



UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine

MINUTES

Modena 16 October 2004 2:00 p.m.

1. Apologies

Participants:

Monica Ballester	Spain
Alain Cantineau	France
Ole Carstensen	Denmark
Clodagh Cashman	Ireland
Paulo Coelho dos Santos	Portugal
Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres	Croatia
Oern Terje Foss	Norway
Giuliano Franco	Italy
Annette Gaessler	Germany
John Harrison	UK / EASOM
Elsbeth Huber	Austria
Kaj Husman	Finland
Reinhard Jäger (Secretary)	Austria
Ewan Macdonald (Chairman)	UK
Tom McMahon	Ireland
Jadranka Mustajbegovic	Croatia
Claus Piekarski	Germany
Luc Quaeghebeur	Belgium
Consol Serra	Spain
Knut Skyberg	Norway
Andrej Slovak (Treasurer)	UK
Dick Spreeuwers	The Netherlands
Jacques van der Vliet	The Netherlands
Andre Weel	The Netherlands / EASOM

Apologies:

Brigitta Danuser	Switzerland
John Gallagher	Ireland
Paavo Jappinen	Finland
Metka Terzan	Slovenia

2. Welcome

Ewan Macdonald welcomed all participants, especially the new delegates, Alain Cantineau from France and Paulo Coelho dos Santos from Portugal, and the observers from EASOM, John Harrison and Andre Weel. He thanked them for coming, and he also thanked Giuliano Franco very much for the excellent organisation of the ICOH conference and our UEMS meeting.

3. **Minutes of last meeting** (Hamburg 08 May 2004)

The minutes were agreed.

4. **Review of the Modena workshop**

Ewan gave a short report about the workshops, which were managed by Claus, Jacques and himself, on the subjects training and competence / vision / quality.

Kaj and Clodagh prepared a written report, which was reported by Clodagh and will be circulated.

Action
C.Cashman
R.Jäger

Claus informed about the situation in Germany, there is a system of mentors for the trainees, and a report what the trainee has done, which training steps have been fulfilled.

In the discussion one important question came up, in which countries could it be possible to spend a part of the training in other countries. This is possible at the moment in seven countries: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland and in The Netherlands.

Alain mentioned some practical problems, especially: who pays for the training?

Claus said, we should look for funding institutions.

5. **Matters arising**

Milan Conference June 2006:

Ewan reported the Milan colleague had asked him to organize a UEMS symposium on the Milan ICOH conference, and he asked for our opinions.

Kaj suggested we could organize the symposium together with the ICOH committee on OHS.

Tom mentioned it would be a good opportunity to show what we are doing.

Jacques proposed a working group for preparation of the symposium. Many subjects could be interesting: the vision of OM in Europe, the quality of services, the transition from theory to practice in the European context.

Ewan said, also other health professionals in our field would be interested.

The common meaning was, it is a good idea to organize the symposium, and we should take the possibility. The members of the working group will be: Ewan, Consol, Clodagh, Jacques and Kaj. Also Andre and Alain are interested to get information about the progress of the preparation.

Action
Working group

Communications:

Tom said, we should more intensively communicate about the existence and objectives of our group. We should look at the general strategy again; lobbying cost money, which we don't have.

Andy mentioned we should refocus on people who are interested in our themes, for instance the problems of ageing workers should be interesting, especially for politicians. Claus said, also health promotion, prevention and health management are important subjects for our politicians, and we should be a pressure group for our national members of the EU parliament.

Training and Competences:

Ewan reported about the Leonardo project-proposal:

“Developing a Common Assessment of Skills and Competencies of Specialist Occupational Physicians across Europe”

The main objective of the project is to influence and change what is done in the field of OM specialist training. Now we have many different methods of assessment after the 4 years training of specialists, there is need for more transparency and harmonisation of qualifications.

The pre-proposal has been accepted. The maximum funding could be €200.000.- per year, for 2 years.

On the national level national committees composed of government representatives, trade unions, employers organisations and training institutions should be established. A network of these national bodies should continue, also when the project is finished.

Andre mentioned, 2 years will be a very short time for the project.

Ewan said, fact finding will start in December, and a meeting will be organized in January. Much work is to be done in the member countries.

Dick said NSOH is very interested to take part in the project.

Luc reported about his survey on recertification, which is complete now and should be put on our website.

Reinhard said that UEMS website is in reconstruction in the moment and it is not possible now to put documents on it. He will stay in contact with Dr.Theuvenet, who is responsible for the UEMS website.

Ole reported the cost of a website and mailbox for better communication: about €400.- per year and €20.- per person.

Cooperation with EASOM

John reported the history of EASOM, which was founded in 1993 in Amsterdam, and about the organisation of the summer schools. The last was held in Belgrade in August.

Andre said, the EASOM website is working now, and the EASOM bulletin will be published in electronic form.

It should be circulated to UEMS members.

Action
E.Macdonald
Action all

Action
R.Jäger

Action
R.Jäger

Quality and Peer Audit

Tom reported about the meeting in Berlin where the German system has been explained. An important point for discussion will be the portability to other countries. The document will be circulated, but it is property of GQB mbH (the German corporation for quality management) and should be confidential. All agreed to the confidentiality.

Ewan said, the important point is that it is a system for specialists, controlled by specialists.

Andy mentioned, it can't be one blueprint for all countries, just a recommendation, and the national bodies have to decide what should be done.

Tom will circulate the document with comments from Andy and Monica to all section members. Deadline for comments on the document is 1st of March 2005.

Action
T.McMahon

Vision Document:

Jacques said, the Vision Document should be an official UEMS document, signed by chairman and secretary. We will send it also to EASOM.

Monica said, she had translated it in Spanish.

Ewan thanked her and said, the document should be translated in all languages of the member countries.

Action
R.Jäger

Action
all

6. Proceedings Barcelona workshop:

Consol and Monica will create a well designed pdf-file for publication, and a short report in scientific format to publish it in journals.

Action
C.Serra
M.Ballester

7. Section Action Plan

Dick will send a proposal for an action plan, which will be circulated and discussed on our next meeting.

Action
D.Spreeuwers
R.Jäger

8. Treasurers Report

Andy said, the payment habits were not as good in the last years as they should be. Only a few have paid, but there is a possibility to pay today. The membership fee is € 300.- for 2 years per delegate (not per country!).

Alain asked, who has to pay?

Ewan answered, the professional bodies of the member countries.

Andy will send an invoice, which will be circulated, and, if necessary, a list who has paid and who has not.

Action all

Action
A.Slovak
R.Jäger

9. Any other business

Ewan said, the working period of chairman and secretary will end May 2005, and we need proposals for the next period. He suggested Tom to take the proposals for the next period. Kaj supports this suggestion, and it is generally agreed.

**Action all
Action
T.McMahon**

Paulo reported about the situation in Portugal and the problems of our speciality there; the nomination for delegates is only for 3 years in Portugal.

Ewan offered to do anything to support him. According to the UEMS constitution the duration of nominations is 3 times 4 years.

10. Date and place of next meetings

7 May 2005, Glasgow
22 Oct 2005, Amsterdam

Ewan Macdonald thanked all participants for coming and closed the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

20 December 2004

Reinhard Jäger
(Secretary)