

EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC DIVING PANEL
(ESDP)

19th Meeting – 26 October 2017

MUMM Brussels & Skype

MINUTES

		ACTIONS
1. Welcome and Present	<p>PRESENT: A Norro (AN; Belgium), M Sayer (MS; UK), J Leinikki (JL; Finland), P Fischer (PF; Germany), M Asplund (MA; Sweden);</p> <p>BY SKYPE: J-P Féral (J-PF; France), W Plaiti (WP; Greece), D Petricioli (DP; Croatia), M Frost (MF; MARS)</p> <p><i>[there were some issues with Skype that delayed the start of the meeting; some members were unable to attend the whole meeting]</i></p>	
2. Report of last meeting / ESDP today	<p>The report of the last meeting was circulated and the final version is now accepted</p> <p>J-PF presented an overview of the ESDP highlighting the need of an European organisation to promote mobility of divers and the need to harmonise methodologies. Is it possible to continue the initiative through the MARS framework? This will continue the visibility of the panel and to remain “THE” European panel for scientific diving. There are also some requirements from MARS. ESDP will also contribute to MARS outputs: creating awareness, contributing to relevant science priorities and strategic themes, etc.</p>	
3. National updates	<p>UK – no update on scientific diving but to make this committee aware of a new ISO standard on cylinder testing: “BS EN ISO 18119:201X Gas cylinders – Seamless steel and seamless aluminium-alloy gas cylinders and tubes – Periodic inspection and testing”. ISO standards are international and apply to all countries. The proposal was to harmonise testing to 1-year visuals then 5-year hydro test. The UK has suggested an alternative wording: ‘<i>Local regulations will specify the interval of periodic inspection</i></p>	<p>X will probably be 8 as it is planned to come into force in 2018</p>

and test. In the absence of any local regulation as a guide, an internal examination every year with a periodic inspection test as 5 yearly intervals should be carried out. However, if on completion of a risk assessment and the specific use of a cylinder indicates that there is a low risk of internal degradation then the interval for carrying out an internal examination can be increased to a maximum of 2.5 years.'

DE – annual report from KfT on scientific diving to the German Ministry of Education and Research.

New medical exam – extended from annual to every 3 years; the physician can keep it annual if there are concerns. Performed a cross-over from AAUS to ESD standards with a three-day competence assessment.

Another joint ESD course between Sweden, Germany and Finland

SE – armed forces in Sweden want to withdraw from certifying all diving sectors at the end of 2017. No alternative at this time.

FI – Working toward a harmonised set of rules for how scientific diving

Pilot training course for scientific diving to include the universities

Ice diving course planned for march 2018

BE – No updates

FR – Ministry of Labour now defines the procedures for hyperbaric interventions that includes now a specific definition of scientific diving. New schedules of work outline a number of changes to how diving is undertaken, including the use of rebreathers and diving computers etc. Next step is the writing of procedures by employers – this role is being taken on by the French national committee (CNPS)

EL – No update; scientific diving still excluded from the national laws. Slow progress being made.

HR – New document on diving safety in Croatia – not a law yet. The first draft does not define diving correctly and does not include scientific diving. It may impact on how scientific diving is conducted as it may now come under commercial diving. Two cases of decompression sickness recorded recently, possibly caused by PFO.

<p>4. MARS network introduction</p>	<p>Presented by Matthew Frost, MBA, UK., President of MARS from this year.</p> <p>History of MARS and the uniqueness of the marine stations with direct access to the marine environment.</p> <p>MARS exists to support and promote these stations, some of which are under threat. MARS highlights the benefits of having a network of marine stations to promote inter-laboratory programmes of research (co-ordination and integration). Various joint actions in the past; MARS founded in 1995 – MARS = European Marine Research Stations Network (http://www.marinestations.org/)</p> <p>AIMS – promote co-operation; support exchange programmes; make large infrastructures available.</p> <p>No overview at present on what the diving capability / capacity is in the MARS network; ESDP may be able to assist with this.</p> <p>Currently over 60 labs / institutes in a pan-European network.</p> <p>Strategy meeting next year to clarify the future focus for MARS to see how it connects with other similar bodies</p> <p>Good international connections (e.g. WAMS – the World Association of Marine Stations)</p> <p>Open and inclusive structure with low annual fees</p> <p>Q&A:</p> <p>PF – same goals and objectives as MARS but specifically for scientific diving;</p> <p>AN – MARS would increase our visibility and potential co-ordination</p> <p>MF – timing is good so that ESDP can be included in the new MARS strategy.</p> <p>MS – Highlighted ESDP would bring our existing international links to MARS (e.g. AAUS, Aus, NZ, Asia, Middle East);</p> <p>PF – ESDP has procedures already in place to promote mobility</p> <p>JL – the need to map reciprocal agreements through a consultation document to demonstrate how our procedures can be used.</p> <p>MF – a single MARS meeting a year (not fixed at present) – ESDP meet twice a year. MARS also produces a newsletter that can also include a ESDP report (increased visibility)</p> <p>MF – a need for a Memorandum of Understanding</p>	<p>ACTION: MF and J-PF to draft / sign a MoU between MARS</p>
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	<p>MF – some caution regarding the financial limitations but this is now clarified. MARS Board now very positive. PF – would ESDP be a paying member? Not yet discussed at Board level but thought to be more a collaboration with ESDP as another European network (initial, not formal view) MS – asked about the links with ASSEMBLE+ and highlighted that there is a diving JRA in that initiative. J-PF – asked for a link to the ESDP page on the MARS website</p> <p>J-PF – to include MARS on the ESDP logo once the MoU is in place PF – publication of consultation documents? MARS can host these publications but this may be part of the upcoming strategy review. MF – cannot see any problems with this going forward but must have the MoU in place first before publicising the new collaboration. The old Terms of Reference with the European Marine Board could form the basis of the MoU</p>	<p>and ESDP</p> <p>ACTION: J-PF to arrange weblink with MARS</p>
<p>5. Updating the ESDP website</p>	<p>Taken care of in the discussion with MARS</p>	
<p>6. Common reference list for scientific diving (zotero)</p>	<p>Is the zotero list still being updated? This links in with the ESDP website (http://ssd.imbe.fr/Scientific-diving-supported) A quick workshop on zotero was given. Members are all encouraged to update the zotero list from their own publications but also to act as a contact point for their national committees.</p>	<p>ACTION: ALL to update the list and members to act as a conduit for their national bodies</p>
<p>7. Consultation documents</p>	<p>(a) medical examinations Spreadsheet attached to this record. Martin to turn this into a draft consultation document to be circulated around the committee with a target submission before the end of December 2017</p> <p>(b) rebreathers Working Group created after meeting 18. Group formed early May. WG = 8 members so far. First task to make an inventory of all publications that have arisen from the use of rebreathers, or technical reports etc. This is ongoing and still needs updating. Intended output is a consultation document on minimum standards for the use of rebreathers for scientific diving – to include the training required.</p> <p>(c) reciprocity</p>	<p>ACTION: Martin to compile the draft. US, Aus, NZ to be included as a comparative annex</p> <p>ACTION: WG members to continue to contribute to the inventory.</p>

	<p>Different countries have different legislation with regards to making recognition of national standards straightforward. There is a need to make this simpler. J-PF outlined what is practically needed to include: minimum training standards, national certification, medical assessment, research mission, insurance etc. A need for a table with equivalent diving qualifications for acceptance to work across borders.</p>	<p>ACTION: All members to contribute to a template to be sent by J-PF regarding accepting qualifications from other countries. PF to update the table on the website.</p>
8. Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAA Manual – 6th edition just published: https://www.bestpub.com/view-all-products/product/noaa-diving-manual-6th-edition/category_pathway-42.html • Next European Scientific Diving Conference: 10-12 April 2018 in Stromness, Orkney • Diving JRA5 in ASSEMBLE+ • The journal <i>Underwater Technology</i> is now indexed on Web of Science – publishes scientific diving reports that have a technical component 	
9. Date and location of next meeting	<p>Agreed to stay at two ESDP meetings per year Date and location of next meeting Stockholm in March 2018 Crete volunteers for October 2018</p>	

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