



UEMS SECTION OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

MINUTES

Meeting: May, 27th 2017

Mäkelänkatu 2, Helsinki; House of the Finnish Medical Association

1. Company/work-site visit (Friday 26.5. 13:00 – 17:00)

Kone Corporation Finland

We had the opportunity to visit the production site of Kone in Hyvinkää, a small town north of Helsinki. Kone is one of the world's most important manufactures and service providers for elevators and automatic escalators. We were kindly received by the head of health and wellbeing at Kone Finland, Mrs. [Tuulia Saario](#) and by the HR Manager Mrs. [Tiina Kautonen](#). They gave us a very interesting insight into the daily work of an occupational physician in a big company in Finland. As we saw at work-site visits before and in other countries, the occupational physician is today more a manager of health issues in a big company than only a service provider of medical interventions.

They presented how Occupational Health is an integrated part of the companies (Annex 1)

It was a holiday in Finland Thursday 25.5. as it was in other countries the production on Friday was very silent and calm. Interesting was the office's concept of a modular and variable Open Space.



Thanks for this interesting view into the factory!

2. Participants and apologies

- **PARTICIPANTS:** Hosts: Satu Vaihkonen and Kari Reijula.
Alenka Škerjanc, president (Slovenia), Klaus Ernst Stadtmüller, secretary (Switzerland), Simon Bulterys, treasurer (Belgium), Karl Hochgatterer (Austria), Milan Tuček (Czech Republic), Ole Carstensen (Denmark), Satu Vaihkonen (Finland), Kari Reijula (Finland), Tom O'Connell (Ireland), Ivo Iavicoli (Italy), Marc Jacoby (Luxemburg), Nicole Majery (Luxemburg), Tor Erik Danielsen (Norway), Jolanta Walusiak Skroupa (Poland), Pedro Gustavo Reis (Portugal), Emil Vancu (Romania), Marie Cruz Rodriguez Jareno (Spain), Dick Spreeuwens (The Netherlands).
Ana Maria Frazao, standing guest (EJD)
Giso Schmeißer, standing guest (EASOM President).

Bernard Maillet (UEMS treasurer)

Ritva Helimäki-Aro (observer, former member)

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- **APOLOGIES:** Vlasta Dečković Vukreš (Croatia), Thomas Kraus (Germany), Theodore Bazas (Greece), Orfanidis Moysis (Greece), Fabriziomaria Gobba (Italy), Maija Eglite (Latvia), Kristian Vetlesen (Norway), Elena Pauncu (Romania), Marek Varga (Slovakia), Pedro Gonzalez de Castro (Spain), Nerys Williams (United Kingdom).

3. Welcome and Special Guest's presentation

The Sections president opened the meeting on Saturday morning, thanking Satu and Kari, as well as the Finnish society of occupational doctors Suomen Työterveyslääkäriyhdistys ry (www.stly.fi) for the organization of the very interesting factory visit of Kone and the organisation of the meeting.

She introduced the new delegate Marc Jakoby and welcomed Bernard Maillet, the UEMS Treasurer, who visited our Section meeting. She expressed her satisfaction about the presence of a member of the UEMS executive.

The UEMS OM Section was very happy to have the opportunity to meet Prof. Jorma Rantanen, the President of International Commission on Occupational Health, ICOH, from 2003-2006, until 2003 the Director General of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health and attached as an expert to WHO, ILO and EU. He participated in drafting of the ILO instruments on Occupational Health Services, the WHO Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All and recently the WHO/ILO/ICOH Guideline for Basic Occupational Health Services. He has over 30 years experiences on programs for occupational health in developing countries in Africa, Asia and in Central and South America. Specialist in Occupational Health Service, in clinical occupational medicine, in toxicology research and in development of regulations for OHS in Finland and internationally.

With this ample background in politics as well as in practice of Occup. Medicine and Occup. Health he gave us his view on "Challenges to Global and European Occupational Health Services in the Era of Globalization". You will find his slides for re-consideration as Annex 2.

4. Welcome from the host country: Occupational Health in Finland

Kari Reijula, Prof. at the University of Helsinki and at the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health welcomed the group wished a successful meeting. He gave an overview to the actual figures, the legislation and burning issues of Occupational Health in Finland. Of the 2'067'000 employees in the country a bit less than 70% have access to Occupational Health Service. Due to activities of the actual politics in Finland, the system is endangered and Prof. Reijula is very active in defending the role of OH as a cost-effective part of medical and preventive coverage of finnish workforce.

Further information: annex 3.

5. Minutes of the last meeting (Budapest)

The minutes were adopted.

6. Information from UEMS

Bernard Maillet gave a very detailed insight in the history, the aim and actual issues of UEMS.

Important points: UEMS is a nongovernmental organisation; UEMS is a financially healthy organisation with

cash-flow problems in the past; adopts guidelines and essential training requirements for the training of specialists but makes no binding rules.

Dr. Maillet presented the decisions taken on the last Council Meeting in Tel Aviv which will alter the structure and the functioning of UEMS considerably. For details: see annex 4

7. Sections finances (Simon Bulterys)

Our treasurer repeated the notice that the actual cash position still balances the foreseeable expenses for 2016. He recalled once more all kind of problems which arise on the payment of fees. He added also, that some countries did not stated the correct address to send the Invoice for the fee.

We discussed the Section's fees for 2017 and 2018. The expenses will foreseeably rise, because of our new project of a European Examination in OM and the collaboration with CESMA (Council for European Specialists Medical Assessment, advisory body of the UEMS). We discussed also if the fee should be member based or country based.

Decisions: fee 150 € for 2017, member based.

Dr. Maillet announced that from 2018 UEMS Brussels would also invoice the fees for all the 43 Sections, 14 Multidisciplinary Joint Committees and Divisions.

8. Board Elections

As already announced, there will be the elections of the Section's Board at the meeting in Leuven end of October this year. We follow the UEMS rules of procedures where applicable (see UEMS web site and annex 5).

As members of the elections board were elected: Nicole Majery, Mari Cruz Marie Cruz Rodriguez Jareno, Satu Vaihkonen, Karl Hochgatterer. President of the Election Board: Nicole Majery.

Candidatures should be sent until 31.8.2017 to Nicole with short outline (half side) of the actual professional status and the proposal for future work within the section.

The prodedure was unanimously approved.

9. Website

Ole Carstensen reported, that there was a rise in clicks on our website recently. He thanked the Section members, that they obviously distributed the URL within their organisations. He reminded us to revise the texts dealing with the countries specifics.

10. Section's working groups

Alenka Škerjanc introduced this part of the meeting and underlined a new work item:

WG1 has already completed its work on the ETRs and the next logical step would be to elaborate the proposal for a common frame for the specialists examination to get it then into the CESMA process. Kari added that the European Training Requirements are there now but would need some additional workout. But it would not be wise to stay there. We would have to use the national expertise and to hear the national needs.

A longer discussion arose, of which the most important points were:

- the curriculum should not be too detailed, it should concentrate on generic items in OM
- the European Exam would have to be amplified by the specifics of the countries (Legislation in Occ. Health, Social Insurance issues etc.)

- Karl supported strongly this project, as Austria has no academic OM institution, the European exam would bring significant improvement
- some members expressed their concern about the differences of OM to other specialities and how to bring these into a curriculum, some pointed to the gap between the professional pretensions and reality.

Alenka and Kari proposed an “administrative group” of academics with experience in curriculum elaboration. Jolanta, Thor, Kari and Alenka will form the core of that group, as the section approved. Ivo will strongly join to the group with his experiences and ideas.

Homework for all: Getting in feedback from the national institutions concerned about the attitude towards such a harmonized exam-frame.

WG2: Occupational diseases

WG 2 finalized the text of a statement, which will serve as a core document to express our position on Occupational diseases and healthy workplaces for all ages.

Proceedings: see annex 6

WG3: Integration UEMS OM in EU-OSH strategic framework (annex)

Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner of Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labor Mobility asked us to work together with the Bilbao Agency. We did that with the Campaign “Health workplaces for all ages”. Reports on activities are welcomed by mail to Katalin Sas (sas@osha.europa.eu).

Homework from last meeting to be done: each section member should get to know the national member of the Advisory committee of health and safety at work (SLIG).

11. EJD +Surveys

Maria Ana informed the group about the preliminary results of the new survey which deals with the structure of OM specialists training.

Some members noticed to Maria Ana, that they had not received the invitation. Other intervened, because their answers had been obviously misunderstood. The annex 7 is already the corrected and enlarged report, which was provided by Maria Ana on 14.6.17.

12. Any other business

- EASOM: Next summer school: Managing and teaching ergonomics (easom.eu) in Hungary 24-26.8. 17
- ETUI : Carcinogenes and in 15 compounds: published new information: mail from Milan
- ICOH Meeting 2018 in Dublin: registration is open early bird price ends advice: booking now flights and accomodation. www.lcoh2018.org

The meeting closed at 17:00 p.m.

Next section meeting: 28./29.10 2017 in Leuven

Alenka Škerjanc
President

Klaus Stadtmüller
Secretary