



## UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology 19 June 2021 video conference

TIME AND DATE                      Saturday, 19 June 2021, UEMS EBN meeting 09:00-12:00

VENUE                                      VIDEO CONFERENCE

### MINUTES

1. WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT
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#### **New Bureau**

Patrick Cras, President (BE)  
Martin Rakusa, Vice President (SLO)  
Lacramioara Perju-Dumbrava, Treasurer (RO)  
David Garcia Azorin Secretary (ES)

#### **Full members**

Magnus Andersson (SE)  
Eduard Auff (A)  
Ida Bakke (NO)  
Michal Bar (CZ)  
Christian Bsteh (A)  
Tim Counihan (IR)  
Marianne de Visser (NL)  
Gilles Edan (FR)  
Carlo Ferrarese (IT)  
Sten Fredrikson (SE)  
Alain Jager (FR)  
Matthiew Jones (UK)  
Ruta Kaladyte Lokominiene (LT)  
Anita Kamondi (HU)  
Anne-Mari Kantanen (FI)  
Jan Kuks (NL)  
Charlotte Lützhof Rath (DK)  
Deborah McIntyre (LU)  
Gereon Nelles (DE)  
Brian Sweeney (IR)



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### Associate members

George Chakhava (GE)  
Jera Kruja (AL)  
Serefnur Öztürk (TR)

### Apologized

Johanna Palmio (FI)  
Kristina Ryliskiėne (LT)  
Mustapha El Alaoui-Faris (MA)

### Absent without excuse

Josanne Aquilina (MT)  
Dominique Boucquey (BE)  
Hans Jung (CH)  
Mette Lindelof (DK)  
Georgios Hadjigeorgiou (GR)  
Pall Ingvarsson (IS)  
Georgios Kaponides (CY)  
Philippe Lyrer (CH)  
Evija Miglane (LV)  
Pille Taba (EE)  
Norbert Vella (MA)  
Stephan Zierz (DE)

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF 24.10.2020

The minutes were unanimously approved.

### 3. UEMS\_COUNCIL MEETING FEEDBACK

Marianne de Visser and Martin Rakusa summarise the main topics of the Council meeting of 23 and 24 April, in which they each participated for one day.

- The board members of the UEMS Surgery Section had resigned in protest.
- On the financial status: Two thirds of the loan has been repaid. The sections can access their money. However, it has to be approved by the UEMS Board.
- One of the main items on the agenda was the European Training Requirements (ETR). It was highlighted that these concern both knowledge and competences. Due to the constant developments in the field of basic neurological research, training and policy, a regular update should be done. Feasibility in different countries is important, but it would be against the principle of a Europe-wide set of training requirements to formulate them for individual countries. At this year's April meeting, the ETRs of the sections Paediatric Endocrinology, Neonatology, Vascular Surgery and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery were discussed. There were several objections to the latter ETR, as several neighbouring specialties did not agree, and finally this ETR was probably not adopted. It will be important for our section of neurology to present the ETR to the sections of paediatric neurology (free version) pediatrics, radiology (stroke diagnosis and treatment),



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neurosurgery, psychiatry and anesthesiology (pain treatment) before submitting them to the UEMS. An exact timeline for the ETR-application is provided by the UEMS online.

- Council agreed to include a paragraph on children, young people and vulnerable people in all future UEMS ETRs and to change the name of the Emergency Medicine specialty.

- Another item on the agenda was a session led by Alex Bisdorff with a discussion paper on Digital Knowledge and Digital Skills. The main focus was on telemedicine and various issues were raised: medico-legal aspects, patient perspective, patient education, dealing with digital poverty (no access to devices or illiteracy), placing it in the context of artificial intelligence, of education and research. The UEMS will develop a general statement from a professional perspective after consultation with the other European organisations and patient associations.

- The Council for European Specialists Medical Assessment (CESMA) reported on challenges in examinations during COVID. The main issues were safety and cheating. Sections also face logistical difficulties and technological challenges; they may be limited to unit assessments. How will exams be integrated? Some sections will go back to the pre-COVID system, the others may keep everything online, or it will be a hybrid examination. Another task of CESMA is the assessment of the exam. Ideally, each European exam will be assessed every three years. Volunteers are being looked for.

- The UEMS has also prepared the endorsement of the Vaccine Equity Declaration. Related documents on the EAN NeuroCOVID-19 Task Force have been published in the European Journal of Neurology.

The next UEMS council-meeting will be in October in Limassol, Cyprus.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP SITUATION	09:30 – 09:45 HRS
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Magnus Andersson shows the income and expenditure for the period 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020 and for the first quarter of 2021, as well as the membership fees for 2021, with France's fees missing for two years; this problem is due to the establishment of new societies and will hopefully be solved soon.

We do not yet have contacts with Poland and Slovakia. In previous online meeting, Patrick Cras suggested writing a letter to Dr Krajewski asking him about the EBN membership situation with Poland. This has not yet led to any results. Patrick Cras will continue to try to establish contacts with Poland.

The balance sheet for 2020 shows a surplus of about € 33.937,-. The EBN account balance on 31.12.2020 is € 128.141,64. The hotel costs (€ 5665,-) for the examiners due to the cancelled exam in Paris (force majeure) were fully reimbursed.

All in all, our financial situation is healthy.

The budget for 2021 is positive, the budget for 2022 depends on whether the exam is online or on-site, but should be positive in both cases.

The report was accepted.



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### 5. EXAMINATION: REPORT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK TO THE NEXT SESSION

200 candidates applied for the exam of whom after all about 185 candidates showed up. This increase of 100%, compared to 2019 in Oslo, may be explained partially by candidates who were not able to take the exam in 2020 and waited for this new opportunity: 75 European Candidates applied for Oslo compared to 106 this year. On the other hand non-European candidates will have taken benefit being able to take the exam at home without necessity to travel to a congress site: 34 candidates applied for Oslo compared to 94 this year).

All in all, the exam went successfully and with great help from our new provider iCognitus from Portugal (for the written exam) and EAN Head Office (for the oral exam).

Jan Kuks and Gilles Edan will present an extensive report in the next autumn-meeting with presentation of the results, this year's policy, the financial situation and a comparison between this year's online exams and life exams in the past.

The actual examination committee consists of Gilles Edan, Sten Fredrikson and Jan Kuks from the side of the EBN and Pablo Irimia, Manuel Alegre as well as Benedikt Schoser from the side of the EAN. Sten Fredrikson steps back, Jan Kuks stressed the need for a young EBN-member who replaces him and in due course will be able to take over the coordination of the whole enterprise.

He will personally contact board members for this purpose.

### 6. DISCHARGE AND ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

Patrick Cras remains as President of the EBN.

Martin Rakusa will become Vice President. The Vice President of the EBN will become Co Chair of the JEB as well.

JBMK stays in the JEB (instead of Sten Fredrikson) as an expert in educational affairs.

Lacramioara Perju-Dumbrava will take over the position of the Treasurer.

David Garcia Azorin takes over the position of the Secretary.

### 7. EUROPEAN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (ETRN)

See also item 3 of these minutes.

The current ETR is from 2016 and was written by Alex Bisdorff, Jan Kuks, Serefnur Öztürk and Lacramioara Perju-Dumbrava with input from all EBN members. This ETRN distinguishes between basic and advanced training, continuing education and describes a system of visitation and accreditation of training centres. The document went all over Europe, sent by the EAN Council. A new version has been produced, but as there is no change tracking, we cannot summarize what has been changed. All EBN members will receive the current version attached to these minutes with a request to go through the document critically to see if it is feasible and valuable for their



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own country. Patrick Cras does not expect much discussion when the ETRNs are sent to the EBN sister societies.

Patrick Cras is trying to include the ETRNs in the Flemish board certification criteria to set European standards.

One of the points of discussion that is still open is thrombectomy; neurologists should be included, but most of them will not be able to perform thrombectomy. This requires careful wording in our ETRN to avoid trouble with other sections. Jan Kuks mentions the description of four levels of competence and suggests that level 3 should be assigned to thrombectomy: the neurologist should know about all facts but not be able to perform thrombectomy without help from other disciplines.

### 8. EACCME/ACCREDITATION OF E- LEARNING EVENTS

The number of accredited meetings has gone down substantially;  
E-LEARNINGS in the domain of neurology are now taken over by David Garcia Azorin.

### 9. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

The minutes of 24.10.2020 were unanimously approved.  
The positions on the Executive Board have been filled.  
The financial situation is stable.  
A brief overview of the exam was received.  
ETRNs were discussed.  
UEMS central will be informed by Gabrielle Lohner that the E-Learning will be taken over by David Garcia Azorin;

### 10. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed some time ago to meet in Tbilisi; Patrick Cras and Martin Rakusa propose to ask George Chakhava (who left the meeting early) again. We aim for a face-to-face meeting after the Council meeting - in Tbilisi or Brussels.

END OF THE MEETING

12:00