



UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine

MINUTES

Prague

Saturday 16th May 2009

9 am – 5 pm

Lékařský dům (House of Physicians), Sokolská 31, Prague 2

1. Participants and apologies

Participants:

Milan Tucek	Czech Republic
Luc Quaeghebeur	Belgium
Dick Spreeuwiers	The Netherlands
Jacques van der Vliet	The Netherlands
Ewan Macdonald	UK
Dragana Velickovic	Serbia
Kaj Husman	Finland
Anne-Christine Markset	Norway
Elena-Ana Păuncu	Romania
Monica Ballester	Spain
Andre Weel	EASOM
Damian Fotache	Romania
Emil Vancu	Romania
Knut Skyberg (Secretary)	Norway
Consol Serra (President)	Spain
Nikki Cordell	UK
Ritva Helimäki-Aro	Finland
Reinhardt Jäger	Austria
Milan Milozevic	Croatia
Ole Carstensen	Denmark
Paulo Coelho dos Santos	Portugal
Tom O'Connell	Ireland
Bernard Maillet	UEMS
Stanislav Pusnik	Slovenia
Mari Cruz Rodriguez Jareno	Spain (trainee)
Robert Winker	Austria
Jean-Francois Gehanno	EASOM

Apologies:

Nundita Retoo	UK
Alenka Škerjanc	Slovenia
Mats Berg	Sweden
Elsbeth Huber	Austria
Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres	Croatia
Thomas Kraus	Germany
Jadranka Mustajbegovic	Croatia
Dermot Halpin	France
Gunnar Ahlborg	Sweden
Annette Gaessler (Treasurer)	Germany

2. Welcome

A special welcome to Bernard Maillet, Secretary General of UEMS.

Everyone gave a short personal presentation. New trainee representative:

Mari Cruz Rodriguez joined the Section. She was trainee in Occupational Medicine in the UK for two years and she is currently undertaking the specialization in Spain.

3. Minutes of last meeting (Belgrade 8th November 2008)

Jacques asked to add his presentation on Mental Health to the minutes from Belgrade, which was approved. No other corrections to the minutes previously sent out came forward. The minutes were approved with this addition.

4. Czech Society of Occupational Medicine

Milan gave a nice presentation of Occupational Medicine in the Czech Republic. He covered history and the present situation concerning the speciality in the country. A discussion on single countries' ability to choose speciality rules followed. It seems the 4 year minimum requirement is the only basic rule each country has to meet. He explained the current situation regarding the speciality because of the reduction of training in OM from 4 to 2 years of academic training, promoted by the Czech Ministry of Health, despite the strong opposition from the Czech Society of OM, the UEMS, ICOH and WHO.

5. UEMS update/EACCME accreditation

Bernard reviewed ongoing activities in the UEMS. Last year's 50th celebration meetings, when strategy and future strategy were described. More direct input from sections to Council is needed. Council meeting October 2008 Strategy implementation. S&B February 2009 European examinations. EACCME report. Speciality across borders issues. Coming up: Working time directive. Patients crossing borders. List of specialities update. New concept: Particular competencies. EACCME: web based application. Occupational medicine section is included. Agreement with national accreditation authorities in many countries, number is rising. US - Europe vice versa agreement. ECMEC points system recalculation system for each country. UEMS, section and national ass share the fee, increasing with number of expected participants. Feed-back form developed. UEMS website is being restructured.

Jacques described the problems of using accreditation points from other countries. Could we have a simpler system? Bernard responded we will move towards a simpler system in the future. Jacques proposed a pilot. Dick: could we start with a few countries? Bernard: We already have some quality criteria. We need a system that can be applicable for all specialities. The topic will be followed up by the section. An accreditation board within the section was established. Elected: Kaj, Jadranka, André (EASOM), Nikki, Paulo. Nikki presented the British annual Society of Occupational Medicine conference in Cardiff, 22nd-25th June 2009. The program was dealt out. UEMS could be present at the event, for instance using a poster. 250

participants are expected. The newly created EACCME occ med board approved the conference with 18 ECMECs.

Action: Kaj

6. Surveys

Monica's survey is completed. Dick, Consol and Mari Cruz will contribute to the publication. Ole wanted the data for national presentation. The training survey by Ole and re-certification by Luc should be updated.

Action: Dick, Consol, Mari Cruz

7. Research projects

ATOM: Ewan described the current state. At the Glasgow conference last year it was agreement to develop a multiple choice questionnaire and a portfolio. Nikki had focused on topics that need other assessment than MCQs. 3-4 institutions, financing for a coordinating centre are needed to get the project forward. Assessment meeting in Brussels takes place in November 2009. EASOM is interested.

8. Position paper on Mental Health in Workplace

Jacques presented Pact for Mental Health being prepared in the Standing Committee of European doctors. A position paper was adopted in March 2009 and put on their website. The paper addresses the magnitude of the problem, that focus on prevention is needed. It includes an action plan for a healthy working climate. The paper should be distributed nationally through the societies. Ewan pointed to the rise of mental health problems and the consequences for disability. This is all due to minor psychiatric symptoms. Often few cases and long sick leave spells. 80% not work related. Work is good for health, not the opposite. Tom pointed at back pain is no longer a good reason for rest off work. Dick also advocated that our recommendations to society are important. Ole mentioned a Danish study on long term sick leave due to mental illness. How much stress is work-related? Jean-Francois pointed to the training of managers. Kaj said that disability costs due to this problem are exploding, and we need to do something. We must address workers' health, but not blame the workplace. We should take care not to "medicalise" either. The presentation will be sent out.

Action: Jacques

9. Website

Ole presented our website under the EU-OSHA platform. The system for their site is not easy to use. They are moving to a new platform these days. We do not know if this will make it easier for us. Every section member should be able to upload documents. We could pay for support. At each meeting we should decide which documents to put out on the website. The UEMS website will be more accessible for sections in the near future. It is proposed to terminate the collaboration with OSHA, which was approved. The UEMS alternative will be checked out. A proposal for the next meeting will be made.

Action: Ole

10. Elections

Ewan described the nomination process. Dick was nominated for president. He was elected by acclamation. Alenka was elected as secretary. It was approved that Knut will act provisionally while awaiting the formal status of Alenka. *(This was sorted out in June, as Alenka was formally elected also from her country.)* Annette continues as treasurer.

Action: Alenka and Stanislav

11. Status in the Working groups

WG 2 Harmonization and 6 Assessment were fused. WG 3 One voice and 8 EU also. WG 5 Good practise and WG 10 New ways were also given priority. Emil and Jean-Francois joined WG 3, Ritva and Dragana joined WG 10. Bernard followed WG3 and 5. The WGs discussed their topics in parallel sessions. The new structure of the working groups is in the annex 1.

In addition to the new 4 topics for WGs, it was agreed that the other points from the strategy plan should be regarded as ongoing activities (annex 2).

The four WGs presented the results of their work, followed by discussions.

Summary of reports from the WG:

WG 1: Training and CME

Identification of core competencies of OM and elaboration of an MCQ to check whether there are differences across countries, to be discussed at next meeting. Also, some examples will be analysed of different assessment tools used in different countries, and legislation to be certified OPh.

WG 2: Politics

WG 3: Quality of practice

Promote closer collaboration with the Cochrane Occupational Health Field, and to facilitate access to guidelines (Coronel Institute, UK guidelines).

WG 4: Professional challenges

Identified concepts: decline of traditional occupational diseases and increase of mental health problems; evidence-base OM is growing; decisions and treatments shared with patients who have increasing and better information; ageing workforce and increasing chronic diseases which need adjustments of working conditions; focus on healthy companies and health working lives; low qualified labour market with poor work conditions, no coverage, etc.; role of UEMS to access data sources.

Action: WG contact persons

12. EASOM collaboration

Joint conference with EASOM summer school 26th – 28th 2010. Venue is likely to be Dubrovnik. A preparatory program committee is established. A draft programme was presented by André. Open conference, maximum 100 participants. The plans were discussed. Need of scientific committee? Free presentations in parallel sessions. What is the target group? The committee needs additional members.

Action: André

Poor coverage of occupational medicine in basic curriculum throughout Europe. This needs follow up by EASOM and UEMS in cooperation. EASOM is recruiting members.

13. Finances

Consol showed the financial situation. Those countries that have not paid and need paper invoices should contact Annette. Those who need a hard copy of the invoice to be sent to the corresponding Society should contact Annette. Voting is subject to payment status. Bernard suggested that fee might be adjusted according to the size of the country.

14. Next meeting

10th October, Lisbon, Portugal.

Action: Paulo, Dick and Alenka

Consol thanked participants, both members and observers, EASOM representatives and in special Bernard Maillet for coming and for their contributions and discussions during the meeting.

We were grateful for all arrangements being made by our Czech hosts, special thanks to Milan.

The meeting was followed by a dinner to celebrate the end of the presidential period.

2nd June 2009

Consol Serra
(President)

Knut Skyberg
(Secretary)

Appendix 1. Working groups in Prague



**UEMS SECTION OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE
BASED ON ACTION PLAN, 2006 – 2009**

WORKING GROUP		Members
1	To advance in the harmonisation of basic requirements and quality of speciality training programmes, and of CME criteria and recertification	Stanislav Pusnik (contact person) Milan Tucek Anne-Christine Markset Nikki Cordell Andre Weel Paulo Coelho dos Santos Mari Cruz Rodriguez Jareno Ole Carstensen Robert Winker
2	To influence stakeholders and legislators and to promote one voice for OM at EU and national levels, and to collaborate with EU institutions related to occupational health.	Jacques van der Vliet (contact person) Emil Vancu Damian Fotache Jean-Francois Gehanno
3	To promote good practice and continuous quality improvement.	Kaj Husman (contact person) Consol Serra
4	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 Luc Quaeghebeur Ritva Helimäki-Aro Dragana Velickovic

Appendix 2.

Permanent activities

- To continue and strengthen the development of the Section's website
- To participate in key forums and conferences with important impact on the speciality
- To strengthen the impact of the Section in member countries
- To make a plan of future tasks to finance
- To attract new members
- To run the Board for CME European accreditation
- To ensure that all member countries contribute equally to the financing of the Section.