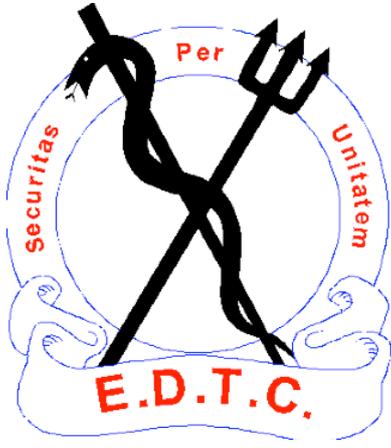


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# MINUTES of EDTC 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

## GDYNIA, POLAND



National Center for Hyperbaric Medicine in Gdynia  
Medical University of Gdansk, Poland



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## MINUTES of EDTC 2015 GDYNIA MEETING

**Place:** Nadmorski Hotel, Ejsmonda Str. 2, 81-409 Gdynia, POLAND

**Date:** 15-16 October 2015

### 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Thursday

<b>16:00-17:00</b>	EDTC Board Meeting Nadmorski Hotel	<b>EDTC Board</b>
<b>19:30-22:30</b>	DINNER Nadmorski Hotel	<b>All</b>

### 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Friday

<b>09:30-09:35</b>	Welcome	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>09:35-09:45</b>	Introductory presentation by Host Country and Safety and Security Information	<b>Host</b>
<b>09:45-10:15</b>	EDTC Admin Matters List of Apologies EDTC membership Summary	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>10:15-10:30</b>	Chairman's report Summary of actions from 2014 Annual Meeting Revision of EDTC By Law	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>10:30-11:0</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>11:00-11:20</b>	Reports from the Medical Subcommittee	<b>Akin S. Toklu</b>
<b>11:20-11:40</b>	Reports from workgroups "Policy for guidance how to co-operate with associations, companies and other organizations.."	<b>Jörn Ryberg</b>
<b>11:40-12:00</b>	Discussion and Decision about future workgroup	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>12:00-13:00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>13:00-15:30</b>	National reports CANADA UK IMCA IDSA ITALY NORWAY SWEDEN SWEDEN POLAND ESTONIA TURKEY	<b>Members</b> David Parkes Philip Crombie Peter Sieniewicz Alan Bax Pasquale Longobardi Olav Hauso Staffan Littorin Mats Hagberg Krzysztof Stopierzynski Margo Purru Akin S. Toklu
<b>15:30-16:00</b>	Elections For the positions of Akin S. Toklu & Jane Bugler	<b>All</b>
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	Any other business, Next Meeting, Venue and Date	<b>All</b>
<b>16:30-17:00</b>	Closing remarks	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>18:00-22:00</b>	Visit to National Center for Hyperbaric Medicine, Gdynia with a Get-Together Reception	<b>All</b>

**THOSE PRESENT**

<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>		
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Note:</b>
Jörn Ryberg	SWEDEN	Chairman
Akin Savas Toklu	TURKEY	Secretary
Jean Lelievre	FRANCE	Member Executive Board
Pasquale Longobardi	ITALY	Member Executive Board
<b>HOST</b>		
Jacek Kot		POLAND
<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>COUNTRY</b>
Akin Savaş Toklu		TURKEY
Alan Bax		IDSA
Claus Mayer		GERMANY
Daniel Larsson		SWEDEN
David Parkes		CANADA
Eric ALBIER		FRANCE
Grzegorz Bernaciak		POLAND
Jcek Kot		POLAND
Jean Lelievre		FRANCE
Jörn Ryberg		SWEDEN
Knud-Helge Andreasen		DENMARK
Leo Lagarde		HOLLAND
Margo Purru		ESTONIA
Mats Hagberg		SWEDEN
Mr. Krzysztof Stopierzynski		POLAND
Olav Hauso		NORWAY
Pasquale Longobardi		ITALY
Peter Ric-Hansen		DENMARK
Peter Sieniewicz		IMCA
Philip Crombie		UK
Richard Benzie		IMCA
Robert Gatt		AUSTRALIA
Staffan Littorin		SWEDEN
Victor Burovenko		ESTONIA
<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>		<b>COUNTRY</b>
Carlos Barosa		PORTUGAL
Roland Vanden Eede		BELGIUM
Jane Bugler		IMCA
Philip BRYSON		UK
Petr Andrt		CZECH REPUBLIC
Wolfgang Förster		GERMANY
Chris Sherman		UK
Jürg Wendling		SWITZERLAND

Joar Gangenes	NORWAY
Murat Egi	TURKEY
Roger O'Kane	UK
Jabu Mhlophe	SOUTH AFRICA
Frank Werner	GERMANY
Roswitha Prohaska	AUSTRIA
<b>RESIGNMENT FROM MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Dominik Schwarb	SWITZERLAND
Cengiz Erenoğlu	TURKIYE
Jane Bugler	IMCA

## WELCOME ADDRESS

The Chairman Jörn Ryberg opened the meeting welcoming the members to GDYNIA and the 2015 EDTC Meeting and thanked Jacek KOT for hosting the 2015 EDTC Annual Meeting. Jacek KOT was asked to give information about the facilities, safety and security of the meeting venue. He also gave information about the day's program and activities planned during the meeting. He also gave brief information about National Center for Hyperbaric Medicine where a visit and reception were held at the end of the meeting.

## EDTC ADMIN MATTERS

**Apologies:** Secretary indicated the apologies had been received as stated above.

**EDTC Membership Summary:** Secretary reported that three members; Dominik Schwarb from Switzerland, Cengiz Erenoğlu from Turkey and Jane Bugler from IMCA have asked their resignation from EDTC membership. He added that Rui Andrade representing Government, Portugal will be represented by someone else, but nomination hasn't been received yet from the Portuguese Navy. Since Jane Bugler had left IMCA and resigned from EDTC, the organization sent two participants, Richard Benzie and Peter Sieniewicz. Marit Grønning representing Medicine from Norway has proposed to be replaced by Martin Heer. Daniel Larsson replaced by Urban Johansson who has been representing union from Sweden.

Akin Toklu made the point that there are about 10 members who are passive and haven't attended meetings or replied to e-mails sent to members. He noted that the annual membership fee application will help identify passive members or members who would like to discontinue membership.

Akin Toklu kindly asked that participants check the printed list of members and relevant details published at the EDTC homepage, and to note the changes if there is anything to be corrected.

He also announced that receipts were ready to be collected for annual membership payments.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jörn Ryberg started his report by thanking secretary, Akin Toklu for his efforts for organizing EDTC 2015. He also noted that Jane Bugler had been an EDTC member and a member of the Board for a long time and had done a good job for EDTC. He expressed his gratitude for her contributions to EDTC. He also announced that Richard Benzie was going to replace her and he added that he was sure Richard Benzie would contribute EDTC as Jane Bugler had done. He welcomed Richard Benzie to EDTC.

Jörn stated that a lot of attentions from all over the world were taken by issuing different documents in accordance with EDTC's aim. He gave information about the visit to the Unit of Health, Safety and Hygiene at Work (HSHW) in European Commission in Luxembourg. He stated that EDTC was invited to a meeting, which is done by inspectors coming from each country around Europe every year. It was highlighted by EC that diving is an

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occupation with risks and they noted their concern and willingness to coordinate the activities. He stated that a representative was going to join EDTC 2015 meeting but due to limited budget it was not possible, therefore they had a letter asking EDTC's help to create guidance documents for diving services. Jörn added that the relation with EC should be a topic for a workgroup to be formed.

The Chairman also raised the issue of migration that has recently affected Europe. He stated that a stream of people entering Europe escaping from wars around the world and noted that some of those people are divers who had a different kind of education and held different kinds of qualifications. He raised the need to update the EDTC Competence Standards which are almost thirteen years old, considering the situation regarding refugee divers in European countries. He proposed that a workgroup be formed to update the standards.

Jörn Rryberg reminded participants about the proposal for the necessity of changes in EDTC by-laws, which were previously shared with members by e-mail for comment. Only one comment from Dr. Roswitha Prohas from Austria was received. The necessary changes are needed for practical managing of bank account and procedures, annual membership fee implementation. Dr. Prohas suggested to add subtitle "d. Membership fee" under Item 1, below article 8, to add item 3 as "The right of signing the association" and described, and subtitle "d. To pay membership fee" under Item 1, below article 9. The suggested changes are shown below in bold, in the relevant part of the by-laws;

#### FINANCE

##### Article 8

1. The Society's funds will consist of:
  - a. Donations and grants from Governments, Industry or other bodies. Such funds may be given for specific or non-specific purposes,
  - b. Contributions by the members,
  - c. Any other income.
  - d. Membership fee (SUGGESTED CHANGE)**
2. The Executive Board has the power to accept or reject any funds offered to the Society.

### **3. The right of signing the Association (SUGGESTED CHANGE)**

**The Executive Board of EDTC shall constitute itself and appoint a vice chairman, secretary and treasurer. The chairman is appointed by the annual assembly. The organization / committee is signed by the chairman or treasurer respectively, or a combination of two members of the executive board**

#### OBLIGATIONS

##### Article 9

1. All members are obliged:
  - a. To uphold the byelaws, rules and regulations of the Society as well as the decisions of the meetings or bodies of the Society;
  - b. Not to unreasonably damage the Society's interests;
  - c. To accept all obligations stemming from the membership of the Society or accepted by the Society on behalf of its members.

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#### **d . To pay membership fee (SUGGESTED CHANGE)**

Jörn kindly asked the participants to think about these changes by the end of the meeting so that the update would be finalized.

Since there is some time to coffee break Chairmen asked to discuss about the suggested changes to the by-laws..

Staffan Littorin suggested defining the membership payment period to allow payment during the annual meetings to avoid some paperwork. Akin Toklu added that the description should consider members who are unable to join the annual meetings. Some members suggested a deadline that should be at least one month before the annual meetings. A question from participants was raised whether the annual meeting date was fixed to October. The Chairman replied that it was not fixed to October, but it was left to the convenience of the host country. He has asked the candidate country Estonia's representative for their convenient period, and Margo Puru from Estonia stated that October is the best period for organizing EDTC 2016 Meeting.

#### **REPORT FROM THE MEDICAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

Akin Toklu reported that since Jürg Wendlig was unable to join to the meeting due to a training program previously planned in South Africa, he was asked to present EDTC MedSubCom report, regarding the subcommittee meeting that was held in Amsterdam during the European Underwater and Baromedical Society (EUBS) Annual Scientific Meeting in August 2015. The meeting was held with the participations of EDCT Medical Subcommittee Members and guests from USA, South Africa and Australia.

In the meeting the three main items discussed were;

1. News from the Diving Medical Advisory Committee DMAC
2. Implementation of the EDTC/ECHM medical training standards 2011
3. Revision of fitness to dive standards

Under item 1, the revised guidelines of DMAC were presented. Information was given about the workshop that included representatives of all big diving support companies or offshore diving contractors, that was organised in Aberdeen. In the workshop procedures in order to improve safety for future diving operations were discussed.

In the second item the situation about the planned crash-course in advanced diving medicine in Marseille was shared. Unfortunately the course had to be cancelled due to high cost and high course fee. It was proposed to interested doctors to profit from courses in Durban South Africa, Tasmania Australia and Canada. It was also stated that revision was necessary in training standards. It was added that future courses might be possible with reduced program and costs. In the meeting it was stated that another aim of the training standards was to have a databank of doctors with approved training to one of the levels defined in the standards available for the offshore industry, as wished for during the DMAC workshop. Therefore the EDTC MedSubCom started with a databank, kindly offered by the Scuola Superiore St'Anna di Pisa and managed by the certifying board. It was added that the structure was already available, until next year it would be operational be presented at the EDTC meeting.

In the last item information about the work has been done for revising Fitness to Dive Standards was presented. A web-based virtual discussion forum has been active, in order to revise the various chapters and aspects of the fitness to dive standards. The group enlarged Internationally and next year the final report will be presented, if acknowledged by the EDTC meeting, to publish

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it again in a revision of the black book.

The full text of the report can be reached by clicking here; [EDCT Medical Subcommittee Report](#).

At the end of the meeting Olav Hauso stated that providing and servicing a database should not be the responsibility of the EDTC MedSubCom, which should just produce guidelines. Jörn Ryberg indicated that this comment is important therefore he proposed to take the idea to round table discussion. While the majority of the participants agreed with Olav, several members mentioned the usefulness of such a database, as there is an example in South Africa. Pasquale Longobardi has shown the examples of databases from DMAC and South Africa, and added that it is practical for the companies to find the closest qualified doctors and hyperbaric facilities that will meet their needs, by using these databases. He strongly recommended that EDTC should use such a database to contribute diving safety. Akin Toklu gave information about the situation in Turkey, by noting that diving and hyperbaric medicine is a specialty, and he showed the list of specialist doctors that was published on the Turkish Underwater and Hyperbaric Medical Society web-site. Jörn Ryberg summarized the round table discussion reporting that almost everyone is in favour of such a database, but agreed that maintaining the database require effort and funding. He added that the EDCT cannot be in that position, but can continue to provide guidance documents. He added that each national entity might provide such a source by themselves and the links of these databases can be published on the EDTC homepage.

## **REPORTS FROM WORKGROUPS**

Jörn Ryberg presented the drafted document of “Policy for guidance how to co-operate with associations, companies and other organizations..” , which is a guidance for EDTC itself. The document was needed for defining the policy for cooperating with companies, organizations and associations. He noted that the workgroup was formed last year, consisting Alan Bax, Leo Lagarde, Mark Van der Esch, Murat Egi, Morten Nicolai Kiersing and Jörn Ryberg. The presented draft was previously distributed to all members for comment and feedback. Jörn Ryberg reminded everyone of the contents by screening the document, and asked for comments from participants. The participants generally stated that the document was well prepared and would be useful. Jacek Kot aksed whether the term “diving” also cover compressed air work, and asked if there is a need to include the term of “compressed air work”. Jacek also made a comment for the expression of “The collaboration must be primarily on the European (EU/EER) level.” used on page 3, under the title of “External Relation”. He questioned whether it is necessary to use “must” since external relations means the relations with other continental as well. Jörn asked the participants to send their comments to the secretary within one month after the meeting. He added the document would be published after implementing the comments in the document. Participants were agreed.

## **DISCUSSION AND DECISION ABOUT FUTURE WORKGROUPS**

Jörn Ryberg repeated the need to update the competence document that was already mentioned in the chairman’s report. He asked for volunteers for a workgroup to work on this update. Philip Crombie, Staffan Littorin, Alan Bax, Jean Lelievre, Pasquale Longobardi, Peter Sieniewicz, Olav Hauso are included in the workgroup. Jörn Ryberg proposed Olav Hauso to chair the workgroup and the proposal was accepted. He also added that it was a quite a difficult job, since lots of things have changed in 12 years, and stated that it may not be realistic to finish the job in a year. Jörn shared his experience about being in a workgroup and using Skype successfully.

Jörn yberg proposed a second small workgroup to define the cooperation of EDTC. The message should be defined that will be given to EC during the inspectors meeting in 2016 previously mentioned. He asked for participants declaring his involvement in the workgroup. The

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workgroup was finalized with the participation of Krzysztof Stopierzynski, Pasquale Longobardi, Richard Benzie and Jörn Ryberg.

## **NATIONAL REPORTS**

Before starting national reports Chairman emphasized the importance of national reports, which give information about what is going on in the reporting country. He declared that there was still a chance to add to the schedule, if there was any member who would like to present a national report, but not indicated before.

### **IDRF (David Parkes):**

David Parkes presented an example of how standards are revised in Canada. The Standard was for Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) and Munitions Diving. He introduced Diving Certification Board of Canada (DCBC), noting that the organisation is Canada's national diver certification body, federally registered as not-for-profit organisation, operating under MOA's with Offshore Petroleum Boards, recognized nationally and internationally. He reported that Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has a family of standards relating to occupational diving that are revised every 5 years. He added that regulations are often based on these standards, and these standards are about hyperbaric Facilities, diving operations, Work in compressed air environments, competency of personnel, training and UXO Diving, the last one numbered as Z275.6 was about UXO Diving. He stated that standard Z275.6 was drafted in response to request from federal government. The standard needed to define competencies for personnel engaged in remedial clearance of UXO. Jörn Ryberg stated that the topic is important in Europe as well, and added there are many activities in Germany. He showed a video of an explosion of an UXO that happened recently. The detail about David Parkes's report can be reached by clicking [HERE](#).

### **UK (Philip Crombie).**

The news from the UK was included in the report presented by Philip Crombie from Health and Safety Executive. He stated that the offshore industry took a massive downturn. There had been no saturation diving courses from June to October, and the latest course only had 6 people on it. He added that Inland activity is busy and there are works being done in renewable energy, that reflected economic recovery. He reported that fatalities in recreational diving activities kept HSE busy and they had difficulties with their law, because there are recreational organizations who don't pay their instructors. He reported the incidents and accidents in 2014 and 2015 as; 3 Recreational "at work" fatalities, 1 Major Injury - Offshore (unconscious fell from bell), 27 Dangerous Occurrences (5 MOD, 10 Offshore, 7 Recreational, 3 Inland/Inshore, 1 Sci/Arch, 1 Shellfish), 6 "Over 7 day" injuries (2 Offshore, 3 Inland, 1 Recreational), 23 Complaints to HSE (16 Inland/Inshore, 4 Recreational, 2 Offshore, 1 Medical) and 0 Ill Health. He has added Enforcement Notices in 2014 and 2015 as; 3 Prohibition Notices (1 x Inland/inshore; no competent appointed diving supervisor present, 2 x Recreational; insufficient suitably competent persons in the dive team to undertake a rescue effectively, and participating in a dive team without a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive.). 5 Improvement Notices (1 x Offshore; lack of maintenance of equipment, 1 x Inland/inshore; supplied SCUBA equipment for use in a commercial diving project without an independent reserve supply of breathing gas, 1 x Shellfish; the risk assessment does not address the management and control of the diving project, 1 x Recreational; participated in a diving project without a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive, 1 x all sectors; failed to ensure that the diver decompression chamber was inspected at suitable intervals). Philip also gave information about HSE's involvement in shellfish diving /

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electrofishing. He gave information about three fatalities. Detail about the HSE proactive work and changes in legislation, practices and/or arrangements can be reached by clicking [HERE](#).

### **IMCA (Peter Sieniewicz)**

Peter Sieniewicz gave information about the recent guidance issued by IMCA. These are listed below.

IMCA D 051 Rev. 1 – Hyperbaric evacuation systems (HES) interface recommendations

IMCA D052/OGP Hyperbaric Evacuation bridging Document

IMCA D 054 – Remotely operated vehicle intervention during diving operations

IMCA D 040 Rev. 1 – DESIGN for mobile/portable surface supplied systems

IMCA D 015 Rev. 1 – Mobile/portable/daughtercraft surface supplied systems

He stated that revised supervisor Exam Database is now in Operation. He has also mentioned about the documents being updated. These guidance are listed below;

IMCA D 010 Rev. 3 – Diving operations from vessels operating in dynamically positioned mode

IMCA D 016 Rev. 3 – Underwater air lift bags

IMCA D 037 – DESIGN for surface supplied mixed gas diving systems

IMCA D 030 –Surface supplied mixed gas diving operations

IMCA D 044 – Isolation and intervention: Diver access to subsea systems

IMCA D 041 – Use of battery operated equipment in hyperbaric conditions

IMCA D 031 – Cleaning for oxygen service: Setting up facilities and procedures

IMCA D 034 – Norway/UK regulatory guidance on offshore diving (NURGOD)

IMCA D 039 – FMEA guide for diving systems

He also added that the Life Support Technician Exam is being revised in the same format as the Air Diving Supervisor. There is also new guidance being developed on subsea rigging in support of manned diving operations, confined space entry in diving systems, the marking and Testing of Flexible Hoses and Whips and Diving Operations on Offshore Wind Farm Operations.

He declared that the air diving supervisor database being translated in Bahasa Malay and Bahasa Indonesian. It was noted that IMCA would look at other languages on a case by case basis. A committee that will look at potential resolutions to some of the current diver related health issues have been established. Peter reported that DVDs on Emergency Diver Recovery and Diving Related Emergency Drills are being prepared. Brief information about IMCA Annual Seminar 2015 that will be held in Abu Dhabi was given. He finished his report by mentioning some other activities and IMCA Supervisors Scheme. The detail about the report can be reached by clicking [HERE](#).

### **IDSA (Alan Bax)**

Alan Bax reported that IDSA had continued to grow, and now had 80 members of all types. He also described the types of Memberships as full, industrial, associate, affiliate, and reciprocal memberships. He noted that these members are paying an appropriate annual subscription. The detail about these membership is included in the full text of the report. He reported that in the last few months the Board terminated the membership of the YAK Diving Academy in Bombay for serious breaches of the IDSA Standards. Brief information was given about The Annual Meeting of the Association took place in September, hosted by the Diving Section of the Irish Naval Service The 2016 Annual Meeting will take place in September, the venue has still to be determined. The full text of the report can be reached at by clicking [HERE](#).

### **ITALY (Pasquale Longobardi)**

Pasquale Longobardi gave a report on the MOSE Project Venice, Italy. Before he started the report he gave information about the diving contractors for whom they give medical services. The project described as the installation of Mobile Barriers to defend the Venetian Lagoon from

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the high water phenomenon which takes place in winter time when a combination of astronomical tide, strong south wind and long wave can cause a larger inflow of water into the Venetian Lagoon. The dams are formed by four mobile barriers that are installed on the seabed of three lagoon inlets, within slots. Some numbers of the project presented including the cost. Precaution for diving safety was taken in accordance with national law, UNI 11366 that described the minimum team as 1 Supervisor, 1 working diver, 1 standby diver, 1 assistant diver and 1 LST in the Control Room. Information about diving equipment and support vessels was given. Health and safety plan was also detailed including training, hyperbaric chamber, first aid point, and the organization for reaching hyperbaric center in 30 minutes. Pasquale reported that 3,917 surface supplied dives were performed between 2010 and 2014 without any injury. The pdf file of the presentation can be reached by clicking [HERE](#).

### **NORWAY (Olav Hauso)**

Olav Hauso gave information about the activities from DSYS data base covering 2014. The activity of saturation was high accumulating 134.000 manhours in saturation. It was 40 % higher than the 2013 figures. There was no surface oriented diving reported. Three near accidents and one cut in hand and one muscular pain reported. Statistical chart was shown that includes yearly undesired events such as near miss, personal injury, fatal accidents and level of activity that covering 1985 to 2014. He reported that the industry recently wished to use long umbilicals, but at the moment the authorities are not permitting the use of umbilicals longer than 45 meters. He added that there is still discussion about risk analysis and the possibility of using longer umbilicals.

Olav Hauso reported the result of the study to compare surface diving decompression tables that was done by NUI AS. In the study total decompression time, profile of decompression and in-water decompression (no surface decompression or Nitrox.) times were compared. In the comparison the sources of NDTT, DCIEM, USN Manual 6, MT92/BGV C23, HES/BTL, Technip and Subea were used. The graphs about no-stop decompression limits versus depth, total decompression time versus bottom time, and example dive profiles at 18-24-30-36-48 msw. were shown. He has noted the conclusion as below;

- It seems evident that the Norwegian Diving and Treatment Tables gives radical advice for decompression from surface oriented diving
- PSA is of the opinion that this fact must be evaluated by the parties of the petroleum activity
- PSA have invited the industry to join/lead a tripartite group to do this work and recommend a way ahead –Result to be advice to Norsok for the U-100 standard

Detail about the report can be reached by clicking [HERE](#).

### **SWEDEN (Staffan Littorin)**

Staffan Littorin (SWE) made a brief presentation, regarding the problem that the Swedish Armed Forces are currently having with their rebreather, ISMIX.

There is an investigation in progress and it has not yet been found any single cause, to the increased numbers of decompression sicknesses that has struck the MCM-divers, the last year. The IS-MIX system is currently prohibited (in the Swedish Armed Forces) from usage until further notice.

### **SWEDEN (Mats Hagberg)**

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Mats Hagberg presented a national report that included information about health surveillance of working divers in Sweden (important preventive strategies), fitness to dive examinations of working divers (what to do if diving medical physicians have different opinions), and EDTC diving medicine courses. The surveillance aimed to have sustainable health in working divers. He stated that 662 working divers consisted of rescue, construction, navy & coast guard, instructors, and scientific divers. In the study the health, work ability, incidents and accidents, and prevention were questioned. After reviewing 400 written comments, prevention and suggestions for increasing safety noted as better dive planning, risk assessments and safety training, importance of physical training and annual examinations was emphasized, using safer dive techniques; less scuba, and increased use of Nitrox. Mats Hagberg gave an example for FTD examinations with two different results and mentioned about referral board task, which is not formally encouraged by Swedish Work Environment Authority. Finally he informed about three university approved EDTC diving medicine course in Gothenburg and Karlskrona (naval base), that certifies physicians to approve workers in physically strenuous jobs according to Swedish law (working divers, smoke and chemical divers, mast workers). Click [HERE](#) for the document of this presentation.

### **POLAND (Krzysztof Stopierzynski)**

Krzysztof Stopierzynski made a report on commercial diving and legislation on commercial diving in Poland. Commercial diving is described as all actions performed below surface of water in diving equipment or in the increased pressure and activities related with them. Military Diving, Fire Department, Police and Border Guard Diving, Sports and recreational SCUBA diving, scientific purpose SCUBA diving organized by Research institutes and Universities were excluded from commercial diving. He has listed the relevant legislation as below.

- Health and safety of underwater work executive act 2004 (Ministry of Infrastructure)
- Medical conditions of underwater work executive act 2007 (Ministry of Health)
- Training and examination of underwater work personnel executive act 2004 (MoI)
- Detailed procedures of issuing certificates, logbooks, and other documents and patterns of the certificates executive act 2004 (MoI)
- Commercial diving qualifications of personnel trained in Ministry of Defence scheme executive act 2005 (Ministry of defence)
- Commercial diving qualifications of personnel trained in Ministry of Internal Affairs scheme executive act 2004 (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
- Construction and certification of submersible object executive act 2004 (MoI)

Krzysztof Stopierzynski described the commercial diving certification scheme and the numbers from the maritime office diver certification database. The detail about divers training and the licensing of diving contractors were also included in the report. Examples of certificates and licenses were shown. The procedures for underwater work permit and penal system were described. Detail about the Divers Qualification Board as the governing body and the Board's tasks were shared. Requirements for underwater work were also included in the report. The document that includes details can be reached by clicking [HERE](#).

### **ESTONIA (Margo Purru)**

Morgo Purru noted that all the underwater activities like education, system etc. in Estonia came from Navy Schools from the Soviet Union and added that no Russian divers came in the recent years. He noted that there are a new generation interested in underwater activities. Morgo Purru stated that FTD examination was a problem in Estonia since the diving physician had

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retired. He stated that there were some doctors in the Estonian Navy, but added that they didn't have a relationship with them since there is no legislation in Estonia like in Poland as described in the previous report. He spoke about the Baltic union for underwater work that was created last year, to define how to educate and certificate the divers, who to do FTD examinations etc. He made the point that there is a gap in Estonia, since the authorities are not involved much in diving. Finally he made an invitation for the EDCT 2016 Meeting in October in Estonia.

### **TURKEY (Akin Toklu)**

Akin Toklu made a presentation on the Istanbul Strait Road Tube Crossing Project (Eurasia Tunnel Project) that would connect the Asian and European sides via a highway tunnel going underneath the seabed of Bosphorus. A Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) was designed exclusively for this project that was used in the strait crossing tunnel. The tunnel construction was started on the Anatolian side of Bosphorus and finished in European side after about 3,4 km of the tunnel underneath the seabed was bored. Nine interventions into the pressurized heading of the TBM through a man-lock were needed for inspection, maintenance and servicing the cutter head, since the TBM started to advance. The first and the last interventions were performed by bounce diving on air to the pressures lower than 4,6 bar without using a diving helmet. Saturation dives were needed for the other seven interventions and in each intervention three divers saturated on trimix that contains 2 % Oxygen, and 6 % Nitrogen to 10 bar. Interventions were done on bottom mix that contains 4-6-12 % Oxygen by using surface supplied equipment. The longest saturation lasted 16 days including 97 hours decompression time. Medical support was given by four diving physicians and there was a doctor on site at all times, with another on call. There were no significant health issues encountered during the saturation except some minor ear problems. The divers were examined before and after saturation. Bubble checks were done by a Doppler device on subclavian vein and pulmonary artery and no bubbles detected within 20 minutes after the decompression. The minimum and maximum oxygen fractions were changed from 4,5 % to 21 % and from 5,1 % to 23 during the decompression from 10 bar to 0 bar. The Eurasia Tunnel Project was planned to be completed by the end of 2016.

### **ELECTIONS**

The Secretary stated that there were two nominations for the positions of Akin Toklu from Turkey and Jane Bugler from IMCA. The nominations for these positions were Akin S. Toklu and Chris Sherman from UK. These two members were elected for the Board. Jörn Ryberg was nominated as chairman and Akin Toklu was nominated as secretary. Both nominations were accepted by participating EDCT members, and Jörn Ryberg was reappointed as chairman and Akin Toklu was reappointed as secretary.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS, NEXT MEETING, VENUE AND DATE**

The host country of the next EDCT meeting was announced as Estonia. The period was decided as October the exact date and the venue would be announced later.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CLOSING REMARKS**

The Board and Members thanked Jacek Kot for organizing EDTC 2015. Jacek Kot gave information about the transfer to the airport for tomorrow. He repeated the invitation to the visit to National Center for Hyperbaric Medicine, Gdynia with a Get-Together Reception, and

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asked the members to be ready at 16:10 to be transferred to the hyperbaric center. The Chairman said he hoped to meet all the members next year in Estonia.

Report compiled by Akin S. Toklu