



UEMS SECTION OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

MINUTES - LISBON

Saturday 10th October 2009
10.00 am – 5.30 pm
Ordem dos Medicos – Portuguese Medical Association,
Av. Almirante Gago Coutinho, 151,
1749-084 Lisboa

1. Participants and apologies

PARTICIPANTS: Dick Spreeuwers, President (The Netherlands), Karl Hochgatterer (Austria), Luc Quaeghebeur (Belgium), Vlasta Dečković-Vukres (Croatia), Milan Tuček (Czech Republic), Ole Carstensen (Denmark), Ritva Helimäki-Aro (Finland), Kaj Husman (Finland), Thomas Kraus (Germany), Tom Oconnell (Ireland), Jacques van der Vliet (The Netherlands), Kristian Vetlesen (Norway), Paulo Coelho dos Santos (Portugal), Pedro Reis (Portugal), Elena-Ana Pancu (Romania), Emil Vancu (Romania), Urška Močnik (Slovenia), Alenka Škerjanc, Secretary (Slovenia), Mari Cruz Rodriguez Jareño, trainee (Spain), Nikki Cordell (United Kingdom), Ewan B. Macdonald (United Kingdom); Bernard Maillet, General Secretary UEMS/EACCME, André Weel (EASOM).

APOLOGIES: Annette Gäbler (Germany), Jadranka Mustajbegović (Croatia), Anne-Christine Markset (Norway), Stanislav Pušnik (Slovenia), Damian Fotache (Romania), Consol Serra (Spain).

Alenka is much obliged to Ewan, Consol, Dick and many colleagues for being elected as a secretary in spite of her absence in Prague.

2. Welcome

A warm welcome was expressed to Bernard Maillet, Secretary General of UEMS who is almost a regular participant of our Section's meetings. Everyone gave a short personal presentation. Some new representatives joined our section: Karl Hochgatterer (Austria), Kristian Vetlesen (Norway), Pedro Reis (Portugal), Urška Močnik (Slovenia).

3. Portuguese Medical Association

Pedro Reis and Paulo Coelho dos Santos gave a nice presentation of the Portuguese Medical Association, established in 1898 in Lisbon and legalized in 1938. Its Code of Ethics indicated the relation between the State and the Association. They presented the problems with former health policies and a current status since

1977. Postgraduate training in OM includes two years of basic training in medicine plus two additional years in training to obtain degree in occupational health. 800 physicians of occupational health are now covering the needs of working population in Portugal.

We admired and enjoyed our meeting just in the home of the Portuguese Medical Association. (File attached)

4. Minutes of the last meeting (Prague, 16th May 2009)

Remarks:

Ad 5)

Accreditation is not only the matter of our UEMS Section but has to be applicable for all specialities. André suggested our decisions from Prague have to be reconsidered.

Ad 8)

Bernard remarked that also UEMS logo and not only CPME's should be given to Jacque's presentation in Public Service review: Health 20.

5. Reflection on the position and activities of the section

The new elected President of the Section presented the mission and purposes of the UEMS, with a special emphasis to the key objectives of four working groups of our UEMS Section:

1. promotion and harmonisation of postgraduate training and objectives, together with EASOM;
2. enhance the position and promotion of our Section in political networks in the EU;
3. promotion of high quality occupational healthcare for all EU citizens;
4. reply on changing working environment and position of workers in the EU.

Our section is consisted of 22 official members. (File attached)

6. ECAMSQ and other information on UEMS

Secretary General of the UEMS Dr. Bernard Maillet presented the activity of the UEMS-EACCME.

- He summarized the contents of the UEMS council meetings in 2008 and 2009.
- E-health issue needs to harmonize the examination process.
- Green-paper on Healthcare Workforce and challenges in the next future was introduced.
- Challenge to the next future is The Directive on Mutual Recognition of Qualification that is to be revised until 2012.
- We were introduced EACCME in details.
- The fees are based are based on a sliding scale.
- E-learning is a big project started on April 2009 (special file attached).
- The structure, rules and tasks of the Sections and Boards were explained.
- The relations and tasks among Executive, EACCME, EACOM, ECAMSQ, the Council were presented.
- Specialist Occupational Medicine is recognized as a basic Specialty in 26 member states (not in Estonia), the minimal length for training is four years.
- The needs for a good specialist training were summarized.
- Glasgow declaration and the role of European Board Examination was described. (File attached)

A challenge about maximum working time of 48 hours per week was a headline for a further discussion and was then set into WG3.

Accreditation board for occupational medicine is without regulations, procedure, qualifications. Bernard stated that we have to accept the system as a whole. Credit system should not exclude anybody.

Next time UEMS system of accreditation should be discussed in details.

(Ole sent us the location where the documents - THE UEMS OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE MONOSPECIALIST SECTION: PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) and Chapter 6, CHARTER ON TRAINING OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS IN THE EU REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIALTY OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE are stated: <http://osha.europa.eu/fop/uems/en>)

7. Research projects

- Dick shortly reported on Publication Survey National Societies of Occupational Medicine (Consol, Mari Cruz, Dick) – it will be sent to the members and published on our website and/or in a proper journal.
- Ewan reported that ATOM does not progress as quickly as the UEMS. Common assessment elements are needed so that any specialist should be at the same knowledge.

8. Website

Ole presented the portfolio of our website. We should spend 1500,00 € creating it. Dick proposed two stage approaches:

1. basic: to make our own information
2. advanced: given authorisation to put information

9. Report of working groups

- WG1: Training and CME (Nikki, André, Karl, Paulo, Mari Cruz, Ole)

Stated two objectives:

1. To look at the quality assurance standards that should be applied to conferences/educational activities before accreditation is given and compare this with the current UEMS accreditation program. This will help us decide if we wish to adopt this program or not.
2. To re-write Chapter 6 of the Training Charter for Occupational Medicine which will help identify any areas which our working group needs to address in due course.

- WG2: Politics (Jacques, Emil, Thomas, Tom, Pedro Milan,)

Stated these objectives among others (see attached file):

1. To call the Commission to organize a meeting with trade unions on relevant statements of occupational medicine.
2. To influence future legislation as our Section's goal.

- WG3: Quality of practice (Bernard, Kaj, Ewan, Vlasta, Kristian, Pedro, Urška)

1. Considering that the European Working Time Directive will be debated in the near future in as well the European Parliament as well as in the European Commission, the UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine thinks that some important issues have to be discussed.

~~2. The proposed maximum weekly working time of 48 hours is not seen as evidence based.~~

3. Obviously, the guaranteeing of recovery time is fundamental in a legislation regulating the working time.
4. This 48 hours maximum weekly working time creates problems for the training of physicians.
5. It also makes problems to the continuity of treatments for the patients.
6. At present, this will create problems for the health care systems to provide accurate treatments for the European Citizen, especially considering the shortage of manpower in the health care.
7. Some flexibility has to be introduced to guarantee a good work-life balance.
9. Clearly, the definition of working time has to be clarified.

- WG4: Professional challenges (Dick, Elena-Ana, Ritva, Luc, Alenka)

Stated these two objectives:

1. To send a letter to all members of our UEMS Section to ask their National Societies to include one of the topics, regarding aging and vulnerable groups of working people, on their National Conferences.

Action: Dick, Alenka will supply addresses

2. To have a special burden on our website that must provide exchange of data on this topic.

During final discussion **common agreement about European Working Time Directive was not accepted – we will keep it on the next Agenda.**

10. Collaboration with EASOM

- Summer school 2010 will be held in Munich, Germany. Topic: E-learning

11. Finances

Dick presented the financial situation, prepared by Annette. We have 16.186,83 € on our Bank account in Germany (see attached file). A proposal for the balance between income and outcome was presented. After a discussion an agreement was accepted that the principle is OK, but we need to specify the expenditure and reduce it. We have to take care for the next 3 – 5 year period.

Dick prepared a new proposal – reducing the budget for the working groups (see attached file).

12. Romanian proposals

That were introduced by Emil are attached in the file. There was no discussion as **some of the proposals will be put into the Agenda in future.**

13. Railway Medicine

Milan was asked for the opinion of the UEMS OM on Recognition or accreditation of medical doctors under Article 20 of the Directive 2007/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the railway system in the Community.

Our common proposal is: Specialists of occupational medicine are the only relevant persons for medical examination.

14. Any other business

We lack a **decision making procedure**. The topic of the next Agenda is therefore: How to come from the proposal to the statement?

15. Reports from conferences/ info on upcoming events

- 10.02.-12.02.2010, Helsinki, Finland: Better work well-being
- 10.06.-12.06.2010, Venice, Italy (EFOH): Infectious Diseases at Work
- 08.11.-09.11.2010, Berlin, Germany: Mental Health in Workplace Settings
- Spring 2011, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Tracing New Occupational Diseases

Kaj announced this meeting to be his last in our UEMS Section.

Luc expects to be “officially” retired at the end of this year.

We were announced that also Paulo is leaving us.

We say farewell to all of them and thank them for their input and participation over a long period of time.

16. Date and location of the next meetings in 2010

- 24.04.2010: Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 16.10.2010: Bucharest, Romania

The meeting was closed at 17.30 p.m.

We were grateful to Paulo for the arrangement being made by our Portuguese guests.

The meeting was followed by a dinner in a restaurant with typical Fado.

Dick Spreeuwers
President

Alenka Škerjanc
Secretary