



## UEMS SECTION OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

### MINUTES

Meeting: 28th October, 2017

Faculty Club, Groot Begijnhof 14, BE-3000 Leuven

#### 1. **Company/work-site visit** (Friday, 27.10. 13:00 – 16:30) **idewe, Leuven**

Simon Bulterys invited us to the institution, of which he is the CEO since several years. Idewe is the largest occupational health and safety service in Belgium and has over 800 employees. It is a non-profit organization and could celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2017.



Dr. Chris Verbeek, head of the Medical Department introduced us into the structure of idewe and explained us the role of the different Prevention Advisors. This is the term which describes the role of the occupational physicians, engineers, psychologists, ergonomics, hygienists and nurses in their work for the clients. Whereas doctors do mostly medical surveillance, others are dealing with risk management.

Valery van Guick explained to us how occupational health nurses are integrated more and more in the prevention work for the companies and what the tools are, they are using. Marc Beurms, the head of informatics and finances gave us an idea of the different ITC-Tools, idewe uses for its tasks. We were impressed that a lot of tools are designed and programmed by idewe specialists.

Many thanks to Simon for this very interesting insight!

The presentations were given out in hardcopy but are also in the annexes 1a-1d.

#### 2. **Participants and apologies**

- **PARTICIPANTS:** Hosts: Simon Bulterys.

Alenka Škerjanc, president (Slovenia), Klaus Ernst Stadtmüller, secretary (Switzerland), Simon Bulterys, treasurer (Belgium), Karl Hochgatterer (Austria), Thomas Kraus (Germany), Theodore Bazas (Greece), Satu Väihkönen (Finland), Ferenc Kudász (Hungary), Fabriziomaria Gobba (Italy), Maja Eglīte (Latvia), Marc Jacoby (Luxemburg), Nicole Majery (Luxemburg), Tor Erik Danielsen (Norway), Kristian Vetlesen (Norway), Jolanta Walusiak Skroupa (Poland), Pedro Gustavo Reis (Portugal), Emil Vancu (Romania), Marie Cruz Rodriguez Jareño (Spain), Dick Spreeuwers (Netherlands), Nerys Williams (UK).

Guest: Bernard Maillet (UEMS treasurer)

- **APOLOGIES:** Vlasta Dečković Vukreš (Croatia), Milan Tuček (Czech Republic), Reijula Kari (Finland), Ivo Iavicoli (Italy), Davor Romih (Slovenia), Elena Pauncu (Romania), Marek Varga (Slovakia).

### 3. Welcome and presentation from the host country

The Sections president opened the meeting on Saturday morning, thanking Simon as well as the Belgian society of occupational doctors for the very interesting visit of idewe and the organisation of the meeting. She welcomed Bernard Maillet, the UEMS Treasurer, who visited our Section meeting.

Simon Bulterys gave us then a broad overview to the system of occupational Medicine in Belgium. Every company has to contract a definite sum exchange units, which it can use to buy service from one of the 11 service providers in the country. Such a “prevention unit” has the value of 155€. The individual service package is issue of risk evaluation and negotiation. (see annex 2 for more)

### 4. Minutes of the last meeting (Helsinki)

The minutes were adopted.

Pedro Reis put forward, that in Helsinki he had proposed a discussion about the creation of a UEMS section of “Environmental Medicine”.

There was some short discussion but the topic was postponed.

### 5. Information from UEMS

Bernard Maillet briefly repeated his insight in the history, the aims and structure of UEMS.

UEMS is in first line not a scientific association but the umbrella organisation of National Associations of Medical Specialists, located in Brussels. Its two main objectives are the study and promotion of the highest level of training of the medical specialists, medical practice and health care within the EU as well the free movement of specialist doctors within the EU. UEMS adopts guidelines and essential training requirements for the training of specialists but makes no binding rules.

Dr. Maillet presented the decisions taken on the last Council Meeting in Brussels. For details: see annex 3

### 6. Section's board elections

Nicole Majery as head of the election committee took over the chair.

She announced that there had been 2 candidatures for president (Alenka Škerjanc and Theodore Bazas), 3 for secretary (Theodore Bazas, Ferenc Kudász and Klaus Stadtmüller) and 1 for treasurer (Simon Bulterys).

Klaus Stadtmüller then withdrew his application.

Nicole Majery reminded of the essential rules of the elections (one vote per country, proxies have to be announced and given to the election committee).

Theodore Bazas (TB) noted that according to the UEMS Rules of Procedures the elections of the president and the secretary of the section should be “staggered” (overlapping 2 year periods in the 4 year service). Bernard Maillet clarified, that only UEMS statutes are obligatory; the rules of procedures were recommendations and as such not binding, because UEMS operates by the Belgian Law. Every section is free to decide about the timing of the elections.

TB asked and was given the chance to let him read a summary of his CV to the group because it has not been circulated before the meeting.

The positions of the president and the secretary were then determined by ballot-voting (each country one vote, 2 proxies were given following appropriate prior notification of the election officer). Results:

- President Alenka Škerjanc: 18 Theodore Bazas: 2
- Secretary Ferenc Kudász: 19 Theodore Bazas: 1
- The former and new treasurer Simon Bulterys was elected by acclamation.

## **7. Sections finances (Simon Bulterys)**

Our treasurer repeated the notice that the actual cash position still balances the foreseeable expenses for 2017.

We discussed the Section's fees for 2018. The expenses will foreseeably rise, because of our new project of a European Examination in OM and the collaboration with CESMA (Council for European Specialists Medical Assessment, advisory body of the UEMS).

Bernard Maillet announced that from 2018 UEMS Brussels for legal reasons would also invoice and administer the accounts for all the 43 Sections, 14 Multidisciplinary Joint Committees and Divisions.

Decision: From 2018 on there would be only one fee per country. We will discuss the amount on our spring meeting 2018.

## **8. Website**

Ole Carstensen reported (via mail to the secretary) there was a light but stable rise in clicks on our website over the last months. He reminded us to revise the texts dealing with the countries specifics.

TB recalled his pledge to use a common template be used for national reports on OM. He was asked to develop a draft template (structure and headlines only) and the new secretary will distribute it before the next meeting.

In addition Mari Cruz mentioned and provided at once the template, which was proposed to the group before (see annex 5).

## **9. European exam in OM**

33 specialities are actually providing the European exam, some specialities are integrating the European exam fully or partly in their national exam (like anaesthesia, pneumology, ophtalmology).

The most important aim to offer European exam to the trainees is to prove a mark of excellence to doctors from European and non-European countries. It is not the aim of UEMS to make it obligatory to EU member states but to follow the European Training Requirements in OM in European countries and also all over the world. Nerys Williams (NW) mentioned the Irish association offers Irish exams in Malaysia and UAE very successfully.

TB said that he felt that he had been deceived by not having received the completed draft proposal for new ETRs elaborated by WG1, despite the announcement to the Section in October 2016.

He put forward his proposal for a future WG about "Advocacy in OM". He was asked to send detailed proposal to the Section Board because decision on new WGs is scheduled for the next meeting. The discussion of the WG2 document "Occupational diseases" was postponed. TB suggested including this topic among the tasks of the Advocacy in OM WG.

The president announced that all working groups were finishing their work and new working groups would be formed in the next meeting. Every delegate is welcome to propose a new working group. Please send the WG name and (maximum) 2-3 sentences on its aims to the new board by mail.

Please not that one WG will deal with the EU exam. The board will discuss the input and propose the final WGs.

## 10. Surveys

Most section members got emails recently with questionnaires, mostly from PhD students, doing a thesis or smaller work on OM. Sometimes these questionnaires are felt to be time consuming and not very well designed.

It was agreed that in the future, requests to participate in a survey addressed to Section Members are preferably referred to and discussed first with the Section Board, which will advise the members thereon. If the Board forwards such an enquiry, a Member's response to it would be voluntary anyway.

## 11. Any other business

SOM Value proposition and IOCMS paper on advocacy, provided by NW.

These papers were very welcomed. TB added that these papers are not apt in every detail for every country. NW highlighted that these are only informative texts free to use by OM experts as they consider the best.

A paper by the Section of Pathology was discussed and worked upon, which is meant to draw the attention to the consequences for the medical community and progress in medicine, if formaldehyde would be integrated in the list of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (2004/37/EC).

(see annex 6)

The EU-OSHA Campaign (Healthy workplaces in all ages), which was partnered by UEMS-OM too, is closing this November. Members will be asked to provide some report on their national activities promoting this Campaign. Ferenc Kudász will circulate a very brief MSExcell sheet to fill in and return.

## 12. Closing remarks

The meeting closed at 16:30 p.m.

Next section meetings:

- 1-3/6 2018 in Oslo
- 19-20/10 in Bilbao (intended)

Alenka Škerjanc  
President

Klaus Stadtmüller  
Secretary