



# UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine

## MINUTES

### Glasgow and Brussels

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008, 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm  
Glynhill Hotel. Glasgow

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm  
Hotel Metropole. Brussels

## 1. Participants and apologies

### Participants:

#### Glasgow

Milan Tucek	Czech Republic
Luc Quaeghebeur	Belgium
Dick Spreeuwers	The Netherlands
Jacques van der Vliet	The Netherlands
Ewan Macdonald	UK
Alain Cantineau (obs)	France
Kaj Husman	Finland
Anne-Christine Markset	Norway
Elena-Ana Păuncu	Rumania
Monica Ballester	Spain
Nikki Cordell	UK
Ljiljana Cvejanov-Kezunovic	Montenegro
Ørn Terje Foss (obs)	Norway
Knut Skyberg (Secretary)	Norway
Consol Serra (President)	Spain

#### Brussels

Thomas Kraus	Germany
Dermot Halpin	Ireland
Jadranka Mustajbegovic	Croatia
Consol Serra (President)	Spain

### Apologies:

Sigve Christensen	Denmark
Kristina Mukala	EASOM
Andre Weel	EASOM
Ritva Helimäki-Aro	Finland
Jonas Brisman	Sweden
Annette Gässler (Treasurer)	Germany
Alenka Škerjanc	Slovenia
Stanislav Pusnik	Slovenia
Paulo Coelho dos Santos	Portugal
Mats Berg	Sweden
Rafael Timermans	Spain
Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres	Croatia
Ole Carstensen	Denmark
Alexis Descatha	France
Tom McMahan	Ireland

## 2. Welcome

Consol welcomed and thanked all section members and observers for attending the meeting, and expressed special thanks to Ewan and his collaborators Kirsty Thorntwaithe, Eileen Boyle, Nundita Reetoo and Asha Coshigan for arranging the facilities for the meeting and evening dinner in Glasgow. Consol also expressed thanks to members attending the meeting in Brussels.

3. **Minutes of last meeting** (Doonbeg, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007)  
No corrections were made. The minutes were approved.

4. **ATOM project**

There was an ATOM workshop at the ICOH conference on education and training in Glasgow 10-12 April 2008. Ewan reviewed the presentation of the project during the ICOH conference meeting. The survey done gives an overview over the present state. At the Barcelona workshop, it was decided to develop a common design for a MCQ and portfolio. It was decided in Glasgow that the assessment tools that are being developed must be validated across countries, involving the US, and piloted among the UEMS OM members group. Two working groups were created to develop both tools.

Ewan's view was that the Glasgow conference had been important for the project's progress. Anyone who wishes to join the project should contact Ewan.

A challenge will be to get an overview of the movement of specialists across borders in Europe.

**Action: all**

**Log book survey**

Nikki reported from the activities towards log book usage across countries. The aim is to develop a logbook with a simple format to register the activities of trainees and the acquisition of skills and competences. They will do a pilot test once the logbook is designed. The working group will stay in contact using emails. Kaj, Tom and Dick have volunteered.

**Action: Nikki,  
working group 6**

5. **Section's website**

Dick was prepared to present the current version of our website, but the server was down. So far there is a test version under the EU-OSHA website. There have been access problems, but this is being solved. Consol presented the changes that are being made and the proposal for the structure (attached), which was revised and approved. The web will have parts open to the general public and parts restricted to our section's members. It will allow group working. The website will have two main domains: a) traditional, external website: Milan Milosevic (Croatia) has been appointed to work on it, and some work has already been done; b) discussion board (internal network): Dick will take care of it and a pilot is planned before next meeting.

The section's website group members who are developing the website are planning to have it ready for use in June-July 2008. Adjustments, if needed, will be discussed in the next meeting. A meeting in Bilbao will be held (Dick, Milan, and Consol).

**Action: Ole, Dick,  
Consol, Milan  
Milosevic,  
Jadranka**

## 6. Section's logo

Proposed logos for the UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine were shown by Consol. Alternative number 6 was chosen. The badge will be produced by Alma Simunec-Jovic (Croatia), and coordinated by Jadranka. An amount of 150€ had been agreed to pay for the logo design.

**Action: Jadranka,  
Annette, Consol**

## 7. Working groups (see appendix for all groups)

Considering the participation at the two meetings, it was possible to have meetings for 4 working groups.

Ljiljana Cvejanov-Kezunovic wished to join group 2. Luc Quaeghebeur wished to join group 3, as did Dick Spreeuwers. Working groups had parallel meetings. WG 2 and 6 had a joint meeting. Group 5 was joined by Ewan Macdonald and Alain. WG 3 (not assembled in Doonbeg) met.

### GROUP 2 and 6: SPECIALTY TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND ASSESSMENT

Reporter: Nikki Cordell

Milan Tucek, Anne-Christine Markset, Elena Pauncu, Ljiljana Cvejanov-Kezunovic

Training and assessment is related. Our WHO documents will be reviewed. Competencies will be compared. Harmonization will be promoted, by identifying specialist training regulation in each country.

**Action:  
Nikki and WG 2  
and 6**

### GROUP 3: TO INFLUENCE STAKEHOLDERS AND LEGISLATORS AND TO PROMOTE ONE VOICE FOR OM AT EU AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

*Glasgow*

Reporter: Jacques van der Vliet

Luc Quaeghebeur, Dick Spreeuwers

Draft objectives were discussed. The document included 6 points and 3 actions:

- send in strategy document
- national activities towards stakeholders
- prepare future communication towards the Commission

**Action: Jacques  
and WG 3**

## *Brussels*

Reporter: Jadranka Mustajbegovic

Thomas Kraus, Dermot Halpin, Consol Serra (meeting Brussels)

Jadranka will circulate the WHO/ILO OH Action Plan, and suggested to invite also Rokho Kim, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, to discuss/develop European action plan for WHO/ILO.

**Action: Jadranka and WG 3**

## GROUP 5: PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Reporter: Kaj Husman

Monica Ballester, Ewan Macdonald, Alain Cantineau, Consol Serra

Identification of challenges: assessing fitness for work, the role of OPh in sickness absence evaluation, and promoting work ability. Several actions have been proposed:

- a) Cochrane guidelines (Cochrane Occupational Health Field, Jos Verbeek) to be made available through links in the section's webpage;
- b) A Catalonian position paper edited by the Catalan Society of Occupational Medicine is also relevant and a 10 points document will be drafted from this paper for approval by the Section and made available at the website. Use our web page for discussion or a web based survey;
- c) Functional capacity: Ewan will give input and a document will be sent round by Kaj (Ilmarinen).

**Action: Kaj and WG 5**

[www.workingforhealth.gov.uk](http://www.workingforhealth.gov.uk) is a good site for this topic.

## WORKING GROUPS

The working groups on the action plan need to be updated and reorganised, and deadlines included, to increase effectiveness.

**Action: all**

## **8. Surveys**

### **Survey of societies of occupational medicine**

Monica presented the current version of the survey report. 22 out of 24 countries answered, and several countries provided several answers. Comments to the report are still welcome. The report will be circulated after final correction by Monica, Consol and Dick.

The aim is to publish it in a relevant scientific journal, for instance Occupational Medicine.

**Action: Monica and all**

#### **Survey training occupational medicine**

The survey on training needs to be updated. Alexis, Alenka and Elena are proposed to participate in its development.

**Action: WG 2**

#### **9. Finances**

Annette has circulated an invoice. Some countries have now paid for 2006-07. Both the national and the international (in English) names of the society, and the address (including city and country) must be used when transferring the money to the bank account so that Annette can clearly identify who has paid.

The payment list will be circulated.

Annette will prepare a plan of expenses and budget for the next year, to be presented at next meeting.

**Action: Annette and Jadranka**

#### **10. Montenegro representation**

Ljiljana explained there are upcoming changes in Montenegro. It is still too early for specific details.

#### **11. Specialisation in the Czech Republic**

Milan explained that family physicians are giving pressure towards occupational medicine in the Czech Republic and that an open discussion will be organised in June about possible changes in training Occupational Medicine (medical specialization vs. certified courses).

European medical directive on specialization should be used. Our section will provide a support letter to appropriate institutions (Ministry of Health, Czech Society Occupational Medicine, etc.).

**Action: Consol and Milan**

#### **12. Hamburg initiative for a new European OM Society**

The initiative from Prof. Xaver Baur has already been addressed via several contacts. Klaus and Thomas attended a meeting and brought inputs to the section. The initiative seems to be basically research focused. It should be explored in more detail and actions taken so that it does not overlap the scope and activities with the already existing European organisations UEMS and EASOM. It was agreed to invite Prof. Bauer to a future meeting and discuss these issues jointly.

**Action: Consol and Knut**

### 13. Joint meeting UEMS/ EASOM

John Harrison and Consol reported about the planning of a joint meeting between the boards of the EASOM and the UEMS Section of OM that Kristiina Mukala agreed with Consol. The main objective of the meeting is to discuss the need to avoid undesired duplicities and to create new synergies between both organizations. A brief introductory presentation on the scope and functions of both organisations will be done by Kristiina and Consol, and some other topics for discussion were suggested: EU accreditation of CME, accreditation of trainees and visitation centres (on a voluntary basis and with the aims to sensitise professionals involved) and guidelines.

The joint meeting will take place in November in Belgrade (see "Date and place of next meetings"). Peter Bulat (EASOM board) will host the meeting.

**Action: Kristiina and Consol**

### 14. Website for jobs and studies exchange in the EU

Dick announced that the website for jobs and studies exchange among different EU countries, [www.exoh.nu](http://www.exoh.nu) will be running soon.

**Action: Dick**

### 15. Other

Trainees' representation in the Section: Dermot will explore it and report in next meeting.

**Action: Dermot**

Proposal of Summer school for trainees organised by EASOM and OM UEMS Section. Twinning project, the EU exchange project programme between new member states/candidate countries and old EU countries. Thomas will report and make proposal.

**Action: Jadranka and Thomas**

#### Research projects:

Jadranka and Thomas proposed a research project on "Occupational health of European medical doctors as a patient safety issue". A standardised questionnaire would be developed to be translated in each country. A proposal will be circulated before next meeting. Bernard Maillet (UEMS, Brussels) will be contacted for budget. Janine Cantineau will also be contacted for nurses' participation.

Another proposed project, to be discussed and developed later in the future, is on interventions for hospital workers workability.

**Action: Jadranka and Thomas**

**16. Upcoming events.**

WHO collaborating centres meeting, Madrid 14-16 October (contact Jadranka).

Conference “Achieving Business Excellence – Health, Wellbeing and Performance”, London 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October 2008 (contact: Jacques) (<http://www.supportproject.eu/events/homepage-events/achievingbusinessexcellence.htm>). A keynote “The future of work and health” will be given by Juhani Ilmaninen (FIOH, Finland).

PREMUS-ICOH 2010 will be held in France (Angers).

**17. Date and place of next meetings**

8<sup>th</sup> November 2008: Joint EASOM-UEMS OM section meeting in Belgrade.

June 2009: ATOM meeting in Cardiff (proposal).

Spring / fall 2009 Lisbon and Montenegro have been suggested (proposal).

**Action: Knut and Consol**

Consol thanked participants, both members and observers, for coming and for their contributions and discussions during the meeting.

We were grateful for all arrangements being made by our Scotch hosts.

19<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Consol Serra  
(President)

Knut Skyberg  
(Secretary)

## Appendix.

### Action plan: revised (as of April 2008) priorities and working groups



#### UEMS SECTION OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE ACTION PLAN, 2006 – 2009

PRIORITY		Working group
1	To continue and strengthen the development of the Section's website	<b>Ole Carstensen (Webmaster and contact person)</b> Dick Spreeuwens (Co-Webmaster) Knut Skyberg Consol Serra
2	To advance in the harmonisation of basic requirements and quality of speciality training programmes.	<b>Stanislav Pusnik (contact person)</b> Milan Tucek Anne-Christine Markset Petar Bulat (EASOM) Ljiljana Kezunovic
3	To influence stakeholders and legislators and to promote one voice for OM at EU and national levels.	<b>Jacques van der Vliet (contact person)</b> Elsbeth Huber Damian Fotache
4	To advance in the harmonisation of CME criteria and recertification.	<b>Kristiina Mikkala (EASOM) (contact person)</b> Alain Cantineau Nurka Pranjic Milan Tucek Annette Gäßler
5	To promote good practice and continuous quality improvement.	<b>Kaj Husman (contact person)</b> Ewan Macdonald Consol Serra Rosa Naumoska Monica Ballester Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres
6	To contribute to the assessment of training programmes and trainees.	<b>Ewan Macdonald (contact person)</b> Elena Pauncu Jadranka Mustajbegovic Nikki Cordell

7	To participate in key forums and conferences with important impact on the speciality.	<b>Jadranka Mustajbegovic (contact person)</b> Paulo Coelho dos Santos All
8	To collaborate with EU institutions related to occupational health	<b>Tom McMahon (contact person)</b> Consol Serra Kristiina Mukala (EASOM) Jacques van del Vliet Elsbeth Huber
9	To strengthen the impact of the Section in member countries	<b>Consol Serra (contact person)</b> All
10	To find new ways in OH to cope with the changing world of work, new intervention techniques, knowledge transfer.	<b>Dick Spreeuwers (contact person)</b> Ewan Macdonald Alenka Skerjanc Luc Quaeghebeur Rafael Timermans
11	To make a plan of future tasks to finance	<b>Consol Serra (contact person)</b> Knut Skyberg Annette Gässler
12	To attract new members	<b>Consol Serra (contact person)</b> All
13	To discuss the establishment of a future Board within the Section	<b>Knut Skyberg (contact person)</b> Consol Serra Bernard Maillet (UEMS)
14	To ensure that all member countries contribute equally to the financing of the Section.	<b>Annette Gässler (contact person)</b>