



UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine

MINUTES

Belgrade

Saturday 8. November 2008

2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Serbian Institute of Public Health “Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut”

Dr Subotica 5, 11000 - Belgrade

1. Participants and apologies

Participants:

Milan Tucek
Luc Quaeghebeur
Dick Spreeuwers
Jacques van der Vliet
Ewan Macdonald
Petar Bulat
Kaj Husman
Anne-Christine Markset
Elena-Ana Păuncu
Monica Ballester
Andre Weel
Damian Fotache
Knut Skyberg (Secretary)
Consol Serra (President)
Annette Gässler (Treasurer)
Ritva Helimäki-Aro
Reinhardt Jäger
Milan Milozevic
Ole Carstensen
Paulo Coelho dos Santos

Czech Republic
Belgium
The Netherlands
The Netherlands
UK
Serbia/EASOM
Finland
Norway
Romania
Spain
EASOM
Romania
Norway
Spain
Germany
Finland
Austria
Croatia
Denmark
Portugal

Apologies:

Nundita Retoo
Jonas Brisman
Alenka Škerjanc
Stanislav Pusnik
Mats Berg
Elsbeth Huber
Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres
Thomas Kraus
Nikki Cordell
Jadranka Mustajbegovic

UK
Sweden
Slovenia
Slovenia
Sweden
Austria
Croatia
Germany
UK
Croatia

2. Welcome

Consol welcomed participants at the meeting. The joint meeting EASOM – UEMS on Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon was very positive and it was agreed to have further EASOM-UEMS joint meetings. Minutes on that meeting will be circulated. Consol proposed to add on the agenda of the meeting a further discussion about Baur’s initiative to create a new group of research in OM in Europe, which was approved.

3. **Minutes of last meeting** (Glasgow/ Brussels, 12th/19th April 2008)
No corrections were made. The minutes were approved.

4. **Surveys**

Monica informed that the survey is to be published in an international journal (Occupational medicine). A draft will be sent out shortly for comments before the end of the year.

Action: Monica

5. **Research projects**

- UEMS OM project proposal: Milan M presented a draft on behalf of Jadranka and Thomas. The proposed project title is **“Occupational health of occupational health providers as a patient safety issue”**. A cross-sectional study design is proposed, including 6 hospitals per country. Questionnaires and indexes to indicate work ability, quality of life, human work index and stress were discussed. GHQ12 is internationally validated. Questionnaires should be short and not more than 3. Intervention vs. cross sectional design should be considered. Human error indicators would be interesting, but it may be difficult to find a scale or instrument to measure them. Other indicators such as sickness absence and patient claims were suggested. The duration of the project is proposed for 1-2 years. The section supported the project development. Milan and Jadranka will revise the protocol for our next meeting in spring. Comments from members will be welcome.

Action: Milan, all

- **ATOM:** Ewan summarised the development of the project that started after the Hamburg UEMS meeting as a European-based initiative and later developed into an international perspective, including also the US, South Africa and Japan from the Barcelona workshop (November 2006). Funds from the Leonardo Foundation were obtained, but after pondering the allocated resources compared to the enormous amount of bureaucracy that it implies, it was decided to decline such funds. The project development is slow but progressing. The last ATOM meeting took place last April at the ICOH conference in Glasgow, and two action working groups were formed for the development of a portfolio (Nikki) and an multiple choice questionnaire (MCQ) (Consol). Nikki is working on the project for her PhD.

There is a high international interest in the project. New sources of funding are needed.

The Section supports further development of the ATOM project.

6. Website

Ole reported on the website development, under the Bilbao website. The layout is quite simple and the menu needs to be reduced. Some members already have had access to the draft version. It must be decided what is open and what is only accessible for members. The national societies will be asked to link to our website. They will also be informed about the link to them from the UEMS website. Milan M has offered to maintain our website, and shortly will upload the many documents that the Section has produced, and all members are asked to contribute to it.

Action: Milan, all

7. Finances

Annette informed that she is no longer a formal German representative. Thomas Kraus is taking over as formal section member. However, Annette is asked to continue as treasurer and observer for the present period.

Annette presented our current financing state. She has reviewed the different countries' contribution to the section. Invoices of €150 per country for 2008 and 2009 will be sent to all members. An account overview with in and out movements and present balance was given and a new travel form draft was presented. National associations' names and addresses were recorded. It was agreed to have an external auditor in addition to our internal.

Annette's efforts to sort out our finances were highly appreciated. Plans for future spending were asked for.

In very exceptional cases Annette can accept cash payment during a meeting.

It was agreed that membership payment in good standing will be required for voting.

Action: Annette

8. EXOH website

Dick reported about the development of the website and distributed some written information. The primary purpose of the website is an exchange program for occupational physicians. It opens in January 2009. www.exoh.nu

9. Elections

The present 4 years period is nearing its end. Elections for president, secretary and treasurer of the Section are planned for the next meeting. Ewan was asked to coordinate the process. Members who are willing to be candidates should contact Ewan by email or phone. If someone wants to propose another person, please also let Ewan know.

Deadline for proposing candidates: 1st February 2009.

Action: Ewan and all

10. Baur's initiative to create a new European OM group for researchers

Xaver Baur attended the joint UEMS-EASOM meeting by invitation, as agreed in the previous UEMS meeting and EASOM general assembly (Amsterdam, August 2008). He presented his group's plans and a discussion followed (see minutes of the joint meeting).

It was agreed that research collaboration is welcomed. Formal representation in UEMS is difficult, but we want to avoid another independent European organisation in Occupational Medicine. It was decided that Xaver Baur should be offered further discussions with our section to explore how a research group could cooperate with our section. Consol will stand for further contact.

Action: Consol

11. AOB

- A new paper on CPME is coming. Three leading countries are discussing leaving CPME. Jacques will keep us updated.
- Dick told us of his PhD dissertation (26th November), which can be obtained from him: "Registries of occupational diseases and their use for preventive policy."

12. Conferences and upcoming events

- Jacques informed about new consensus papers prepared for the European Commission. One is "Mental health in the elderly." There is an upcoming conference for management, called Enterprise for health. www.enterprise-for-health.org
- Romanian conference on Ergonomy in occupational health practice, Sibiu, 19th-22nd November 2008.

13. Next meetings

Spring meeting: **16th May with EASOM, in Prague.**
Autumn meeting: 10th October. Lisbon has been proposed.

**Action: Consol and
Knut**

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 Serbian hosts, special thanks to Petar Bulat.

1st November 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	Ole Carstensen (Webmaster and contact person) Dick Spreeuwers (Co-Webmaster) Knut Skyberg Consol Serra
2	To advance in the harmonisation of basic requirements and quality of speciality training programmes.	Stanislav Pusnik (contact person) 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.	Jacques van der Vliet (contact person) Elsbeth Huber Damian Fotache
4	To advance in the harmonisation of CME criteria and recertification.	Kristiina Mukkala (EASOM) (contact person) Alain Cantineau Nurka Pranjic Milan Tucek Annette Gäßler
5	To promote good practice and continuous quality improvement.	Kaj Husman (contact person) Ewan Macdonald Consol Serra Rosa Naumoska Monica Ballester Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres
6	To contribute to the assessment of training programmes and trainees.	Ewan Macdonald (contact person) Elena Pauncu Jadranka Mustajbegovic Nikki Cordell

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