

EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF LEGAL MEDICINE - ECLM

DRAFT MINUTES

12th General Assembly Meeting - Funchal, Madeira

Date: Wednesday, September 14th 2011, 10.00 -12.30 hours

Place: Hotel Pestana Casino Park, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Room: Auditorium Lisboa

List of those Present* (Alphabetical order by country):

Delegates: J.P. Beauthier (Belgium), Y.G. Kolev (Bulgaria), H. Kase (Estonia), M. Vali (Estonia), P. Saukko (Finland), D. Rouge (France), Y.Schuliar (France), E. Keller (Hungary), D. Cusack (Ireland), S.D. Ferrara (Italy), A. Pauliukevicius (Lithuania), B. Ellul (Malta), B. Oude Grotebevelsborg (Netherlands), S. Rogde (Norway), D.N. Vieira (Portugal), T. S. Magalhaes (Portugal) A.L. Malonado (Spain), P. Mangin (Switzerland)

Deputies: P. Vanezis (United Kingdom), I. Wall (United Kingdom)

Observers: F. Novomesky (Slovakia), M.K. Gulmen (Turkey), J.Payne-James (United Kingdom)

Non-Classified or to be Confirmed: B.Ludes (France), P. Ricci (Italy), A. Smyolra-Kazminska (Poland), A. Uriyalza (Poland), W. McClay (United Kingdom)

* (The list of those present is set out above but may be incomplete and require both corrections and additions due to the difficulties in reading the attendance sheets according to the official delegate list and also where persons present did not designate themselves as delegate or observer, or did not sign the attendance sheet).

TOP 1: Opening address by the President

D.N. Vieira, Chairman/President of the ECLM took the chair. A quorum was confirmed and the countries represented were read out, comprising of twenty eight persons from nineteen countries. The President then delivered his opening address with a summary on a number of matters. . D. Cusack agreed to act as Minutes Secretary for the General Assembly in consultation with the Vice-Chairman and Secretary S.D. Ferrara.

TOP 2: General Information

The ECLM delegate list has been approved by the relevant authorities in each of the Member States.

The interactions with the UEMS were summarised to be dealt with under Topic 7.

TOP 3: Draft Minutes/Report of the 11th General Assembly.

The minutes/report were approved subject to a number of amendments and updates of the delegates and observers list.

TOP 4: Presentation of Delegates

The list of delegates, deputies and observers was confirmed by each person signing the approved list. The draft list of those present is set out in the opening paragraphs of this report.

TOP 5: Report of the President

D.N. Vieira reported that the UEMS document had been finalised in draft form and was to be presented at this General Assembly meeting for consideration and approval by the delegates.

TOP 6: ECLM Website

D.N. Vieira summarised the current status of the ECLM website and asked all delegates to provide national profiles for it including the relevant forensic and medico-legal laws of the country. The webmaster, Dr. Goncalo Castanheira (Portugal), requested that information, news items and photographs be forwarded to him for the website. He also requested through the Chairman/President that relevant protocols on forensic matters and links for the website be sent to him. P. Vanezis asked as to whether the website was open to the public in its entirety and D.N. Vieira confirmed that this was the case. The website is supported by the National Institute of Legal Medicine, Portugal and thanks of the GA delegates were recorded for Dr. Castanheira.

D.N. Vieira summarised the corporate registration of the ECLM with the EU which was now required as finances were being made available from the European Institutions. Already two projects were associated with the ECLM being applications for forensic facial reconstruction study and forensic genetic study.

A. Pauliukevicius proposed that there be a week-long training course in forensic areas to take place during the Summer of 2012 for residents

training in forensic and legal medicine. M. Gulmen agreed with this proposal and said there was the opportunity to have such training course prior to the IALM Congress 2012 in Istanbul. M. Gulmen informed the GA that at that Congress there would be 2 ½ days of workshops and 2 ½ days of oral and poster presentations and that this could facilitate training courses and seminars within that schedule. P. Ricci also volunteered that his forensic unit would also have funds and the experience for such training courses in forensic areas.

The Chairman/President again referred to the list of ECLM delegates and asked that all present would consult with their colleagues within their own countries and other countries with which they had communications to ensure that the list was complete and to comment on any updates required. He noted, for example, that Luxembourg had no direct forensic legal medical services and utilised the services of neighbouring countries such as Germany and France.

TOP 7: ECLM website

This matter was dealt with under **Topic 5**, Report of the President.

TOP 8: ECLM UEMS Document

The document had been circulated to delegates prior to the General Assembly and was considered in discussion at the GA. An amendment was proposed to Section 3D at bullet point 9 to read “precise certification **and reports** to State authorities”. The amendment was considered and approved. D.N. Vieira informed the delegates that it would help if there were letters of support from National Medical Associations and Ministers for Health of as many countries as possible. D. Cusack read a proposed template for letters of support and the GA approved the template to be circulated to the delegates following the GA.

The ECLM UEMS document was formally approved by the GA with no delegate votes against and no abstentions.

TOP 9: Amendments to Statutes of ECLM

D. Cusack summarised the current statutes and amendments which had been circulated for approval. P. Mangin addressed the issue of the Treasurer’s report and the funds available in the ECLM account currently. On the basis of the report D.N. Vieira proposed that there be no delegate fee for the current year.

D.N. Vieira proposed an amendment to Statute 4 (7) that the period of office of the Executive Committee shall be **three years** (rather than two years).

The amended statutes were approved by the General Assembly.

TOP 10: **Varia**

There followed a general discussion about the Executive Board meeting to consider three-day seminars for resident training and teaching for delegates and deputies of the ECLM. P. Vanezis spoke about harmonising forensic teaching. S.D. Ferrara proposed that such a resident seminar could take place in September or October 2012 to allow time for organisation. J. Payne-James proposed that consideration to a training seminar being in June in conjunction with a Nordic forensic meeting might be a possibility. The proposal gaining most support was for a seminar to be held in September 2012.

A proposal from Lithuania concerning autopsy harmonisation was then considered. P. Mangin referred to the Council of Europe document and procedures. M. Gulmen proposed that this should be updated. D. Cusack then summarised the Council of Europe document for the GA.

D.N. Vieira proposed that the ECLM should gather together all relevant protocols for clinical forensic medicine to be available on the website for delegates and others from the ECLM. P. Ricci agreed and volunteered to participate in such a project. M. Vali also volunteered to participate in the organisation of this project. I. Wall referred delegates to the website of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians in the UK which contains guidelines and protocols in clinical forensic medicine. J. Payne-James also referred to that Faculty website on this issue.

TOP 11: **Place and Date of Next General Assembly**

The delegates approved the proposal of the President, D.N. Vieira, that the next General Assembly be held during the IALM Congress to be held in Istanbul in July 2012.