



## **EUMASS - UEMASS**

European Union of Medicine in Assurance and Social Security  
Union Européenne de Médecine d'Assurance et de Sécurité Sociale

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015 Nuremberg, Germany**

#### Those present:

**The executive:** Dr. G. Lindenger (President, Chairman), Dr. M. Rus (Vice-president), Dr. J.-P. Bronckaers (Treasurer), Dr. A. de Wind (Secretary General).

**Members of Council:** Dr. N. Agosti, Dr. I. Autti-Rämö, Dr. A. Bahemann, Dr. W. de Boer, Dr. S. Brage, Dr. T. Čakš, Dr F. Cattani, Dr. D. Gajdošík, Dr. L. Goyeryd, Dr. K. W. Hara, Dr. G. Hart, Dr. D. Kajevic, Dr. D. Kakarigi, Dr. S. Kettunen, Dr. O. Masten-Cuznar, Dr. C. Oancea, Dr. J.-P. Schenkelaars, Dr. H. Štaňkova, Dr. M. Tolsma, Dr. T. Tomazic, Dr. M. Topcha.

#### Apologies:

Dr. G. Borgès da Silva, Dr E. Cameron, Prof. Dr. M.-M. Ciuvica, Dr. G. Guðmundsson, Dr. J. Margalho Carrilho, Dr. M. Gouëlle, Dr. I. Joshi, Dr. C. Leech, Dr. P.-L. Li, Dr. J. Matějčková, Dr. N. Šikić, Dr. V. Sinay, Dr. I. Soare.

#### Guest:

Dr. W. Trauth

#### **1. Welcome**

Dr. G. Lindenger opens the meeting and welcomes Dr. W. Trauth (IAB) as a guest.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting in Prague (6<sup>th</sup> June 2015)**

Approval of the minutes.

### 3. Notices to members

- Scientific program on Friday afternoon

Dr. G. Lindenger thanks the various speakers for the interesting scientific program.

- Polish Association of Insurance Medicine

At the Prague meeting, Dr. P. Daniluk and Dr. Z. Guzel-Szczepiorkowska, Vice-Presidents of PAIM, have given a short presentation on their professional organisation.

After the clarification by Dr. G Hart on the Polish situation the Council votes unanimously in favour on the membership of PAIM. According to the Statutes, PAIM will be an observer for the first year.

- Austria

Austrian colleagues had been invited to this Council meeting, but they have notified the EUMASS President that due to new budget regulations they are not able to participate in any EUMASS Council meetings. Hopefully they will attend the Ljubljana Congress.

- Ethical Standards

As agreed upon at the June 2015 Council meeting in Prague, Dr. G. Lindenger has been in contact with Dr. I. Autti-Rämö and Dr. J.-P. Schenkelaars. The latter has sent information about French Canadian ethical standards. Dr. K. W. Hara has recently joined the group, which will continue to work on this subject. A Norwegian working group is currently developing a net based course regarding ethics in social security.

- CPME

At the upcoming meeting there will be four working group meetings:

- TTIP: the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership is a trade agreement to be negotiated between the European Union and the United States.
- Pharma: the CPME is involved in equitable and timely access to orphan medicines for patients suffering from rare diseases and good governance of non-prescriptive medicines in the EU.
- Sex and gender: a new working group which will have its first meeting at the upcoming CPME meeting in Brussels.
- eHealth: EUMASS will draw attention to possible sick listing through eHealth.

- CIM

Dr. W. De Boer has presented the relationship between EUMASS and Cochrane at the scientific program on Friday.

Dr. S. Brage informs the Council about the status of the short survey that has been carried out. In total 12 countries out of 19 have reacted and sent answers which have been processed by Dr. S. Brage and Dr. C. Oancea. The results will be sent to respondents for verification.

- Call for Candidates

At the Brussels meeting the Council shall elect the new Executive Board and the new Scientific Committee which will both take office at the end of the Ljubljana Congress.

The Secretary-General will send out a call for candidates for the Executive Board in due time. Every Council member is free to put forward his/her candidature to the Secretary-General until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Please indicate the desired position.

The Scientific Committee will propose new members for the New Scientific Committee.

#### 4. Ljubljana Congress

- Dr. M. Rus gives an update on the organisation of the Ljubljana Congress, followed by a demonstration of the Slovenian Congress website [www.eumassslovenia.com](http://www.eumassslovenia.com) :
  - Dr. T. Čakš, being responsible for the EACCME procedure for the upcoming Congress, has joined the Organising Committee
  - Dr. Ž. Lovrenov regularly updates the website, which is in English, French and Slovenian. All information is also available on social media (Face book, Twitter and LinkedIn)
  - In total 167 abstracts have been submitted, of which 91 from outside Slovenia
  - The event will be organised at the Grand Hotel Union in the centre of Ljubljana
  - Early bird registration opens 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and will close 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016
  - There will be offers for discounts at hotel Union and Hotel Lev
  - The registration module has yet to be developed
  - The Organising Committee is in the process of acquiring sponsors. If Council members have suggestions please contact the Organising Committee. The Organising Committee will make sure that CME rules, regarding sponsoring, are not being breached.
  - The timetable is on the Slovenian Congress website.
  - The EACCME procedure has been reorganised which seems to give more time to the Organising Committee to submit the accreditation application.
  - Comment: an abstract book is desirable since it has more scientific impact. There are several options: it can be printed as an abstract book with an ISBN number; it can be provided on a CD; it can be published in

a medical journal or it can be documented, using an URL, likely from a university.

- Dr. W. de Boer gives an update on behalf of the Scientific Committee:

Both EUMASS and the Slovenian Organising Committee have a tradition of organising congresses, but the traditions differ in several respects:

The Slovenian tradition is based on:

- Organisation and content in one hand
- Emphasis on medical specialties
- Include teaching courses: neurological, orthopaedic etc.

Whereas the EUMASS tradition is based on:

- Steering and content separated
- Emphasis on methods and research

Review process: based on the model of scientific medical journals with an editor and reviewers. The editor carries out the first screening and invites 2 reviewers:

- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Match to expertise
- Distribute in an even manner

Reviewers review; the editor decides, partly through the meeting of all 8 reviewers.

So the next steps in the review process will be:

- Review in pairs
- Consider conflicting judgments
- Decide on acceptance, improvement or rejection => organisers notify
- Draft parallel sessions => organisers notify

- Dr. C. Oancea announces that on behalf of the plenary session on “the role of the (social) insurance physician in vocational rehabilitation; an international survey”, a questionnaire will be sent to Council members in a few weeks:

Objectives:

- RTW of people with health conditions - an item of major interest in many European countries
- Interest is clarifying the involvement of social insurance physicians in the promotion of RTW

Carry out a survey with a questionnaire and interview respondents in different countries: 2-3 respondents per country.

## 5. Website

Dr. J.-P. Bronckaers gives a presentation of the abstract review process as it has been developed by Erik v.d. Stolpe. It is a good and useful module. Technical questions to further applications (dashboard etc) will be forwarded by Dr. J.-P. Bronckaers to Erik v.d. Stolpe.

The registration module will probably be developed by the Slovenians for the Ljubljana Congress but Erik v.d. Stolpe will nevertheless continue developing it for the EUMASS website.

Beside the congress modules, the public EUMASS website ([www.eumass.eu](http://www.eumass.eu)) shall be further developed. Lies Van Meerbeek has the role of administrator, but she does not know yet how to carry out this role technically. Dr. I. Joshi has expressed interest to collaborate in developing and maintaining the public EUMASS website. Dr. L. Goyeryd will also be involved.

## 6. Babylon Working Group

Dr. G. Lindenger gives an update of the state of affairs:

### Aims of the Babylon Working Group:

To develop a list of commonly used terms in disability assessment medicine.

To translate these into various languages of EUMASS member states, identifying alternative terms when relevant.

### Purposes:

- To develop a shared understanding of the meaning of commonly used terms across countries represented in EUMASS.
- To assist new members understanding the social security systems and disability assessment schemes of other countries.
- To allow appreciation of differences in the use of a term in member countries.
- To allow researchers to be able to compare both similarities and differences when comparing social security systems and disability assessment schemes.
- To facilitate writing abstracts in English within the field of Insurance Medicine.

### Schedule:

- Dr. G. Lindenger and Dr. N. Williams still have to write instructions.
- To the list which will be sent, still other words can be added.
- Hopefully have responses by the midst of November 2015.

## 7. ICF Working Group

There is a two-track policy within the ICF Working Group:

- Scientific part: Á.-D. Konráðsdóttir MSc, Dr. W. de Boer, Dr. S. Brage and Prof. Dr. F. Falez are currently working on developing descriptors.

- Inventory of what is happening at a European level in the field of ICF: how is ICF used in various European countries? There will be a workshop on this topic at the Congress in Ljubljana.

## 8. Mail

- 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015: email from Rehabilitation International, seeking cooperation with EUMASS: the Council decides to invite Rehabilitation International to the Brussels meeting in order to present their organisation.
- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015: email from Mag. H. Amhof (Austria): due to new budget regulations representatives of Pensionversicherungsanstalt will not be able to participate in any EUMASS Council meetings.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015: email from Ioanna Tzounou (ELIEAKAP Secretariat): seeking information about the potential EUMASS membership of the Hellenic social insurance society ELIEAKAP as well as the attendance at the Ljubljana Congress. Dr. G. Lindenger has sent the applicable articles from the Statutes as well as the relevant parts of the Internal Regulations.
- 24<sup>st</sup> September 2015: email from Dr. C. Dal Pozzo: she works on a return of INAIL. Meanwhile she sends her regards.

## 9. Any other business

- Dr. M. Topcha announces that he will retire; hence it being the last EUMASS meeting he is attending. He will send his private email address to Lies Van Meerbeek because he remains available for translations and EUMASS related questions. The President thanks him for his dedication and hands him a memento of EUMASS.
- SRS (Support for Right Sick Listing)

SRS is a Swedish project on decision support systems in the health insurance area.

To make decisions regarding sick leave and vocational rehabilitation more correct through:

- a database of general knowledge and
- more adapted to the specific individual / patient

Purpose of the SRS project: the international analysis aims to bring knowledge, experience and “best practice” to the SRS project from similar decision support systems used in other countries.

Approach: a European survey to identify and analyze both publicly and privately developed decision support systems in the health insurance area.

Comments:

- Generally: big data bases are available, but building a decision support system will be expensive.

- Slovenia: it is an important topic.
- Finland:
  - so far only manually accessible data
  - job requirements need to be taken into account when deciding on RTW and risk factors
  - risk factors cannot be exchanged automatically between countries as some are cultural depended.
- Belgium: similar ideas: they have been looking at different risk factors (which factors can be used?) and they are now considering doing a literature survey.
- The Netherlands: the association of insurers has agreed on building a database on factors that play a role in RTW.
- Norway: a big project about sick listing: recommendations are made, based on consensus.

#### 10. Next Council meetings

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2016: Brussels (Belgium)

9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> June 2016: Congress Ljubljana; Council meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016

September 2016: Warsaw, Poland

February/March 2017: Liege

June 2017: London

Dr. A. de Wind  
Secretary-General