

## **Draft Minutes**

### **ECLM 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017,** **Galaxy Room, Tallink Spa & Conference Hotel, Tallinn, Estonia**

#### **List of attendees (delegates in alphabetical order by country):**

Heldi Kase (Estonia), Üllar Lanno (Estonia), Marika Vali (Estonia), Antti Sajantila (Finland), Bertrand Ludes (France), Eva Keller (Hungary), Denis Cusack (Ireland), Santo Davide Ferrara (Italy), Grigorijs Vabels (Latvia), Marija Caplinskiene (Lithuania), Romas Raudys (Lithuania), Bela Kubat (Netherlands), Duarte Nuno Vieira (Portugal), Jozef Sidlo (Slovakia), Jason Payne-James (United Kingdom).

The meeting was deemed quorate with 10 Countries represented.

**Apologies** were noted from: Barry Lyons (Ireland), Carol Seymour and Peter Green (United Kingdom).

Malta also conveyed representation by letter and is to e mail Delegate details.

#### **Topic 1.** Informations.

The ECLM Chairman gave a background of developments since the last General Assembly meeting, which was the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in Venice, Italy on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016.

#### **Topic 2.** Discussion and approval of Venice 2016 General Assembly minutes.

Payne-James requested that apologies might also be noted as this indicated interest rather than just absence.

There was a discussion of the list of Delegates from the ECLM countries and it was agreed that the list was out of date and pending updating would be removed from the website. The Secretariat of the ECLM will review and update the delegates list from each of the member countries. A number of changes were notified at the meeting and are to be followed up and confirmed in writing by Delegates. For the UK, the British Association of Forensic Medicine has disaffiliated itself from the ECLM and the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine will now be the sole recommending or nominating body for Delegates from the UK., Barry Lyons (Ireland) and Carol Seymour and Peter Green (United Kingdom) were noted as National Delegates.

#### **Topic 3.** Discussion and approval of ECLM Statutes revision.

The Chairman outlined a number of proposed changes in the Statutes to the General Assembly. The first was in relation to membership and in particular how national delegates to the European Council of Legal Medicine are nominated per §3(4). The second issue was a proposal regarding the period of office of the Executive Committee §4(1). The third proposal

related to alteration to the Statutes for the numbers of ECLM countries required to be present at a meeting for such alterations having regard to the increasing difficulty to reach this quorum at recent meetings §4(7). This discussion included a proposal to alter the requirement for physical presence of delegates to change the Statute so that this could also be achieved through verified postal or e-mail voting §8(2). All the amendments were approved unanimously.

**Topic 4.** Discussion and approval of ECLM Guidelines including Guidelines on Elder Abuse.

Since the last GA in Venice, a number of Guidelines had been published in or submitted to the International Journal of Legal Medicine - Principles for on-site forensic and medico legal scene and corpse investigation (leader – D. Cusack) [Published 2016]. Guidelines for examination of victims of sexual assault (leader – B. Ludes) [Submitted 2017].

The Guidelines for the examination of elder abuse (leader – M. Vali) were presented for approval to General Assembly and a number of further reviews and amendments were recommended prior to submitting the document to the IJLM. A discussion on the topic referred to a set of Best Practice Manuals 2020 in the Police Enforcement area and also the possibility of the European Commission providing a translation service for ECLM documents into the official EU languages.

Other Guidelines on examination of living persons and of children are being finished by the lead authors currently.

**Topic 5.** Election of ECLM Executive Board (2017-2019).

In accordance with the revised Statutes, an election for 9 members of the Executive was held. Following nominations, the following persons were deemed elected:

Duarte Nuno Vieira (Immediate Past President, ex-officio); Marika Vali (Estonia), Antti Sajantila (Finland), Bertrand Ludes (France), Burkhard Madea (Germany), Agnes Dosa (Hungary), Denis Cusack (Ireland), Riccardo Zoia (Italy), Jason Payne-James (United Kingdom).

The ECLM Executive will meet to elect the Officers.

**Topic 6.** Other Subjects.

The outgoing President reminded the meeting that the International Criminal Court had 12 bodies on its Scientific Advisory Board and that the ECLM was one of the members.

The fee was again assessed and again set at zero for the current session.

In accordance with the Statutes, a Scientific Committee was appointed and consists of the following:

Eva Keller (Hungary), Santo Davide Ferrara (Italy), Marija Caplinskiene (Lithuania), Bela Kubat (Netherlands), Jozef Sidlo (Slovakia), Aurelio Luna (Spain). Santo Davide Ferrara was appointed Chairman of this Committee.

Possible venues and dates were considered for the next General Assembly and included the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine Conference in the UK in 2019 or the Nordic Forensic Meeting in 2019.

No other issues were raised and the General Assembly concluded.

APPROVED DRAFT