Felix Strollo
  4. Anthony Wagstaff
  5. Elena Cataman
  6. Jochen Hinkelbein (president of ESAM, replacing Declan)
  7. Roland Vermeiren

10. AsMA meeting and collaboration.

a. Chicago May 2024 Report

- i. Jochen: used to be lunch meeting; maybe even do full panel sponsored by ESAM to be in the official program
- ii. Roland: should be highlighted in the addendum; pay a bit to have bigger letters, also attract people from outside of Europe
- iii. Declan: past, always topical but late....maybe in future earlier to make sure highlight of European panel is possible
- iv. Maybe both? Panel and lunch meeting?

b. Representation.

- i. Roland: Should ESAM contact past president to support Anthony's application for president-elect
- ii. Anthony: define an organization with two member categories. This can be done in different ways, only need 40-50 members; application process needs to be gone through
- iii. AsMA is 1/3 international, more organized for international members
- iv. Increasing interest of AsMA in international conferences.
- v. Anthony concludes that ESAM should construct an organization coupled to AsMA in council → Europeans more visible

c. Other representations:

- i. Roland → EASA
- ii. Declan → ICAO
- iii. Elena → Eastern Europe
- iv. Anthony → AsMA
- v. Paco → Academy

d. Goran: some group/committees members share news about anything going on in AsMA

- i. **ACTION: Anthony: preparing Slides to keep everyone up to date whats going on in AsMA**

e. Anthony: Europe is leading in mental health, which is also because of ESAM

f. Goran: cooperation ESAM AsMA has to be visible in the minutes to make sure this cooperation has a big future

g. 20 year anniversary of ESAM in 2 year

- h. Elena: timeline/most important milestones can be found on website; should be visible seen on the website; achievements
  - i. ACTION: Goran will ask members and create a narrative description/historical spine of ESAMs history for 2026 anniversary
  - ii. asds

## 11. EASA

- a. Reaction to RMT amendment → Declan, can you add
  - i. Declan: revision in rule → now Third Country Aeromedical training course may be accepted in the EU following approval by the Medical Assessor of a Member State. This can include the UK.
  - ii. Class 1 over 60: EASA data seek from Member States.
  - iii. Lipids: Cholesterol not sufficient anymore, fractioned report required.
  - iv. HEMS EASA RMT: extension to do single pilot Class 1 ops to 65; senior AME must do the examination
  - v. Ries: Aging and cognitive function: not a medical but an operational problem
  - vi. Declan: 5 years of experience was removed from the requirements for a Medical Assessor.
  - vii. ARA.MED.330 extend it to 2030 and not to end in 2025. → Felice: should we address this issue at 2025 AsMA?
- b. SAB Report SAB:
  - i. Roland: In July could not be attended by Roland; sent the whole document, Roland highlighted the rules related to medical issues
  - ii.
- c. Data collection by EASA
  - i. Article 74:
    - 1. Data gathering from member states into central European registry; full applicant's data
    - 2. Roland: → put it on the agenda for MEG Meeting
    - 3. Anthony: ACTION: Make resolutions like AsMA (policy statements to clarify out stance on certain issues)
  - ii. Gathering all data from people of fitness
  - iii. Medical assessor forwards all data from applicants over 60
  - iv. Roland: stresses the amount of data collection going on now
    - 1. Data gathering needs to be scientifically comparable
    - 2. ??Pedro promised to get the data from the medical assessors
  - v. class1 over 65; Declan: many of these pilots want to keep their license not for flying reasons but for personal reasons.
- d. COSF Reports and representation
  - i. COI of Declan with being in the ICAO medical certification MSWG → Francois willing to represent ESAM?
  - ii. Declan: Has anyone of ESAM attended CTSG?
  - iii. ESAM well represented at that level
- e. Research Projects: News.
  - i. MESAFE
  - ii. Diabetes → about to publish a paper on insulin pumps
  - iii. Roland: medical team of EASA wants to work with us
  - iv. Goran: maybe it's too late to discuss now, decisions already have been made

- f. Extended crew operations/reduced crew operations: Declan: no communication from EASA received
- g. Claudia: Marja part of Color vision project at EASA; Claudia and Marja discuss quality of color vision tests
- h. Ries mentioned the British doing a lot of work and paving the way in the EASA Diabetes project

12. **Plans for Moldova - Workshop on “Risk Assessment of mental and physical fitness of aviation personnel”**

- a. Elena: found solution with the European Commission project Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX): supporting the workshop
- b. Elena proposed MESAFE to risk assessment of mental health
- c. Six experts have been accepted by European Commission so far
- d. Participants are aviation medicine specialists: 7 from Ukraine, 6 Georgia, 7 Armenia (covered by TAIEX), 7 Kazakhstan (self-paying); 28 Moldova including Industry
- e. Discussions in between lectures
- f. Translation only in 1 language → Russian, everyone confirmed this language
- g. Preliminary programme in the middle of next week
- h. Elena and Ries discuss potential speakers;
- i. ACTION: Ries completes draft and send it to Elena and the speakers of the workshop**
- j. Ready presentations should be sent for translations
- k. Elena talks about some political problems that she needed to overcome
- l. Asks about processes in place and/or requirements for catering for crew food to prevent severe food poisoning
  - i. Ries: airlines have requirements and food inspections in the factories where food is processed → national food inspection standard has to be in place to be followed by Dutch authorities
  - ii. Elena: self-control standards are not sufficient enough
  - iii. Diederik: in the UK food trays needs to be sealed
- m. Roland: is not sure if he can come to Moldova, data from 10 countries to list the unfitness of ATCO → Claudia: oncology numbers rise also in Germany

Declan closes at 18:00 LT

August 31<sup>st</sup> 10:00 LT

Attendees:

	Declan Maher	President	
	Elena Cataman	Co-Opted Member EC	
	Roland Vermeiren	Co-Opted Member EC	joined 11:00
	Diederik de Rooy	Member AB	
	Felice Strollo	Secretary General	
	Ries Simons	Chair AB	
	Marija Osinga	Member AB	
	Claudia Stern	Member AB	
	Francois Bernard	Director EC	joined 10:30 and left 14:00
	Goran Bogdanovski	Communication Director	joined 10:15
	Manuel Michno	ESAM Assistant	

13. **ICAO**

- a. Medical Specialists Working Groups
  - i. Declan: ESAM has been quite active in those groups e.g. certificate for class 2; further development is expected
  - ii. Emerging of monkey pox was discussed
- b. State Letter Data search
  - i. Each member state has been giving a letter to submit health information on the commercial pilots above the age of 60; must be completed by 4<sup>th</sup> of November this year
  - ii. Huge task because of so many different databases, little manpower; high level view on a global level
  - iii. Declan: regionalized approach on how disease may impact pilots' health
  - iv. Ries: stresses the importance of the regionalized approach; also, quality of data in the existing databases is very poor, not standardized; due to the need for debrief and extra amount time, it's just not very practical way of doing things; → Declan: Medical Assessors calling the pilot after the incident to get all the medical and incident data; 50% medical reasons/ 50% working environment reasons

14. **Officer Reports:**

- a. Ries: **ACTION towards treasurer: per diem easier to declare, so why not use it also for ESAM?!**



b.

15. **Advisory Board Report**

a. Mental Health: Continuing the MESAFE concept in the future (Collaboration with EAAP)

- i. MESAFE is closed but it needs to go further; suggests having a working group of ESAM in collaboration with US to further work on this topic; Diederik and Anthony are part, it will be raised in a more formal way
- ii. Goran asks, Ries answers: EASA must discuss the recommendations, will take some time to make regulations from the recommendations
- iii. Ries: also have to work together with ICAO and AsMA;
- iv. Declan: somebody has to break the status quo and start changes; with the backing of evidence this could be done; Caudia: all the work put in by MESAFE project and knowledge could be used to let ESAM shine more and use that evidence
- v. Roland: invite EAMAC to send a representative to the working group, so that there part of the project and higher the acceptance
- vi. Ries: next week discussion with Kristian to address that topic
- vii. Goran and Ries discuss the differences between implementation of rules in cardiology vs mental health
- viii. Goran stresses the political weight of implementations of new regulations costing money
- ix. Roland: hard law vs soft law and guidance material
- x. Elena: mental health recommendations could be given as flow chart/algorithms with questions; well-structured recommendations are easier to use and thus more accepted; Ries is also stressing the importance of easy to use algorithms without hard borders, so that there's still space for interpretation by the medical experts
- xi. Francois: Put the guidelines and small information on the website, to make it easier for people to access
- xii. Ries: expects many subgroups of mental health to be found, topic is too big to do in one working group; Declan is following up on the subgroups, that could feed information to the main group
- xiii. Claudia: psychiatrists in the circle of experts can be used
- xiv. Francois and Claudia discuss the importance of documentation of the pilot's interview; questionnaire just starting point for asking the right questions of the AME

b. Participation in EAAP-ESAM working group developing requirements for Aviation Mental Health Specialists

- i. Anthony, Ries and Diederik: aviation mental health specialist is needed; what are the requirements for this title? Working group is building on the requirements for this
- ii. Diederik needs the mandate from ESAM to work on this working group
- iii. Declan: availability of aviation psychiatrist could be a problem
- iv. Diederik: suggests psychiatrist just gives a recommendation to the AME; should be stressed, that a psychiatrist report is the same as an internal medicine report
- v. Declan: rebranding psychiatry to mental health blurred the boundaries?
- vi. Diederik: less stigmatizing and psychiatry is a medical specialty
- vii. Ries: stresses importance of AMEs asking the right questions to the medical specialists
- viii. Declan:

1. Could there be a role for ESAM Academy sharing modules of teaching to psychiatrists?



2. Claudia: need for training is huge to maintain quality; difficult with psychiatry doing online, must be in person
  3. maybe combine annual meetings of these groups with ESAM Academy training
  4. Ries and Diederik: make a form to ask the right questions
- c. Establishing a working group on Self-Declaration for medical certification.
- i. Ries: coming up again right now
  - ii. Maria: Europe air sports try to introduce self-declaration; in line with basic EASA regulation; has to be discussed with all domains taking part in it; new medical requirements need to be build; ESAM could help with advice from a working group on the regulatory view; US and UK are providing a lot of data on fatal accidents and other incidents, so data can be used to defined acceptable risk according to light aviation
  - iii. Ries: ESAM should have a position on LAPL; Declan concurs; Maria should lead this working group; Circle of experts in general aviation, Felix says they are inactive
  - iv. Maria: in need of critical people
  - v. Roland: we must make sure, that it's not money driven but safety driven project; there should be consequences for people not following the regulations (legal consequences); maybe someone with law background could be very useful to (Peter Rodenburg)
  - vi. **ACTION: Ries is asking Peter Rodenburg to join working group**
  - vii. Felice gives overview of people in the circle of experts for general aviation; Ries and Roland discuss on whom to ask for the working group
  - viii. Roland: ULM planes amount is huge, substandard technical rules, no european rules; national rules are in place for medical checking them; national issue  
**ACTION: AB: organizes the working group**
- d. Role of CoE in review of CARDIO-PACE Final report (2025)
- i. Ries and Declan talk about building a working group, that could be already primed in 2025 for the final report  
**ACTION: Ries will deal with this working group**
  - ii. Declan and Roland discuss a formal representation of ESAM at EAMAC, no formal position so far; formal position would be very beneficial  
**ACTION: Declan seeks representation during the next EAMAC meeting**
- e. Composition of the ABC. (Suggestion to assign Goran)
- i. Goran: if I'm helpful, I would happy to join; Ries and Roland want to have him on the ABC; EC confirms
  - ii. Claudia: someone responsible for ground operations in Germany is Jörg Hedtmann; Ries is also happy with him working in the CoE
  - iii. Ries: stepping down as a chair of the ABC, asks Declan to step up as the chair of ABC; Declan: Chair; Ries is ready to be Co-Chair for the start;  
**ACTION: Ries thinks of a potential secretary till next meeting in Lisbon**
- f. Visibility to Member Associations.
- i. Mail list was discussed, Manuel started it
  - ii. **ACTION: Manuel finish list**
  - iii. Website needs to be clear, refer to papers and newsletter
  - iv. Newsletter small but regular, with links to make it easier to digest for readers; AsMA as a template
  - v. Management of newsletter could be part of the vice president in the future
  - vi. **ACTION: Manuel will distribute it with Alex, just needs to be provided with important stuff**

- g. Providing AME Refresher Training and National Meetings.
  - i. Ries: need to find national conferences to give course there; Roland: other than Hungary no one interested; intermediate ECAM meeting mainly for European AMEs, in Cologne, central of Europe, easy to travel to; mix of Science and Rule Making; Roland: place is secondary (still cologne easier)
  - ii. In Lisbon next-years meeting needs to be announced with an exact date and location (probably EASA Cologne)
  - iii. Alternating every 2 years (ECAM – ICAM)
  - iv. ACTION: Ries will ask Kristian at EASA
- h. Elena: results and presentation at ICAM on Questionnaire of CoE group on Training and Physiology – 33 AMEs and 84 pilots: both same opinion:
  - i. aviation physiology training will be beneficial in performance
  - ii. human error is related to physiology stress of pilots
  - iii. no difference between military, civilian and cargo
  - iv. in emergency situations proper practical training can improve safety
  - v. mandatory training?! → pilots should assess own capabilities
  - vi. Ries: highlight the probability of responder bias
  - vii. ACTION: Ries and Elena will write article about this issue

16. **ESAM Business Plan Meeting**

- a. ACTION: Declan will complete the Tasks when he's stepping down, will be done by the next meeting → transmit that to Jochen

17. **EAMAC Report**

- a. Declan: good meeting in Split, going back to the old form is taking time, working groups are being build, next meeting in Amsterdam in October
- b. Elena: states that the recovery of communication important
- c. Elena: EAMAC should have more influence; pity that UK did not participate
- d. Declan: as information becomes available → standardization and harmonization is made possible
- e. Elena and Ries discussed recommendations for stents to make an example and stress the importance of individual medicine → decisions on pilots have to be made on an individual basis
- f. ACTION: talk with Cristian Panait to navigate through these difficulties
- g. Elena: recommendations are great for practitioners and give good guidance; stresses difference between a patient and a pilot
- h. Ries: stresses the importance of the AMEs brain as a diagnostic tool
- i. Diederik: for most pilots it's best to be treated by normal non-aviation guidelines and standards, because it's generally the best available medicine. AMEs should be asking if there is a conventional treatment

18. **IAASM Report**

- a. Paco becomes president of academy for two years
- b. Discussion about the role of the IAASM and ESAM → visibility need to be assured for ESAM
- c. Declan reported on the status with Turkish authorities, stresses importance of memorandum of understanding to be accepted by the Turks

- i. Roland and Declan discuss the role of Husnu of TAMA in the aforementioned issue
  - ii. ACTION: At Lisboa there's a meeting with the Turkish delegation, has still to be set up with date and time
19. AOB
- a. Future meetings
    - i. ICAM 2024: Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Coffee Break 1500 LT, place to be announced
    - ii. ACTION: ask Rui about small room for 15 persons
    - iii. Extension with webmaster was signed and paid for this year
      - 1. ACTION: Next meeting → decide to prolong contract and payment automatically, so confusion is prevented
    - iv. Potential Q4 Meeting of EC: Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Cologne DLR?!
      - 1. Friday Room at EASA, Saturday Room at DLR
  - b. Promotion Material
20. Declan thanked everyone for the last 4 years and closes the meeting at 1600LT
21. GA 2024. Oct 05<sup>th</sup>