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## MINUTES

Vienna Meeting Saturday 27th November 1999

Attendees:	Professor György Koteles	Hungary
	Dr Reinaard Jaegar	Austria
	Dr Bogulslaw Baranski	The Netherlands WHO
	Dr Jacques de Laval	Sweden
	Dr Knut Skyberg	Norway
	Professor Kaj Husman	Finland
	Dr Ewan Macdonald	UK (Secretary/Treasurer)
	Dr Tom McMahon	Ireland (Chairman)
Dr Leopold Koschatzky	Austria	
Dr Sven Viskum	Denmark	
	Dr Marc Bregliano	France
	Ms Brigitte John-Reiter	Austria - Observer
	Dr Karl Hochgatterer	Austria - Observer
	Dr Consol Serra	Spain
	Dr Metka-Terzan	Slovenia
	Dr Andy Slovak	UK
Dr Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres	Croatia	
	Dr Giuliano Franco	Italy - Observer
Apologies:	Dr Paavo Jappinen	Finland
	Dr Gunnar Ahlborg	Sweden
	Dr Blaise Thorens	Switzerland
	Dr Marcel-Audiu Boillat	Switzerland
	Dr Jadranka Mustajbegovic	Croatia
	Dr Frances Graziosi	
	Dr Anne Birkeland	Norway
	Dr John Gallagher	Ireland
	Dr George Stamatopoulos	Greece

### Chairman's Report

Tom McMahon gave thanks to the Austrian Medical Association and the Austrian Society of Occupational Medicine for their help in hosting the meeting and for the excellent arrangements.

He had had discussions with Professor Raphael Masschelein President of EASOM and with Jacques van der Vliet President of ENSOP and both Professor Masschelein and Dr Jacques van der Vliet expressed their intention to continue close collaboration with UEMS and their regrets for being unable to attend the meeting. Both sent their good wishes.

He announced that the CP document had been agreed three weeks ago and it was agreed that this would be re circulated with the Minutes. Action EBM

Tom McMahon had communicated with the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine giving his view that it was not time yet for a meeting. He gave a brief report of the meeting in the UEMS Management Council which he attended in Brussels where there had been a useful discussion of CME. The Presidency of the UEMS had changed and Dr Cillian Towmney from Ireland had been appointed as President.

## CME Paper

Sven Viskum presented the draft paper produced by the sub group of the CME and this was positively received by the meeting. Tom McMahon requested that the CME document should be discussed in the various nationality societies.

Action All

Discussion took place whether the CME should be voluntarily or obligatory. Some countries had strong views that it should be voluntary. It was thought that in the Netherlands it was obligatory every five years. In Finland it is voluntary but has to be registered. In the UK it will become obligatory. In Croatia it is currently obligatory. In Spain it is obligatory for General Practitioners.

Knut Skyberg discussed the fact that the document just reviewed general principles. Sven Viskum responded that it was designed this way in order that it could be applied to the different practices and different countries. Bogulslaw Baranski suggested that the document be put on the Baltic network and he would give details of this network to the Secretary.

Action EBM, BB, SV

György Koteles believed that CME is likely to become compulsory in due course and he also raised whether there was a need for a European Specialist Diploma. Tom McMahon said that it would require the creation of an European Board by the UEMS section, the creation of an examination body etc. and much administration. The Committee had discussed this previously and agreed not to create such structures but rather provide guidance and support and work with the relevant professional bodies in each country.

Marc Bregliano reported that in France there was new legislation and that all doctors had to have 10 days CME per year. Some employers were requiring more days for each speciality. Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres said there was a requirement for seven days per year in Croatia.

There was discussion on whether CME should be active or passive and it was generally agreed that active participation in CME is more valuable than passive. Some discussion took place about whether the proportion of active than passive participation should be specified.

Tom McMahon congratulated Sven Viskum on the document. Sven Viskum and his group said that the aim would be to put the document to the UEMS Management Council and he asked for written feedback to Sven Viskum by the end of January.

Action ALL

## 6. Practice & Services Survey Update

Kaj Husman described the SALSA Project led by Peter Westerholm, Chairman of the ICOH Scientific Committee and Research Evaluation of Occupational Health. A survey was being undertaken to identify what was happening in practice at Ministry level, in Occupational Health in the field and within the trade unions. The Finnish researcher was conducting personal interviews throughout the EU, Norway and Switzerland to get real understanding what was in place.

Kaj Husman reported that the plan was to look at quality management at the next phase of the study using the network established in the first phase. He hoped to be able to report the survey at the next meeting.

Tom McMahon raised the issue of funding for thematic networks which might be a source of funding for some of the UEMS section activities. There was money available for research into small and medium sized enterprises. Tom McMahon and Ewan Macdonald will pursue this and report the progress at the next meeting.

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#### Occupational Medicine in Europe; Scope and Competencies

This WHO draft document was discussed. Ewan Macdonald reported that this was the latest and almost final edition. Boguslaw Baranski said that he wished UEMS, EASOM and ENSOP Presidents to write the foreword. Sven Viskum said it would be useful to include within the document some descriptions of the different settings within which occupational health was practised. This should cover the University setting, the hospital setting and the factory setting and also arrangements within society, the support network and the workplace. Kaj Husman agreed to draft this short section.

Action KH

#### The WHO Programme on Improvement of Health Environment and Safety Management and Enterprises (HESME)

Boguslaw Baranski gave an interim report on European developments in this field. He was concerned that there was separation of Occupational Health from Public Health in the directorates within EU and there was need to ensure that Occupational Health was considered within Public Health planning. The Declaration of Ministers was of great potential importance but further work needed to be done to ensure that it was followed up and actioned in the countries. He discussed the integration of occupational health and safety, workplace health promotion and environmental management. He wished to see the progress in each country. He agreed that he would circulate briefing notes on how to arrange local meetings. He would also circulate the EU websites to all attendees via the Secretary.

Action BB/EBM

Discussion then took place about how to positively influence the European agenda. Kaj Husman suggested contacting Larson the head of DG5. It was agreed that it was important for country representatives each to contact EU Advisory Committee members and it was observed that this had been an action plan on UEMS section members in the early days of the committee.

Action ALL

It was also agreed that we should contact the head of the Bilbao Agency to put our documents on their web site

Action EBM/BB

Further useful contact would be the Dublin Foundation. Boguslaw Baranski discussed the importance of supporting Strategy 21 and he would like individuals within the UEMS to influencing action plans at local levels eg in cities

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The copies of Boguslaw Baranski presentation would be circulated and were also directly available from him at the WHO office electronically.

#### 9. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

