ACTUARIAL ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE
ASSOCIATION ACTUARIELLE EUROPÉENNE

4 PLACE DU SAMEDI
B-1000 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

TEL: (+32) 22 17 01 21 FAX: (+32) 27 92 46 48

E-MAIL: info@actuary.eu
WEB: www.actuary.eu

MINUTES

of a meeting of the
EDUCATION OMMITTEE
held in Bucharest
on 24-25 September 2015

Present:

Mark Stocker (Chairman)	Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
Christian Buchta	Aktuarvereinigung Österreichs
Audrey Meganck	Institut des Actuaires en Belgique/Instituut van Actuarissen in Belgie
Aneta Velikova	Bulgarian Actuarial Society
Jostein Paulsen	Den Danske Aktuarforening
Janne Kaippio	Suomen Aktuaariyhdistys
Régis de Laroullière	Institut des Actuaires
Henning Wergen	Deutsche Aktuarvereinigung
Philip Shier	Society of Actuaries in Ireland
Ermanno Pitacco	Consiglio Nazionale degli Attuari
Inga Helmane	Latvijas Aktuãru Asociãcija
Gerlinda Poolman-Muizelaar	Het Koninklijk Actuarieel Genootschap
Anne Sundby Magnussen	Den Norske Aktuarforening
Onofre Alves Simões	Instituto dos Actuarios Portugueses
Gelu Ruptureanu	Associatia Romana de Actuariat
Rafael Moreno Ruiz	Instituto de Actuarios Españoles
Marc Arias	Col.legi d'Actuaris de Catalunya
Anna Flodström	Svenska Aktuarieföreningen
Olivier Steiger	Association Suisse des Actuaires
Huw Evans	Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
Trevor Watkins	Chairman's Assistant (by telephone)

Observers:

Ad Kok	Chief Executive
Ken Hohman	American Academy of Actuaries
Craig Hanna	American Academy of Actuaries

Apologies

Erin Ferbrache	Channel Islands Actuarial Association
Jasna Tenšak	Hvratsko Aktuarsko Društvo
Ioanna Panti	Cyprus Association of Actuaries
Lucie Mazurova	Česká Společnost Aktuárů
Piret Raukas	Eesti Aktuaaride Liit
Niki Agoglossaki	Hellenic Actuarial Society
Erzsébet Kovács	Magyar Actuárius Társaság
Steinunn Gudjonsdottir	Félag íslenskra tryggingastærðfræðinga
Yvonne Lynch	Society of Actuaries in Ireland
Marco Pirra	Istituto Italiano degli Attuari
Eugenija Bieliauskiene	Lietuvos Aktuarų Draugija
Jean-Paul Shipley	Malta Actuarial Society
Łukasz Delong	Polskie Stowarzyszenie Aktuariuszy
Jelena Kocovic	Udruženje Aktuara Srbije
Janka Holesova	Slovenská spoločnost' aktuárov
Matija Senk	Slovensko Aktuarsko društvo
Şirzat Çetinkaya	Actuarial Society of Turkey
Taras Androschuk	Society of Actuaries of Ukraine

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all members especially new members. He expressed sincere thanks to the Romanian Association for hosting the meeting.

The agenda was approved and adopted and a copy is attached as **Annex I**.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held in Berlin on 8 March 2015 were confirmed.

Action points: all the action points are covered on the agenda.

3. ASSESSMENT

The meeting discussed the responses received since the last meeting.

The Greek response was reviewed but it was thought necessary to follow up on the proposed changes in 2015 for a final review. The response was moved from RED to AMBER. Confirmation of the changes would be requested and a review undertaken. **(ACTION: TW/MS)**

The Swiss and Swedish responses were found to be compliant. The note on the UK

in Annex Two needs to note that the UK response was discussed in Berlin and found to be compliant. The list also needs the contact person in the UK to be added (Mark Stocker) and also for the Netherlands (Gerlinda Poolman). An updated Annex Two would be circulated with the Minutes.

The review was then complete.

4. IAA CORE SYLLABUS

The Chairman asked for comments on the revised IAA syllabus proposal recently circulated which was due to be reviewed at the IAA meeting in Vancouver in October. The AAE core syllabus would then need to at least incorporate all the IAA core syllabus and possibly more due to the MRA for AAE member associations.

Henning Wergen who is on the IAA working group on the syllabus review gave reasons for the proposals. The need to give more guidance on coverage and level of depth had led the group to express the content much more fully and in terms of learning objectives. The requirements were meant to be a minimum requirement to be covered rather than an actual syllabus to be followed.

Christian Buchta noted that the Austrian association had had detailed discussions on the proposals and in particular how mathematical does an actuary need to be. Ermanno Pitacco was concerned that not enough mathematics was in the proposed syllabus. One solution might be to add an additional section in the AAE syllabus on 'Additional Mathematics'. The concern is that the proposed first section of the proposed syllabus on 'Foundation Mathematics' is too basic and most European associations go far beyond this level and the argument is that all actuaries need more mathematical content in most European associations. The counter proposal would be to cut down on the

less technical content in favour of more mathematical content. It was noted that the statistical content was more advanced. The Danish, Austrian and Swiss associations were all concerned about not enough mathematical content. It was suggested that some of the business content be downplayed to make room for more technical content.

A further issue was the expected weighting between the ten topics which had not been specified. Also the French association felt there was not enough coverage of the insurance sector where most French actuaries work. Also there were many business school type subjects and only two of the ten were technical (Mathematics and Statistics). It would be still possible for the AAE syllabus to insist on more mathematical content. In Romania the first topics would be covered in High School and hence thought to be too basic.

The danger is that smaller associations would not be able to meet the requirements of the proposed syllabus if adopted.

The points to be fed back to the IAA Education Committee would be;

- Needs to be more technical especially in terms of mathematical content but also statistics and models.
- Smaller associations might have problems ensuring that they can assess coverage of all the proposed content
- Difficult to incorporate the proposal in university syllabus terms for countries such as Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Sweden, Bulgaria, plus possibly Greece, Finland and others not in attendance
- In terms of assessing the new content most countries could not assess the new content or do so only with more resources with only around five associations capable of assessing the new content at the required level
- more focus on insurance where most actuaries work
- better understanding of the weighting between syllabus topics and the definition of what an actuary is
- How does the IAA expect to assess compliance with the new syllabus for each member association?

5. AAE CORE SYLLABUS

The Chairman noted the need to decide how to take forward the review of the AAE Core Syllabus in the light of the IAA core syllabus developments. If the AAE syllabus is rewritten into learning objective terms instead of syllabus topics, it

could build on the IAA syllabus and hence if an association is approved by the AAE it would automatically be approved by the IAA which would avoid duplication.

There was a discussion of what the committee thought could be taken out of the IAA syllabus to make room for more technical content. Essentially the matter could be solved by making the content indicative and the AAE could apply weighting so as to upscale the technical content. Henning Wergen indicated that the IAA say the main topics that must be covered were 6, 7 and 9 but these needed to be discussed further at the next IAA meeting. Introduction of more flexibility would help the AAE members to comply with the proposed syllabus

6. EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF ACTUARIES 2016

Ad Kok and Philip Shier joined the meeting for this item in particular. Ad Kok noted that the website for the Congress was about to be launched to promote the event which would be over two days in Brussels on 21/22 April 2016. The programme is nearly complete apart from some key note speakers as it is difficult to get confirmation so far ahead from EU politicians. The programme may need to change to incorporate their availability. The plan also involves some interactive sessions using iPhone responses from the audience. The logistics are in place with regard to the venue and hotels etc.

Progress is on track with a few sessions still to be confirmed. It is expected that all the gaps will be filled in the near future and before registration opens on 1st December 2015.

The price has yet to be fixed but is likely to be higher than the last Congress up to around 600 Euros for the event without accommodation. Around 400 attended last time and the budget this time would be based on an attendance of 350. An appeal for sponsorship would be sent out in the near future which would potentially reduce the price charged to attend. Any feedback on the acceptability of the proposed maximum price should be sent to the Chairman in the next two weeks. **(ACTION: ALL)**

7. CPD STRATEGY

The Chairman introduced the topic by saying that the IAA were recommending that all associations make CPD compulsory. During discussion points made included;

- The IAA should not interfere in what is really a decision of the local

association which best understood local conditions and needs.

- Huw Evans explained the UK position of compulsory CPD in three categories and Régis De Laroulliere explained that France had two categories.
- In Spain it is the government that controls the actuarial sector with consultation with the associations so it is not possible for the association is not in a position to enforce a compulsory CPD scheme without government agreement.
- Ermanno Pitacco reported that Italy is currently in a two year transition period towards compulsory CPD.
- A further point is that what would count as CPD which may vary between countries for instance in the UK it is not just technical matters that counts but there is a compulsory professionalism requirement each year. The requirement needs to be related to the role of the actuary in the UK.
- In Germany and the Netherlands there is a compulsory requirement to get 60 hours of CPD over a three year period. Also in the Netherlands there is discussion of making risk management a compulsory requirement for qualified actuaries who did not study risk management during qualification.

8. CERA

Trevor Watkins updated the meeting on the state of the CERA development. There are now over 2,800 CERA award holders. Austria has recently joined and applications are pending from Italy, Croatia, Belgium, Slovenia, Finland and Catalonia. The website has now been updated and is being updated regularly with news of events etc.

9. CERTIFIED ACTUARIAL ANALYST (CAA)

Trevor Watkins updated the meeting on the CAA qualification. All the examinations are in place and take place twice a year in November and June. There have been entries from over 40 countries with Africa, the UK and India being the main source of entries. It was noted that CAA is an IFoA qualification and as such is not recognised by other European associations, nor is it part of the AAE MRA.

10. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

The AAE strategic objectives relating to education were discussed. There has been an attempt to develop assessment of standards of associations' qualifications which is now complete. The process will need to be repeated once a new syllabus is in

place. It was felt that CPD programmes should be left to member associations as from the previous discussion, it is clear that member associations have CPD programmes in place and this would be reported back.

On the 'hot topics seminar' objective, it was felt that the 2016 congress was a good response. Also the EAA is in a position to offer seminars. There was a discussion on the need to revive the colloquium which the AAE used to organise. It was felt that the question should be referred back to AAE officers as the Education Committee could organise one subject to demand as other events from universities as well as local associations and the EAA were already in place. **(ACTION: MS)**

Ken Hohman suggested that it may be possible to do a joint event with one of the IAA Sections which do organise colloquia. The need to keep the core syllabus up to date would be undertaken once more clarity on the IAA became clearer after the Vancouver meeting.

Local events from associations could be promoted more widely through the AAE if relevant at the initiative of local associations.

The Chairman would suggest at the officers meeting that some of the objectives be dropped but most relevant education activities were being covered. **(ACTION: MS)**

11. YEARLY PLAN

The last syllabus update was implemented from 2014. The assessment process had been implemented and completed. The main activity going forward would be to start the next syllabus review.

The Congress was being planned for April 2016.

12. OTHER ORGANISATIONS

12.1 **IAA Education Committee**

Trevor Watkins reviewed the minutes of the last meeting in Zurich where most of the discussion had been about the syllabus review which would be continued at the Vancouver meeting.

12.2 **EAA**

Henning Wergen reported on EAA activities. More associations are planning to use the EAA CERA route and the next event was to be in Croatia. The EAA tenth anniversary event was planned for late October

in Frankfurt and Henning renewed his invitation to all members to attend.

13. REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The draft report was approved and the chairman would add to it as necessary in the light of discussions at this meeting.

14. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Italy

Ermanno Pitacco reported about the transformation concerning the actuarial institutions in Italy, namely Ordine degli Attuari (OA) and Istituto Italiano degli Attuari (IIA). According to the new organisation, all the fully qualified actuaries, currently enrolled in the register kept by OA, will also be members of the IIA (so far only a limited number of them are also members of IIA). Consequently, the two institutions (OA and IIA) will jointly be represented in all the international institutions (the AAE and the IAA in particular).

Latvia

A link has been established for training actuaries at Vilnius University in Lithuania.

UK

A syllabus review is underway and is due to be finalised by June 2016 with new examinations in place in 2017 or 18. Currently there are 14,000 registered students from over 100 countries with more outside the UK than from the UK.

Romania

The association is seeking a solution on how to deal with a group of around 60 certified actuaries who do not meet the association' s standard for fully qualified actuaries.

Spain

There are now six universities offering Masters programmes in actuarial science which each take 2-3 years on top of an undergraduate degree in maths or economics. The government has to approve new proposals for qualifying Masters degrees but advice is sought from the association.

Denmark

The route to being an actuary is now via Copenhagen university which is very difficult to get into with only 20-25 new students per year.

Germany

As with the UK a syllabus review is underway with new exams due to begin in 2017 or 18. The association is working with universities on the review.

France

A review is underway of the ten universities offering a route to actuarial qualification which is due to be completed next year. The association is also very active in developing data science and has developed a special education programme to try to embed it in the province of actuarial work. A similar approach to CERA is envisaged. A route for non-actuaries is also on offer in data science including a lot of programming.

Norway

Qualification is via two different universities.

Belgium

A review of the CPD system is underway which may make some topics mandatory and introduce a requirement for softer skills.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

It was proposed that the next agenda should relate topics more closely to the goal that the AAE members wish to achieve in relation to the topic particularly relating to CERA.

The Chairman thanked Trevor Watkins for his contribution to the Committee over the years.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 8 April 2016 in London.