

Minutes of the UEMS/Section of Radiology MEETING with DELEGATES

Saturday, 29th October 2016, 10.00 am – 15.30 pm

Aula A. Grilli - Dipartimento di Scienze Radiologiche, Policlinico Umberto I – ROME

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome, Apologies, Acceptance of the Agenda** (P. Ricci)
- 2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting – March 5th, 2016** (P. Ricci)
- 3. Treasurer´s financial report** (P. Ricci, R. Demuth)
- 4. Update on Internal Affairs** (P. Ricci)
 - 4a. Institutional Activities (MJC, WG, ETR) (J.P. Joris)
 - 4b. Website (F. Tanzi, P. Ricci)
- 5. UEMS – EACCME activities** (P. Ricci, R. Demuth)
- 6. Interventional Radiology Division updates** (J. Reekers)
 - 6a. EBIR endorsement
 - 6b. Cooperation with ESNR/NR Division
- 7. Neuroradiology Division updates** (P. Ricci)
- 8. Update on UEMS situation** (Z. Frasn)
- 9. External Affairs: update on UEMS – EBR agreement** (P. Ricci)
- 10. Accreditation Council in Imaging** (V. Iranzo)
- 11. EDiR updates** (V. Iranzo)
- 12. ETAP updates** (H. Aronen)
- 13. Update on the cooperation with ESR** (A. Stipsits)
- 14. Miscellaneous**
- 15. Date of next meeting**

1. Welcome, Apologies, Acceptance of the Agenda (P. Ricci)

P. Ricci welcomed everyone, in particular the guests: J. Reekers (IR Division President), Z. Fras (UEMS Liaison Officer), V. Iranzo (EBR – Executive Manager), A. Stipsits (ESR – CME & Compliance Manager) and F. Tanzi (Radiology Section administrative secretary and responsible for the minutes).

Roll call and brief introduction of the delegates followed. Proxies from Estonia, Malta, Netherlands and Portugal were received and registered. Norwegian and Maltese delegations could not be present directly, but they followed the meeting through remote participation. M. Sasiadek (NR delegate for Poland) sat as an observer.

The agenda of the minutes with some minor amendments (contribution from Z. Fras, A. Stipsits and F. Tanzi) was accepted by the delegates.

Annex 1: List of Participants

2. Approval of the Minutes of the last Meeting - March 5th 2016 (P. Ricci)

The Delegates unanimously approved the minutes of the past Meeting with Delegates (Vienna, 5th March 2016).

3. Treasurer's financial report (P. Ricci, R. Demuth)

P. Ricci and R. Demuth explained the current financial status of the Section. Current balance (BNP Paribas account in Brussels) was € 131.060,05 – a sum that could allow the smooth functioning of the Section and the reimbursement of travel expenses for those delegates interested in taking part to missions for the Section commitments.

Recent transactions included: secretarial support until the arrival of F. Tanzi: € 1.319,25; last travel expenses: € 7.695,87; the present meeting with delegates cost € 400,00 for web/IT assistance, € 240,00 for coffee break, € 1250,00 for lunch, while use of the hospital conference rooms had been free of charge.

In addition, the balance of the internal fund of the Section was illustrated to the participants (lost revenues for the Section amounted € 33.600,00). The Section contributed to the fund with € 11.500,00 (2014), € 5.200,00 (01/01/2015), € 9.000,00 (07/01/2015) and € 7.900,00 on the date of 01/01/2016. UEMS Central will gradually repay the debt in 2017.

Most of the 30 Full Members of the Section had not paid their fees in the last five years, but the situation radically changed with the creation of the secretariat office in Brussels starting May 3, 2016.

Payment of the annual subscription fees was vital for the life of the Section and had to be considered as a prerequisite to sit in good standing with voting rights. Moreover, as per UEMS rules, being in good standing had been used to calculate the valid quorum of the meeting.

In 2016, subscription fees have been collected according to the UEMS official Repartition Key, based on population, Gross Domestic Product and number of doctors: table of single contributions was projected; Associates and Observers had been required a contribution *à forfait*, based on the same above mentioned criteria.

Adopting the Repartition Key, the biggest countries in terms of population (France, Germany, Italy, Spain and UK) have been probably asked to pay more and the same consideration applied to the smallest ones (Luxembourg, Malta).

The previous system (based on € 1/radiologist), on the contrary, generated some incongruences and inequities as the countries had been asked to self-declare the number of radiologists. C. Nyhsen proposed a written comparison with the old system, while P. Sundgren and several other delegates agreed on the fact the number of radiologists in the past had been highly hypothetical, thus the new system could be fair.

Z. Fras noted the Repartition Key may be adapted it to the number of radiologists in each country and quoted the case of a different section – Cardiology – where the membership fee is much higher (€ 10 per cardiologist). R. Demuth advised that in some countries (e.g.

Luxembourg) not every radiology in active practice has to be a member of the national radiological society, therefore it would be complicated to calculate the correct number of radiologists in each country.

Most delegates voted to maintain the Repartition Key criteria, but to decide each year for the expected budget (€ 25.000,00 agreed for 2016). The Repartition Key was then adopted with amendments adapting the system to the number of radiologists.

4. Update on Internal Affairs (P. Ricci)

P. Ricci introduced F. Tanzi - administrative secretary of the Section, and reminded the secretariat activities have been offered free of charge from the European Society of Radiology. Contact details of the new Brussels office located in the Domus Medica Europaea have been communicated.

P. Ricci reminded the current structure of the Section Bureau (President – Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and members-at-large): as C. Nyhsen will be retiring from her Section mandate, P. Ricci proposed to transform the chair of Vice-President in a new member-at-large position, inviting delegates to submit candidatures.

P. Ricci also made the proposal to incorporate (at first only in advisory capacity, then with full powers) the two Division Presidents in the Bureau, in order to create a better involvement between the internal structures of the Section and to bring the entire range of activities under the umbrella of the Section. J. Reekers considered the latter to be a very intelligent proposal, and P. Ricci added that this enlargement of the Bureau may lead the Section to get closer connections with CIRSE (Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe), in charge of the IR Division secretariat, and with the ESNR (European Society of Neuroradiology), while the Divisions could benefit from their parent Section's partnership with ESR/EBR. The enlargement was approved.

The German Delegation enquired regarding the possibility for the Section to create a new Division in the incoming future and P. Ricci replied it would be in the Section's prerogatives upon prior approval of the Council.

4a. Institutional Activities (J.P. Joris)

J.P. Joris (Secretary) presented the different activities of the MJCS (Multidisciplinary Joint Committees) and TF (Thematic Federations), and highlighted that in many ETRs (European Training Requirements), the Section missed relevant information or acted excessively late (e.g. Pain Medicine and Phlebology). A debate among the Delegates highlighted the fact some specialties have been only recognized in a limited number of countries, while terminology often varies.

It was unanimously recognized that radiologists should be better represented and involved in the MJC (e.g. Pediatric Urology, Phlebology, Vascular Surgery, Sports Medicine) and any attempt to create a European Curriculum without the necessary involvement of radiologists should be blocked. A further MJC in Angiology could be presented, but only with the necessary support of other Sections, as well as future involvement in Legal & Forensic Medicine TF or Manual Medicine MJC.

P. Ricci reminded the Section could be able to cover expenses for those Delegates interested in joining MJC or TF on the basis of hotel reservation and round-trip economy class flight. Z. Fras stressed the fact the Section is welcome to participate in the activities of the MJC and other UEMS bodies and that communication via emails could generate some misunderstandings, therefore accessing from the UEMS website would be preferable.

The incoming meetings of interest for the Section were the following:

- UEMS conference on CME/CPD – 12th November 2016, Amsterdam
- ESR Leadership meeting – 18th November 2016, Barcelona
- CESMA meeting – 2nd,3rd December 2016, Brussels
- UEMS Council – April 2017, Tel Aviv
- Next Section meeting with Delegates (tbd)

4b. Website (F. Tanzi, P. Ricci)

F. Tanzi illustrated his task of reorganizing the Section website, stating there was still great space for improvement, considering the current provider proved to be rather inefficient and not to take into consideration the requests of the Section: specifically, graphics could be ameliorated, overall structure could be more attractive and contents should be regularly increased. Further, harmonization with the UEMS website and with the Divisions webpages were strongly needed.

A presentation on the different activities of the Section ("Radiology Section in a Nutshell") had been shown to the Delegates.

F. Tanzi asked for contributions and suggestions from the audience, in particular for what concerns potential short articles to be included in a periodical newsletter of the Section.

Current provider – WVD – costed € 1008,00 per year, while another suitable provider – *Squizz* – would cost € 1500,00 *una tantum* for web development and € 500,00 per year for maintenance. The Delegates approved the second estimate and *Squizz*, the company already in charge for managing the UEMS website, was chosen as new provider of the Section.

5. UEMS – EACCME activities (P. Ricci, R. Demuth)

The Section has been involved in the following Working Groups (WG):

WG 1 – Course/ Diploma European Examiner (H. Aronen)

WG 2 – Review of the future content and format of European examinations (P. Ricci)

WG 3 – Pre-examination preparation course (P. Ricci)

As the workflow will be constantly increasing and it proved to be difficult for H. Aronen and P. Ricci to participate in all the WG, other candidacies from the audience are more than welcome.

P. Ricci explained sections have been heavily involved in the evaluation of curricula and a new structure, the ETR Committee, whose composition was about to be announced in the upcoming days, has been created for that same purpose.

A chart with the necessary steps and process time to submit an ETR for UEMS endorsement was explained.

P. Ricci presented the involvement of the Section in ACI (Accreditation Council in Imaging) and reminded his own role as UEMS representative in the ACI Policy Committee, while two other members of the Bureau - H. Aronen and R. Demuth – were taking part in the ACI Reviewing Committee.

Following the last UEMS/EBR agreement of 18 June 2016, the ACI Scientific Director for 2017 will be appointed by the Section, therefore this role would be particularly suitable for a person wishing to be fully involved in the activities of the Section: in this context P. Ricci exhorted interested Delegates to submit a candidacy.

Moreover, the Section has taken an important back-up reviewing role for those countries still not accredited with the EACCME (e.g. France, Germany, and Italy). At present, only P. Ricci and R. Demuth have been involved, so any further help would be much appreciated. Working modalities of EACCME credits are explained to the participants: since UEMS did not have a role at national level, authorization of the different NMAs was still needed to ensure quality control.

P. Ricci reiterated American and Canadian colleagues could see automatic conversion of their credits, while in the case of Italy, such a conversion may not be automatic as the Italian Ministry of Health usually granted only a partial recognition.

New EACCME criteria for accreditation of Live Educational events (LEE) and E-learning materials (ELM) were discussed among the participants.

6. IR Division updates (J. Reekers)

J. Reekers explained the current Executive Board of the IR Division and the outcomes of the last Division meeting in Barcelona. CIRSE has created a diploma (EBIR) with lots of efforts resulting in world-wide deserved appreciation, endorsed by the ESR and supported by the UEMS. The following EBIR examinations will be scheduled on March 1-2, 2017 during the ECR 2017.

CIRSE has applied for CESMA appraisal this year and the examination will be now expected to rise to European level: P. Ricci added this issue could be further discussed during the UEMS Council, but commented that getting CESMA appraisal will be probably considered as a quality mark within the UEMS.

J. Reekers hoped the Sections would not opt for blocking the proposal, but P. Ricci and Z. Fras both added only the heads of the NMA might vote, not the Sections. R. Demuth noted the role of radiologists sitting in the Council (e.g. J.P. Joris for Belgium) should be empowered and increased, as part of the Section strategy.

Finally, J. Reekers negatively commented on the Stroke Treatment guidelines adopted within the Neuroradiology Division.

7. NR Division updates (P. Ricci)

The presentation of the Training Curriculum in Interventional Neuroradiology – so-called *Olof's Charter* had been already discussed during the last Section's meeting.

The Charter had been submitted to the UEMS Council, but later removed from the agenda due to improper time of presentation. P. Ricci added some details on the situation occurred in Nice during the last NR Division meeting, but concluded the Section has received proof of the acceptance of this controversial document from O. Flodmark in 2011, thus no further interferences could be made. C. Tziakouri affirmed the approval of the Charter had been tricky years ago and no notice about the quorum had ever been registered in the minutes. Z. Fras added controversial decisions can be easily revised at a certain stage, which could be the best solution for the Olof's Charter.

Candidates for the NR Division elections were then illustrated by P. Ricci.

A WG dedicated to UEMS Standard of Practice in INR has been created by joint agreement between UEMS, ESNR and ESMINT (European Society of Minimally Invasive Neurological Therapy), but the Section has not received a unanimous opinion on the validity and progress of this WG so far.

8. Update on UEMS situation (Z. Fras)

Z. Fras talked about the key outcomes of the past UEMS Council meeting in Brussels (19-22 October 2016) and the most updated fact and figures for 2016.

The financial conditions have been slowly improving in the past decade, as assets reached € 8.910.011,50 and the UEMS has to be considered a large NGO according to Belgian legislation. Fixed assets, in particular, have been dramatically increased after the completion of the Domus Medica Europaea. Funds from the different Sections were still representing the large majority of the cash at bank in the last semester (66%).

Some loans still have to be paid (mostly long-term due date), but the results have been encouraging as the UEMS has started to pay the main debts. The income of the UEMS is now stable and no risk of bankruptcy could be feared. The acquisition of the Domus Medica Europaea proved to be a sensible real-estate investment.

Main tendencies have been:

- CME: further developments concerning EACCME, with implementation of EACCME 2.0 and the introduction of trusted providers.
- ETR: introduction of ETRs for Internal Medicine, Neurology, Nuclear Medicine, Pain Medicine, Laboratory Medicine.
- Constituent issues: Bulgarian Medical Association will join as a Full Member, thus Bulgaria has been finally readmitted to the UEMS. Serbian Medical Chamber will become an

Associate, Arab Board for Health Specialisation in Iraq will become an Observer. Germany will now be represented by a new Medical Association from 1 January 2017.

- Potential contribution to the EU e-platform for education.

A specific WG on UEMS Future Structure has been established under the leadership of UEMS Secretary General, V. Papalois. Main changes are the following:

- Elected chairs of the 3 groupings will become de facto members of the UEMS EEC.
- Establishment of an Advisory Board (AB) composed of Presidents and Secretaries of the sections with voting rights. MJC and TF representatives, on the contrary, will sit without voting rights. In any case, the vote of the AB will not be binding for NMA, despite carrying significant value and weight. If the outcome of the voting of NMAs would be divergent from the one of AB, it will be introduced a second round: if discrepancy persists, however, the vote of the NMA will be the definitive one.

Regarding EU affairs, there is space for political involvement in the medical field, and the portfolio of UEMS external relations could be enriched towards EU institutions, EMOs, NGOs, worldwide EACCME agreements.

UEMS can better influence EU legislation at national and European level together with several partners (AEMH, CEOM, CPME, EANA, PWG and UEMO).

UEMS will continue to be involved in the following macro areas:

- EU Workforce for Health
- Cross-Border Healthcare
- Standards CEN
- European Reference Networks
- EU Professional Qualification Directive
- Erasmus-style scheme for PGT (could be called *Hippocrates+*) suggested by the EU Council Maltese presidency.

9. External Affairs: update on UEMS – EBR agreement (P. Ricci)

Since the signature of an amended agreement including ACI Terms & Conditions and Billing Agreement, there has been a close and fruitful collaboration between UEMS and EBR with encouraging results. Negotiations with Iranian medical authorities have been launched to implement European Examinations in the country: EBR is already very active in that sense, but need to wait until the situation with the Iranian Ministry of Health will be better clarified.

10. Accreditation Council in Imaging (V. Iranzo)

V. Iranzo illustrated a timeline of the Accreditation Council in Imaging (ACI).

On March 7, 2015 a first joint agreement between EBR and UEMS has been signed.

EACCME 2.0 will be presented in Amsterdam and, therefore, the EBR will then adapt ACI terms accordingly and they will start working on a second amendment of the joint agreement. The current composition of ACI committees is presented to the participants.

Update on the current trend of applications was shown to the audience: V. Iranzo commented the number of applications has significantly increased. H. Aronen positively highlighted the undisputed independence of the providers.

11. EDiR updates (V. Iranzo)

V. Iranzo gave an overview of the European Diploma in Radiology open to radiologists and radiology residents in their last year of training. Current pass rate is 78% and the number of candidates has been constantly increasing in the last 5 years. The structure of the examination is composed of 3 components: multiple choice questions, short cases and clinically oriented reasoning evaluation. The EBR has also developed its own specific software for the EDiR examination.

The 3 EDiR committees are headed by a Scientific Director (currently Dr. Vilar).

EDiR examinations have seen 480 candidates involved (last update October 2016), with a prevalence of Polish nationals as Poland has made the EDiR an equivalent of the national medical examination.

12. ETAP updates (H. Aronen)

H. Aronen briefly mentioned the outcomes of the last European Training Assessment Program (ETAP) subcommittee meeting on June 20, 2016. P. Ricci and H. Aronen are representatives.

The tool "How to turn your department into a radiology training reference centre" is currently operative.

13. Cooperation with ESR (A. Stipsits, P. Ricci)

A. Stipsits talked about the very positive collaboration between the European Society of Radiology (ESR) and the Radiology Section, through the creation of the new secretariat in Brussels. A sign of such intense cooperation is the joint session at the following ECR 2017 in Vienna, where space will be dedicated to the Section and several key topics could be discussed (e.g. CME, CPD, and harmonisation). The ESR is ready to support other projects of the Section as ETRs. As part of the agreement with the Section, free registration to the ECR 2017 has been granted to the members, in addition to flight tickets and 2-night hotel stay for UEMS representatives in EDiR and ACI.

P. Ricci emphasized this generous offer and stressed the need of other Section representatives within all EDiR committees besides the Standard Committee where there is already a representative (M. Adriaensen).

General consensus from the Delegates.

14. Miscellaneous

No specific matters arising from the floor. P. Ricci gave a brief update on the NR elections: M. Sasiadek is the new President of the Division, F. Pizzini - Secretary and G. Schroth - Treasurer. Olof's charter has been represented for the Section's approval.

15. Date of next meeting

Among the suitable different venues for the next meeting (Vienna on the occasion of ECR 2017, Tel Aviv during UEMS Spring Council or Brussels at the Domus Medica Europaea), the Delegates chose to have it organised in Vienna (March 2017) during the European Congress of Radiology.

Closure of the meeting at 15.30.

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