

## UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine

### MINUTES

#### Brussels Meeting Saturday 25 March 2000

Attendees:	Dr Tom <b>McMahon</b>	Ireland (Chairman)
	Dr Ewan <b>Macdonald</b>	UK (Secretary/Treasurer)
	Dr Zora Vadjal <b>Gruden</b>	Slovenia
	Dr David <b>Sherson</b>	Denmark
	Dr Consol <b>Serra</b>	Spain
	Dr Knut <b>Syberg</b>	Norway
	Dr Isabel <b>Caixerio</b>	Portugal
	Dr Marc <b>Bregliano</b>	France
	Dr Jadranka <b>Mustajbegovic</b>	Croatia
	Dr Vlasta <b>Deckovic-Vukres</b>	Croatia
	Dr Reinhard <b>Jäger</b>	Austria
	Dr Blaise <b>Thorens</b>	Switzerland
	Professor <b>Kaj Husman</b>	Finland
	Dr Ørn Terje <b>Foss</b>	Norway
	Dr Boguslaw <b>Baranski</b>	The Netherlands WHO
	Dr Jacek <b>Michalak</b>	WHO

Apologies:	Dr Metka <b>Terzan</b>	Slovenia
	Dr Jacques <b>de Laval</b>	Sweden
	Dr Gunnar <b>Ahlborg</b>	Sweden
	Professor György <b>Köteles</b>	Hungary
	Dr Leopold <b>Koschatzky</b>	Austria
	Dr Luc <b>Quaeghebeur</b>	Belgium
	Dr John <b>Gallagher</b>	Ireland
	Dr George <b>Stamatopoulos</b>	Greece
	Dr Andy <b>Slovak</b>	UK

#### 1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the above delegates.

#### 2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

These were accepted as a true record.

#### 3. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed Isabel Caixerio from Portugal to her first meeting

and also Boguslaw Baranski the WHO co-ordinator for Europe and Jacek Michalak from the Nofer Institute who is undertaking a consultancy with WHO.

He reviewed progress of the section. Considerable progress had been made with two meetings achieved with the EU Commissioner Flynn. The section had supported the work on competencies and a production of a WHO booklet. The section had produced a UEMS section CME guideline document. Participation in section meetings had increased and he welcomed particularly the observers from Eastern Europe and representatives from Southern Europe, the latter not having been well represented at meetings. Germany had not yet nominated representatives.

He reported that in meetings with the Commission the importance of unity in the profession had been stressed and this had been addressed by the Glasgow concordat when the Presidents of the UEMS Section, EASOM, The European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine, and ENSOP, The European Network of Societies of Occupational Physicians, had agreed to meet regularly, to have representation on each others committees, and exchange Minutes. In the last of the meetings with the Commission all three organisation Presidents had participated in the delegation.

Overall Dr McMahon felt that the UEMS had achieved many of its objectives but it had not yet become an effective lobby in the EU, partly because of the multiplicity of organisations purporting to represent occupational physicians. In discussion it was agreed that the UEMS section represented both academic and practitioners from each country and was representative of the profession.

Dr McMahon was in his last year of office which would end in January 2001 and he raised the issue of the need to elect a President and Secretary/Treasurer. The President had to be elected every four years and could not be re-elected again unless there had been a gap of four years. The Secretary/Treasurer had to be re-elected every two years. It was agreed that with the Minutes of the meeting a letter would be sent round by the President asking for nominations to him by the end of June 2000. The nominations would be circulated by the 14 September and the election would be by a ballot paper at the next meeting of the section.

He thanked the Austrian section for an excellent meeting in Vienna and also thanked the sub groups of the section for their work and also the Secretary.

Dr Caixerio from Portugal was invited to give a summary of the situation of Occupational Medicine in Portugal. Dr Caixerio reported that she was attending as an observer and was not yet a formal representative. In Portugal Occupational Medicine was being reorganised. The law required all to have access to Occupational Medicine but there were not enough specialists. Doctors worked for large companies and sometimes for small enterprises providing shared services. There were about eighty recognised



Occupational Medicine Specialists in the country and three training schools for Occupational Physicians. Training up until recently had not been clearly defined but was being so in the future. The training will be for four years possibly with two years of a formal course and two years of practise. Dr McMahon thanked Dr Caixerio for an interesting report.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

##### **4.1 CME**

The feedback on the CME document had been received and this would be finalised and circulated to Members.

The Chairman reported on the formation of the European Accreditation Council for CME which was set up by the UEMS Management Council to further develop the mutual recognition of CME activities across Europe.

The feedback on the CME document had been received and this would be finalised and tabled at the UEMS Management Council Meeting in May and also circulated to members.

**4.2 Salsa** Kaj Hussman reported that data had been collected and a report had been written which would cover the provision of Occupational Health Services and also Quality Management in Occupational Health Service. The meeting would be held on the 10 May to review the results in Brussels.

**4.3 Core Competencies** Following the Glasgow conference a document had been drafted and reviewed by an invited expert group in May 1999. The document on Scope and Competencies of Occupational Medicine had been written by Ewan Macdonald, Bogulslaw Baranski and Jane Wilford and was now published. Bogulslaw Baranski had reported that he had distributed to a hundred WHO collaborating centres and contact points. He asked members to use the books appropriately in curriculum setting and also influencing others. Dr Foss asked about the state of the document and Dr Baranski said this was effectively the recommendations endorsed by the WHO of an expert group. On further discussion Dr Baranski said that he would find out who represented each country in relevant WHO committees.

#### **5. European Accreditation Council**

Information about the Council would be circulated to members and recommendations provided a basis for the recognition of CME from existing National Accreditation Institutes, across national boundaries.

#### **6. Proposed Standing Group**

The document produced by the CP as a Policy Statement in Occupational Medicine and previously agreed in Barcelona had been formalised. It was

noted that the CP, The Committee Permanente did not have a policy statement on any other discipline. Doctor Joe Kearns a former member of the CP and Dr Van der Vliet a current member had been involved with others in the drafting of the CP document. More recently a letter had been received from Dr Van der Vliet proposing that the document on Occupational Medicine be presented to the Commission. A further letter had been received by Dr Van der Vliet and Dr Girault both of the Committee Permanente proposing that a standing group of representatives of Occupational Physician Organisations including UEMS and ENSOP, be set up to work through the CP to represent Occupational Medicine. This led to considerable discussion and the key points made included the following:

- The UEMS already represented both academics and practitioners from each country. The Committee Permanente reported up the medical route to DG15 while Occupational Medicine has to access other directorates DG5 in its relationship with social services and labour.
- It was agreed that the CP document would be accepted. It was agreed that there should be a standing group of doctors in the EU representing occupational medicine in order that occupational medicine can present a united front.
- The section did not agree that such a group of doctors should be sponsored by the CP or that there should be any control by the CP of section contacts and communication. Dr Foss from Norway commented that ENSOP only had one meeting and that no future meetings were planned as far as he was aware. Also ENSOP did not have a Secretary. In Norway they had already merged practitioners and academics.
- It was agreed that ENSOP should be invited to meet at the same time as the next UEMS section meeting.

**Action TM/EBM**

## **7. Criteria and indicators of good practice**

Dr Baranski gave a presentation on Criteria and Indicators of good practice and also on Improving the Health Environment and Safety Management and Enterprises. He discussed the purpose of Occupational Medicine and the need to focus on customers in enterprises and identify what they required. Some might require nothing and others may wish to fulfil the law and many may not see the social benefits. In the last fifteen years the growth of health promotion in enterprises and some of the health promotion disciplines had shown that if workers were involved then enterprises would benefit. It was suggested that developing concept of Occupational Medicine should be that of Public Health for enterprises. Commented that DG5 deals mainly with Article 137 whereas Occupational Health was much broader. He was keen to establish the role and market the social and political objectives of the profession. Health promotion have recently changed its name within the EU to that of Workplace Health Management. He believed that it was important in Occupational Medicine and for Occupational Physicians that appropriate terminology and language to communicate the role and its importance. In this



respect the old language of Occupational Medicine and Occupational Health he believed had little impact.

## 8. Secretary/Treasurer Report

The Secretary circulated details of the account. Many countries have still not paid their subscription for previous years or for 1998 and 1999 and a detailed description of these would be displayed in the Minutes. It was agreed that all countries should be invoiced for unpaid subscriptions. Below please find table detailing countries subscription fees of 150 Euros for 1998, 1999 and 2000.

<b>UEMS Subscription – 150 Euros per year</b>			
Country	1998	1999	2000
UK	Paid	Paid	Paid
Austria	Paid	Paid	Unpaid
Belgium	Paid	Paid	Unpaid
Croatia	Paid	Unpaid	Unpaid
Denmark	Paid	Paid	Unpaid
Finland	Paid	Paid	Unpaid
France	Paid	Paid	Unpaid
Greece	Paid	Unpaid	Unpaid
Hungary	Not applicable	Not applicable	Unpaid
Italy	Paid	Paid	Unpaid
Ireland	Paid	Unpaid	Unpaid
Norway	Paid	Unpaid	Unpaid
Portugal	Paid	Paid	Unpaid
Spain	Unpaid	Unpaid	Unpaid
The Netherlands	Paid	Paid	Unpaid
Turkey	Paid	Not paid	Not paid
Switzerland	Paid	Unpaid	Unpaid
Slovenia	Unpaid	Unpaid	Unpaid
Sweden	Paid	Unpaid	Unpaid

It was agreed that all countries should be invoiced for unpaid subscription.

The work of the Secretary has been subsidised from his own resources at the University and his proposal that some of the salary costs of his Secretary involved in the UEMS business would be transferred from the UEMS account was approved.

The President, Dr McMahon stressed that it was important that representatives ensured that subscriptions were paid by their countries not only for the current year but for previous years. He also pointed out that only the formal EU country representatives would have a vote in future elections but they would not have the vote if they had not paid their subscriptions.

## 9. Any other business

Dr McMahon said that he would suggest to Dr Van der Vliet of ENSOP that

ENSOP meet the same time as the next UEMS meeting and he hoped to be able to arrange appropriate meeting facilities. The date of the next meeting is Saturday 21 October 2000 in Dublin at the Irish Medical Organisation, 10 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.