

## **Meeting of the General Assembly of EUFAS**

**Date:**            **October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Time:**            **10:45h – 12:00 h**

**Location:**        **Room 1, Caird Hall, Dundee, Scotland**

**Participants:**

Aubin, Bramness, Carrà, Drummond, Hentgen, Mann, Seijo (representing Bobes), Vossenbergh, Wojnar, Wolters, Wurst (alphabetic order)

**Excused:**

Gual (acutely ill), Bobes (represented by Seijo) Dom, Scafato, Subatis.

---

## **AGENDA**

**1. Welcome / Adoption minutes Berlin ( 2014)  
([www.eufas.net](http://www.eufas.net))**

Due to an acute illness, Toni Gual could not attend. In his place, Karl Mann as the past president chaired the meeting. He welcomed the participants and expressed the gratitude to ISAM for hosting the executive board meeting and general assembly. Originally the EUFAS meeting had been planned to be held together with EMCDDA in Lisbon. Since this was impossible, EUFAS went to ISAM at Dundee on very short notice. For this reason a number of EUFAS officers could not attend this year.

The next executive board meeting and the general assembly will be held in the context of the Sociodrogalcohol meeting in Alicante, March 10 – 12, 2016.

**2. Report of the president (in absence):**

Next EUFAS meeting Alicante, Spain. J. Bobes, the president of Sociodrogalcohol generously agreed to host EUFAS. That will give A. Gual the chance to give a full report and to outline the programme of his presidency. In his absence K. Mann reported on some activities of EUFAS (meeting in Berlin, symposia in Berlin, Paris, Warsaw and Dundee). Aubin added the role of EUFAS board members as external reviewers of the new French guidelines on alcohol; Bramness, Wojnar and Wurst added the current status of several surveys.

On behalf of T Gual K Mann reported that EUFAS will have the possibility to have a board meeting at the ESBRA / ISBRA congress in Berlin next year. Gual et al. submitted two proposals for EU projects that unfortunately were not accepted. Furthermore, another focus was the liaison with other organisations. This also included the EMCDDA, where the new director would welcome collaborations.

**3. Report of the Secretary General:** cancelled because G Dom could not attend.

**4. Report of the Treasurer:**

F Wurst reported that EUFAS continues to do fine regarding financial aspects. As of Sept 30 2014 the balance was 50.186,74 €, on December 31, 2014 48.684,65 € and on September 30, 2015 49.532,67 €. Gains are mostly based on membership fees, whereas expenses mostly reflect support for members to attend the meetings.

To recapitulate (see previous minutes) fees are based on the number of members of a respective society (1 Euro per member). Of note, the maximum fee is 300€ even if the number of members exceeds 300. Furthermore, societies that cannot afford to pay the membership fees may be excused after applying to the board.

The report and balance had been sent out to the external auditors Ribeiro and Farren prior to the meetings.

Their reports were approved and the general assembly accepted the approval of the auditors

**5. Report of the sub-committees:**

Various activities have increased the visibility of EUFAS:

a) J Bramness and F Wurst reported on the web-based EUFAS survey on the use of different medications to reduce alcohol intake. The results from 21 countries, that have responded so far, will be compiled and presented at the next meeting of the executive board in Alicante, Spain, March 2016. J Bramness offered that SERAF could take over the role of a secretary for future surveys. Certain remuneration, however, would be required. A survey on cannabis (attitudes, policy) will be a next activity. This will be done by Bramness, Vossenbergh, Wolter, Hoch, Wurst, Wojnar and Gual.

b) F Wurst reported on the EUFAS liver transplantation symposium at the ESBRA conference in Prague, chaired by M Wojnar and F Wurst, and a subsequent publication in Alcohol and Alcoholism in 2015.

Currently, F Wurst has launched a study in LTX patients employing besides questionnaires and self-reports also ethanol metabolites to assess alcohol use in this population. F Wurst and M Wojnar plan to broaden the basis for this project and invited other EUFAS members to join with the aim of an EU project.

c) Education: Vossenbergh reported on the activity regarding a questionnaire on the availability of specific education programmes.

d) Treatment guidelines: At the ISAM meeting a EUFAS symposium on guidelines was held. Other EUFAS symposia were held in Prague, Paris, Berlin and Warsaw.

Furthermore K Mann acted as a co-director for the French guidelines. C Farren, F Wurst E. Scafato and C. Drummond acted as external reviewers for the above mentioned guidelines.

In the Netherlands currently treatment guidelines are reviewed for other substances and an adoption of the NICE Guidelines is discussed. In Luxembourg a national action plan is on the way. In Norway the state owns the guidelines and is by law the only authority allowed to issue them. The importance of a translation of national guidelines

into English has been emphasised. Meanwhile the NICE Guidelines have been reviewed every 3 years but no changes have been suggested. Drummond emphasised specific research issues in Europe such as psychosocial studies.

Carrà emphasised the importance of a cooperation with the EMCDDA regarding guidelines. Finally, a paper on guidelines will be prepared by Vossenbergh, Aubin, Mann, Bramness and Wurst with the focus on alcohol.

e) Task force: the board agreed that in addition to the existing committees task forces should be implemented. These task forces are:

1. EUFAS surveys: Specific topics will be investigated through inquiries of the EUFAS member societies:

J Bramness, F Wurst,

2. Guidelines: A first step will consist of a survey on existing guidelines with suggestions for harmonisation. This should generate a publication in EAR. A close cooperation with EMCDDA is suggested.

Aubin, Bramness, Drummond, Mann, Wurst, Wojnar.

3. Liver transplantation issues:

F Wurst, M Wojnar.

4. Cannabis task force:

Hoch, Wolter, Vossenbergh, Simon (suggested).

**6. European Addiction Research (EAR):** As a result of the negotiations of A. Gual with F Kiefer and Gabriele Karger the following was offered to EUFAS:

a) EAR as official organ of the EUFAS

b) 1 or 2 pages for notes/communication of EUFAS

c) Creation of a EUFAS Award Lecture of 1500€ each year (paid by EAR). This lecture shall be published in EAR. Furthermore, it was accepted that some members of EUFAS could become members of the editorial board of EAR and that the editor-in-chief would be welcome as a guest (not voting) to the EUFAS executive board and the general assembly.

d) A reduction of the fee for members is currently discussed.

**7. Relation with other societies:**

**International Confederation of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Research Associations (ICARA):** the relation of ICARA and EUFAS has been discussed (see previous minutes). Since ICARA has now been officially launched in 2014 (president: Gerhard Bühringer), potential future relations have been discussed. The board members approved the suggestions that

- EUFAS offers its member societies to represent them in ICARA,
- EUFAS delegates one person into their board (not voting) and vice versa.

**European chapter of ISAM:** Taking into account that during the last decade ISAM had taken place in Europe in Geneva, Oslo, Milan, Helsinki and Dundee a European chapter is being discussed within ISAM. In this case the EUFAS board agreed to welcome a guest (not voting) representing ISAM-Europe in the EUFAS board and vice versa. J Bramness was so kind to take over the role of a representative of EUFAS until the Alicante meeting.

**Addiction Section of EPA (European Psychiatric Association)** are currently ongoing.

**8. Varia:**

- a) T Gual suggested a phone conference of the board every three months.
- b) After the March meeting in Alicante a follow-up board meeting will be in Berlin on the occasion of the joined ISBRA/ESBRA conference Sept 2 – Sept 5.

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Karl Mann  
Past President

Frieder Wurst  
Treasurer