



European Society of Aerospace Medicine

Minutes of the ESAM Executive Committee Meeting Seville (Spain) on 18th June 2011

Place: AYRE HOTEL – Seville (Spain).

Time: 18th June 2011 09:00 -18:10

Persons present: Roland Vermeiren, Elena Cataman, Kevin Herbert, Paolo Tosco, Carla Ledderhos, Lilla Ungváry, Ries Simons, Uwe Stüben, Declan Maher, Maria-Jose Marti Utset (SEMA - Spain Representative), invited, Patrick Rodriguez (SOFRAMAS - France Representative), invited.

The meeting was opened by President Roland Vermeiren.

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was accepted without amendment.

2. Approval of the minutes of the EC meeting in Rome on 15 and 16 January 2011

These minutes were accepted. The current mechanism of minute recording appears to be working well and it was agreed that this process will continue pro tempore.

3. Registration Germany

Change of notary

In light of recent difficulties associated with changes in the members of the EC a discussion followed regarding the requirements for banks and notaries in different regions of Europe. Carla agreed to look into the process that will be required if there is a change of statutes and how these would be incorporated into the “Articles of Association”.

It was expected that, in keeping with the fact that there were seven founder member signatories, it may be sufficient to have only the president sign the changes into place.

4. Membership status

Denmark

EAG Military / Portugal / CAMA / IFATCA / EAAP / Baltic / Civil Greek association

Contact ECA (FTL – FRMS)

New IFALPA representative

Possibility individual membership

Roland presented a summary of the current situation. He spoke of contacts at the AsMA meeting in Anchorage. There he met with Hugh O’Neill of CAMA who is keen to join ESAM as an associated member. EAG Military, IFATCA and EAAP continue to express some interest in becoming associate members. Elena reported on the current situation in the Baltic states and also regarding the Russian and East European states and of their interest in being members of ESAM. Lilla mentioned contact she has with the ECA and it was agreed that it could be very constructive to meet with their representative to engage in talks that could help to clarify our mission and our role as a professional organisation and not simply a union for AME’s with only vested interests.

Roland reminded that ESAM was generated by contact with societies, but there is a need for contact with the individuals of the societies. How can this be best achieved? The concept of a “privileged“ member was discussed at length, but it was felt that the implications for the generation of an elite and potentially altered voting weight could be deleterious, as the association was founded on egalitarian principles.

ESAM has already developed the AB with a view to using it to co-opt, or request, the inclusion of individuals with expertise to work on a topic. We need to call on the local national societies to find the resources that would be available to ESAM. It may be possible to generate a fellowship or an honorarium, but could this have a political cost? ESAM has over 4000 members. From that wealth of expertise, it should be possible to seek out those that are required to formulate the answers sought by ESAM. Communication is the key. The speed of communication is slow, in comparison to the speed at which the NPA's are being generated and published. It was agreed that we need to improve communication between the members, the national associations and ESAM's structures.

5. Budget

Fees 2011

Payments (translator EC)

Official post to Claudia Stern (DLR)

Carla presented her report of the current financial status of ESAM. There is no exposure to a tax liability for the years 2008 and 2009. With 3445 members, to date ESAM has received fees totalling €2.7k. There were a number of discrepancies in subscriptions compared to last year. All association have been sent invoices for 2011 and next year it is hoped to send out these invoices in January or February. Roland stressed the point that it is the number of members that the associations disclose that is the number upon which ESAM bases its invoice. After some discussion on the cumbersome nature of collating the data on membership, Roland asked Paolo to contact all the treasurers and ask for membership numbers. He also asked the assistance of Lilla and Kristoffer for their use of the website in this matter. Kevin agreed to put an item relating to it in his blog.

It was pointed out that the official address for ESAM is located in Cologne. Dr. Claudia Stern manages all the correspondence and forwards it to Roland. Carla notified the Bank to address her regarding account statements etc. They agreed. To date ESAM has paid €222 for translator fees. Roland thanked Claudia for on-going support and assistance.

6. Statutes - Strategy

Publication of proposed changes to the Statutes for comments

Translation into German

Strategy published

Achievements of ESAM published

Cooptation EC members in future (links EASA, Interstate Aviation Ct, AsMA)

A discussion of the proposed change in statutes clarified the process of reply to these proposals. The proposed changes will be sent by Paolo to each member association along with a request for comment. Either the changes are accepted in full, or they are rejected. If accepted, they will need to be translated into German, for inclusion in the Articles of Association that are registered in Cologne. Translation should be done in such a way as to be capable of standing legal challenge and it was agreed that the services of a professional translator would serve this purpose best. Lilla said that she would use a bullet point system on the website and Kevin agreed to include it in the Vice President's blog.

The nomination committee is extant from the election of 2010. This committee will be asked to seek nominations for the election of a President-Elect. However, this cannot be commenced until, and only if, the statutes are changed. In a similar fashion, the appointment of the Advisory Board Committee will be dependent upon the acceptance/rejection of the statute changes. In the absence of acceptance of change, it would be proposed by the EC that the extant AB committee would continue for another year pending generation of elections to that committee.

Relating to the functioning capacity of a committee a discussion ensued as well. The optimum number of members would be less than fifteen. Consideration of a process of co-opting onto the EC and inviting specific ESAM members to be present at an EC meeting took place. It was thought this would also be the process used by the AB committee to find experts in specific fields. It was agreed that it is important that specific member associations cannot be seen as being special or élite. Kevin's blog would include the concept of members seeking an invitation from the president to attend the EC meeting. These invitations would be dealt with on a case by case basis. Some concern was expressed that some reports had not appeared on the website and Lilla agreed to look into this issue.

7. Advisory Board

Activities / Position papers : insulin dependency

Air quality : reactions ECA / Cranfield report

EASA group to update FTL (NPA 2010-14)

Activities Space Medicine Group

Specialist conference – support to EASA's European Manual of Aviation Medicine

Scientific ESAM Journal online (DGLRM)

Roland spoke of the time taking process that exists for EASA regarding regulation in areas such as diabetes. ESAM could offer assistance by producing position papers or statements. Ries emphasised that any position would be based on scientific data. He presented an overview of his paper on diabetes and said that it is important that Europe needs to have a response to contentious issues such as diabetes mellitus.

Others have responded already and we can't close our eyes pretending it is not there. Issues such as the effect of mild hypoglycaemia in a hypobaric, hypoxic environment were discussed. The different approaches taken by the law courts and the differences between the positions of a solo Class 2 pilot versus the multi-crew platform of a class 1 pilot were touched upon. It is for such reasons that ESAM needs to produce a position paper. Elena said that we need more data on the incidence and the medical histories of those with diabetes in the aviation sector. Ries spoke of the Australian approach towards glycosaemia management and Uwe suggested that the regulator can decide who and where monitoring and medical certification might occur. It may well be that where the population of diabetics is small, there may be a justification in having only a small number of AMC's in Europe acting as centres of excellence. This could help to reduce the risk of medical tourism. Ries agreed to form a text, a position paper that will be sent to each of the AB members for comment.

The logistics of the GA and the AB meeting at the end of the ICASM meeting in Bucharest were discussed. Ries will speak of this paper in his address to the GA.

The Cranfield 2 report and issues about the reporting of fume events in commercial flights were debated. Reference was made to Prof. Bagshaw's presentation at ECAM 1 in Budapest and his opinion that the issue required a holistic approach.

Ries spoke of his involvement in the work on FTL currently and in the past. Specific questions were put to produce the "Moebus" report. EASA has now put specific questions for a group of experts for a report on FTL. The deadline for comments on the FTL NPA closed last week. At the ICAO working group, in Montreal - Canada in late Aug/early Sept, Ries plans to present a position paper.

The paper, published in The Blue Journal on LPL, will be released and available at the end of July.

In November a meeting will take place between the Americans and the Space Medicine Group. EASA will apply the American regulation in this area and it is expected that they will take a case by case basis when giving the advice. The workshop will be in Rome, under the stewardship of Francesco Torchia. These will join with the European Space study group.

The advisory medical group meeting to EASA Rulemaking will meet in Cologne on 1-2nd September, and ESAM was asked to support EASA on their European Manual of Aviation Medicine, but Uwe said that he has not heard from Annette Ruge regarding a specialist conference. If EASA wants such a group they must be prepared to fund it. It is not the duty of these experts to give the medical basis for the regulation having done it already in Wiesbaden. EASA needs to pay for the information. Roland said that EASA depends on the industry's input and our inputs. Uwe said the AME's are not part of the industry, we can't close offices and run to Cologne and live in a youth hostel with no food, to generate a medical text!

The difficulties and pitfalls around producing a scientific journal online were teased out. Uwe agreed to investigate the feasibility of such a project. We would need an editor, a review board and regular issues, which is a lot of work.

8. EASA

Ongoing written procedure about EU Regulation FCL after changes EU Commission (“assessment”)

LAPL : communication to press, EU Commission & Parliament

MED.001 update of requirements group

Meeting medical group February/September in Cologne
(discussion medical departments or advisor of airlines+ AEA – website AsMA)

CI 3 ATC expert group

3 ESSI groups

ECAST : human factors group

SSCC debriefing

Roland outlined the process for Part MED in the near future. All member states can comment by written procedure on the content of the current text as proposed by the Commission on the basis of the Opinion of EASA. This “EASA committee” will look at the comments at the end of June, then the EU Parliament has eight weeks to accept or reject. If they reject and return it to EASA, there will be no regulation in place. If it is accepted, in June, it will be published in late Autumn, then all existing (JAA) rules have to be changed. At that moment Implementing Rules will exist but in the absence of Acceptable Means of Compliance. If there are no AMC’s there may be complete disharmony across Europe.

Concerns were expressed that if there are corrections in the text, such as the concept that the aeromedical “examination” is defined as the diagnosis of disease and that the “assessment” can be carried out in the absence of the applicant, this could lead to the text being returned requiring a re-draft. Once text is agreed then it has to be translated in all EU languages which may create differences. That could become a problem at appeal stage as all translations will be treated equally..

Lilla spoke about the ECA website and complemented them on their format. She felt that EASM could use a similar format making access to documents, newsletters and press releases simple and attractive. She has been working on the web site and has sought the assistance of a communications expert who pointed out that accessing international news organisations is not always straight forward. Kevin said that ESAM has published its views and that there exists an audit trail, so if there is any challenge in the future, our position can be referenced; the “we told you” moment!

Roland said that LAPL will be an official licence, the incident/accident data will be collected as it is inside the regulation. Those outside the regulation, including microlight, ULM, home build, historic, will not have data collected as they are outside the regulation. Uwe said that we need to evaluate the experience of LAPL in the same way as the FAA. They investigated the impact of the change of the standards over the years following the introduction of the sports licence.

Kevin proposed that in the near future, ESAM could be in a position to ask EASA how many pilots are issued licences by the GMP and show incident/accident data for these. Elena spoke of the FAA experience where there was a drift to the sports licence when pilots failed the traditional licences. Roland asked to publish on the website our press release and provide a link to the LAPL paper and the position papers. See if Lilla can find to whom we should send a press release. Ask Anthony, Lars and Andreas in their safety groups, where to get incident/accident information from safety groups.

9. CMO Forum

Harmonised accreditation time/points

Roland reported progress that was accepted well by most present. He spoke of the difficulty in the allocation of hours, or CME points, across the whole zone. All the CMO's were in agreement. The CMO's have decided to set up a sub group that would look to the content of the curriculum of a course and attribute hours or points . The group will consist of Dr. Sally Evans CAA UK, dr Susanne Josephsen CAA Denmark and Dr. Annetje Roodenburg, IAA. Uwe expressed concern that there was no place at the table for a member outside the CMO group to have an input into the allocation process of the points/hours. Roland felt that this is a good starting point and a platform for the future. Kevin proposed requesting CME accreditation for the ECAM 3, 2012. This could be compared with the accreditation that an ESAM sub group would apply. If there was a discrepancy, this could be addressed with consultation. Roland asked Elena and Uwe to visit the process of accreditation and assess the criteria used to quantify the CME points/hours.

10. Training and Accreditation in Aviation Medicine

Harmonisation of refresher points input in new rulemaking task EASA

Uwe said that we have a deadline. We need to have the proposals in place before ICASM that would outline all the topics that could be accepted for accreditation and the hours that can be attributed.

11. AsMA

ESAM scientific meeting during AsMA Congress in Anchorage May 2011 : presentations on website

Dedicated part in ESAM website / dedicated part in Journal

Working group joint meeting ECAM - AsMA in EU 2018: timing and place / financial impact on AsMA and ESAM / 379 EU members

Questions from ICAO and IATA about ESAM

Quid sponsoring ESAM/AsMA representative at meeting where ESAM President/EC is attending

Publication Kevin's article in the Journal

Publicity in the "Blue Journal" for next year's ESAM meeting at AsMA

Roland gave overview of the ESAM meeting at AsMA at Anchorage in May and reported an excellent attendance and great interest.

Kevin felt that a dedicated part in ESAM website / dedicated part in Journal is unlikely to happen due to AsMA now also having their own site.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to have a joint AsMA ECAM meeting in 2016, but moves are afoot to make it happen in 2018. Discussions about the costs, location close to a major hub and temporal association with, e.g. the FAA refresher courses took place. There are some 379 EU members of AsMA. It is estimated that approximately 400 US members would travel to Europe. Kevin suggested inviting the national associations to have their annual meeting at the congress in the break out rooms and this could increase the attendance numbers.

Roland reported on his meeting with some colleagues of ICAO and IATA. The hour long discussion showed that there is recognition of ESAM's existence, a stable factor that will continue to work and influence. They expressed the opinion that the initial output from ESAM appeared as if speaking as a union, but more recent output appeared more scientific. Roland would describe ESAM as "professional" as we also act politically to defend the activities of the aeromedical profession, and as a consequence the professionalism of AME's, and so act as a mixture of a scientific and a professional organisation.

At ICAO EASA has been recognised as a regional safety organisation, possibly leading to ESAM being accepted as a regional professional organisation and so invited to be a part of ICAO working groups in the future. The policy of ICAO is changing and that might allow our presence at ICAO in the future.

Kevin spoke of how we would be judged not only by what we DO speak of, but also by what we DON'T speak of e.g. the area of Cabin Crew Licensing.

One society asked why we should sponsor a representative to AsMA when other members of ESAM are there? Options such as sponsorship when other ESAM members are unavailable were discussed, but it was agreed, unanimously, in favour of continuing to support a consistent representation at the highest level in AsMA. Hans acts as a consistent link that stands us in good stead. Ries believes that it is not a luxury, but a necessity to have a representative in AsMA and at meetings in Alexandria.

Ries said we need to think now about what we are going to produce for AsMA next year .

12. ICASM

Any participation from ESAM in panel security/fear/terrorism

Combination with ESAM GA 2011 Friday am after Congress

Official thanks from Silvio Finkelstein about promotion of ESAM

Elena will present for Moldova. Patrick said SOFRAMAS have some five or six French presentations This year they had their presentations at AsMA in English and now will continue to present in English Translation facilities are extremely expensive. Elena said that allowing presenters to speak in their native tongue and to have a colleague translate, allows for professional debate and can allow many to present who find English a barrier. In 2012 ICASM is planned for Melbourne, but this will be very expensive for Europeans to attend.

Official thanks was received from Silvio Finkelstein for the promotion of IAASM on our website.

13. GA 2011

EC meeting before

Practical organisation / communication with Romanian local organising committee

Information members - publicity GA and AB meeting

Together with full AB meeting + vote AB chair + vote auditors

Agenda - election president-elect (Nomination Committee)
critic : need for enough discussion time

Roland has met Dr. Vlad from the Romanian society. The meeting room is available for the GA at a cost of €500 for four hours. Other locations could be available, but it was agreed that it is important to keep the GA close to the ICASM location to facilitate attendance.. Consider a briefing on Insulin use for Class 1 and 3, FTL issues etc. There will be a meeting of the AB to set up a new chair, vice chair and secretary taking place after the GA and lasting about one hour. We should use the website for notification and seeking candidates for the AB and the auditors. Please refer to section 6. Statutes.

Roland and Kevin led the discussion on the issue regarding the practicalities of the introduction of a President-Elect. The nomination committee has to be voted by the GA. It still exists from last year. It can now be asked to seek nominations for President-Elect. The EC will ask Gabor to commence the process of seeking candidates. The EC is proposing a change of statutes. The reasons were presented at AsMA. If the GA accepts the changes, the new GA will appoint the AB committee. If the GA rejects the EC would not proceed to vote for change of the AB committee for a further year. Next year full elections of both the EC and AB committee would take place. Roland will approach Gabor and include people who have worked closely with ESAM, not necessarily on the EC etc., Uwe spoke of the need to get more people involved to increase the size of the pool that candidates can be drawn from.

14. Military User Group

Meeting Warsaw after GA

User group to ECAM 3 in London

Paolo will represent ESAM at Warsaw.

15. Website

Pending actions

Blog / newsflashes

Bio's

Calendar meetings in EU

Design with Seppe

Forum / forum coordinator FTL position paper

Position paper LAPL on website – Comments

Procedure for invitation of members to EC meetings (see remarks)

Publication papers prof Bagshaw (cabin crew medicals / cabin air quality)

Publication papers ECAST

Photos of important meetings

Skype contacts

Scottish flag

Change of list “extended”

Paolo spoke of the issue (proposed by Dr. Doyle) regarding the presence both of the Scottish emblem and the U.K. emblem, as representative of the Scottish and the Britannic Aeromedical Societies. A discussion followed. EC stated that the present configuration is the right one.

Lilla presented her report. With the exception of one association, there was no logo that could be used on the website. The national flags can represent the nations from which these associations arise. Until we have all the logos we can include none. We have removed the two pilots from the header. Seppe proposed some changes that could be included. We should think about how we present ourselves on the site, mention in our header that we are a professional organisation, rather than an association. Thanks to Kevin’s blog, there is a very personal involvement. We are still missing two CV’s. She commissioned a professional to give some ideas as to how we can improve our communication. Who comes to mind as the “face of ESAM”? This can form the basis as to how we use the format on the website. The translation process works. An analysis of the website shows the search terms used to find us. The use of VEP, Oxygen, mitral valve prolapse, Aero toxic syndrome, ENT were the most common. Most are scientific search terms. With more scientific content we can increase the access to the site. She will ask Kris’s and Seppe’s advice on making navigation easier and more pleasant. The use of photos helps to show the personal side of the organisation. A picture of the presenter or author of an article helps. Facebook was discussed, but it was agreed that it was not of use to ESAM at this point.

Lilla again made reference to the ECA website and how we could learn from the mechanism that they use in their web design. Lilla paid tribute to Kristoffer and the fact that he is assisting us in a role that is not his occupation.

Ries and Paolo mentioned the possibility of including the Space Medicine Working Group as “Quick link” on the site and Ries said that he might be willing to offer medical advice for space tourists via the website.

Paolo emphasised the homepage as being the most important page. There are difficulties accessing the presentations currently. Thus, Lilla and Kristoffer were asked for a rearrangement of homepage in order to allow to visitors an easier and speedier access to scientific paper, maybe via medical key-word link by the same homepage. Uwe suggested links to regulations, publications and use of practical issues relevant to AME's etc. We can present the information via the website. Roland invited the French Medical Academy document on Travel Medicine to have a link with the document. Uwe asked for a link to the prize from the German Academy. To date there have been no postings to the page dealing with FTL and LAPL.

Position papers including those that were presented at the ECAM can be published on line. Prof. Bagshaw's presentation may be included, by his kind permission. Roland covered the discussion regarding how to approach the issue of publishing on issues. ESAM can publish but will make it clear that this is the opinion of an individual and not necessarily represent the views of ESAM. Voting went against direct publishing. What we should do is ask the AB to present the position papers on the subjects.

16. ECAM 2012

Update ECAM 2012

ECAM 3 Scientific Committee

Training course JAA / FAA refresher course at ECAM (AsMA meetings)

Kevin presented the draft program for ECAM 3. The national association meeting will take place on Friday evening. On Saturday the theme of the meeting will be dealing with incapacitation and environmental extremes followed by the Gala dinner, black tie/National dress. On Sunday there will be space for seventeen abstracts and the ESAM address. The 2012 GA of ESAM has been allocated 105 minutes followed by the Space Medicine WG meeting finishing at 17:00. He went on to highlighting the concept of keeping everyone there for two days. Costs include the costs of paying for eight invited speakers. A second package includes partners. Parallel entertainment could include a coach trip to London, Westminster Abbey etc. Special rates apply to the room. Novotel, Ibis, and Radisson also available on Bath Road very close to the Congress at the Sheraton. There is no exposure to ESAM by the room booking. 180 rooms are booked and will be released as the due date closes. Early booking is provided.

The British Hyperbaric Medicine Society plans to run its annual meeting in parallel, bringing potentially 50-60 delegates. This factor could reduce costs to under £400-00 per person. The cost means that any delegate above 250 will generate a profit to be divided amongst ESAM, AME UK and the organising company. Total cost estimated at £115k. If only 100 attendees there would be a £44k shortfall. It is possible to insure against such a shortfall.

The premium will be in £1000's. London is expensive. Kevin fleshed out some of the people whom his Association would like to invite to speak. There will be a scientific committee consisting of Uwe, Tony Bachelor, Ries and Prof. David Gradwell. An Educational and Academic Committee for the continuity and presentation will be required and an Organisation committee dealing with logistics. Elena was asked to represent ESAM on the Academic committee and Declan on the Organisation Committee.

Sponsorship was discussed and advertising. Uwe offered to display flyers etc. at his refresher course in August, Paolo said he would follow up on sponsors. Kevin was optimistic that he can get 160 UK attendees and 100 from Europe. ECAM 1 had some 100 attendees, ECAM 2 circa 65.

Roland asked that we consider using the ECAM as a location for refresher courses for JAA, like the FAA do. Consider it for 2014 in Oslo, combine it with national meeting.

17. Task list

Article CAMA

Kevin was entrusted with this issue.

18. Working Groups

Already addressed earlier.

19. Other business

Presidential badge of office (AAME)

Attendance at 50 years DGLRM Conference September

The presidential badge of office is now completed and Kevin will keep it until it can be presented at the next GA in Bucharest, September 2011. This will be presented by the President of the UK AAME.

20. Next meeting

Next EC meeting : in Bucharest on Wednesday 14 September at 13:00 for five hours.

21. Contact with SOFRAMAS

At its EC meeting last Thursday, SOFRAMAS agreed to stay in ESAM. The Society is mixed civilian and military, with most of the funding from the military. Their EC based its decision on the 200 active members. Of the almost 1000 SOFRAMAS members, many are not active. Patrick said they will put a link on our website to ESAM and offer a reciprocal link. They agree to work with ESAM. They have a strong interest in the Manual of Aviation Medicine. Dr. Eric Perrier, an Internist working with the military, has offered to assist in this area. Roland thanked Patrick Rodriguez for his presence and travel from Paris.

22. Contact with SEMA

Maria-Jose Marti Utset attended on behalf of SEMA. She confirmed the wish of Spanish society to actively cooperate with ESAM, in all fields of activity. Roland thanked as well Maria-Jose for her presence and travel to Seville.

Visit to Airbus in Seville

Did not occur.

The meeting was closed by the President Roland Vermeiren.

Seville, 18th June 2011

Declan Maher
AB Secretary

Paolo Tosco
EC Secretary General