

# EuSSAB Meeting Protocol

Friday, 4 September 2015

EUROSPINE 2015 – Copenhagen, Denmark

Presenters:

Christoph Siepe, Chair EUROSPINE Membership Committee

Jörg Franke, Chair EUROSPINE Educational Committee

Attendees:

Representatives from 19 countries and their corresponding spine societies

Protocol:

Christoph Siepe/ Anna Faber

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## Agenda

1. Introduction/ update of current status of EuSSAB developments
2. Education across Europe
3. Definition of societies eligible for EuSSAB
4. Define the democratic process/ EuSSAB voting rights
5. EuSSAB representative at EUROSPINE ExCom
6. Next Meeting

### 1. Introduction/ update of current status of EuSSAB

Over the past 12 months **17 national societies** (since the last EuSSAB meeting in BCN: G.I.S., Italy/ GEER, Spain/ UKSSB, United Kingdom/ Irish Spine Society, Ireland) have joined EUROSPINE as institutional members that adds up to a total of 5,622 **associated members** across Europe.

Basic rules of interaction between EuSSAB members and EUROSPINE were repeated such as

- EUROSPINE does NOT intend to become a professional body over national / specialist spine societies.
- Intended to be a symbiotic and mutual 'win-win' relationship between EUROSPINE and all of its allied national / specialist spine societies.
- The members of EuSSAB will define common goals, challenges and strategies in order to solve them as equal partners
- Responsibilities are transferred to Institutional Members, whereas EUROSPINE merely provides a communication platform.
- Associate members will not be contacted directly by EUROSPINE, communication only via national secretariats

**a) EuSSAB Representative:**

It was suggested that each institutional member should have **one EuSSAB representative per national society** who will represent the society for an extended period of time.

This will facilitate appropriate communication between EUROSPINE and the national spine societies as presidents and/or secretaries frequently change on an annual basis.

It was also requested to please **update all contact details** as communication between EuSSAB and the varying spine societies from across Europe is highly complex.

**b) Benefits** for institutional and associated members include

- Free webcasts to Annual Meetings
- 1x free registration at EUROSPINE annual meetings for society representatives
- Ratification of spine centres

All full list of all **benefits** is provided with the meeting slides which are attached to this e-mail separately. These benefits come **at no extra charge**, neither for institutional nor associate members.

In order to gain access to the full range of EUROSPINE membership benefits, associate members have to apply for a full EUROSPINE membership.

**c) Communicating EuSSAB to Associate Members**

EuSSAB has grown significantly over a 12 months period, uniting several thousand spine specialists across Europe. Nevertheless, little is known about EuSSAB on an individual basis.

It was therefore suggested that national spine societies use the current momentum to **forward the Free Link to Webcasts together with the 'EUROSPINE Welcome Letter to new Associate Members'** to their members and inform the associate members about the concept of EuSSAB as well as the latest developments.

## **2. Education across Europe**

After the past meeting in Barcelona a survey was conducted to find out how the educational programme in EuSSAB countries was set-up and if there was need for equivalency with the EUROSPINE educational programme.

The results of the survey reveal that present educational programmes are rather heterogeneous. The majority of all participants was in favour of seeking compatibility with EUROSPINE's educational programme.

In order to focus more specifically on the complex topic of education across Europe the participants were in favour of organising a workshop on education at the beginning of 2016. Possible dates will be in the first quarter of 2016 after EduWeek, suggested duration of 1-2 days.

### 3. Definition of societies eligible for EuSSAB

**Basic entry criteria** in order to become a member of EuSSAB were defined as follows:

- A national society which represents the majority of national spine specialists
- Should ideally have a democratic process
- Should be multidisciplinary

Over the coming months, **EuSSAB** will aim for a **transition from an open to a closed member circle**. New members will then be ratified and passed through existing EuSSAB members.

### 4. Definition of the democratic process

It was agreed to opt for **1 country = 1 representative = 1 vote** as the most pragmatic solution

For countries with >1 society being a EuSSAB member, it was agreed that

- All societies will be invited to EuSSAB meetings.
- All representatives of a country are invited to attend EuSSAB.
- However, the concept of 1 vote / nation will remain.
- Thus, countries with >1 society may have to alternate voting rights on an annual basis.

### 5. EuSSAB Representative at EUROSPINE ExCom

It was suggested to have a EuSSAB representative elected who will be invited to certain EUROSPINE ExCom meetings where relevant EuSSAB issues will be addressed.

A final conclusion on this matter has not been drawn and therefore any decision will be postponed until the next EuSSAB meeting.

### 6. Upcoming EuSSAB meeting options

Two options for the upcoming EuSSAB meeting were suggested to the participants, which were either to host the meeting in 6 months (Spring Meeting, Kraków, Poland) or in 12 months time (Annual Meeting 2016, Berlin, Germany).

The participants were in favour to host the upcoming meeting at the **3<sup>rd</sup> Spring Speciality Meeting in Kraków, Poland**. Therefore, **12 or 13 May 2016** are possible dates for the upcoming EuSSAB meeting. Please reserve the date, to be announced shortly depending on the availability of the participants.

### Potential agenda topics

- UEMS update
- National political issues that spine surgeons have to face in Belgium
- Spine Surgery in Russia
- Update from the Educational Workshop
- Update from education @ EUROSPINE

As outlined previously, all EuSSAB members are invited to pro-actively submit suggestions for agenda topics prior to the upcoming meetings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christoph Siepe".

Christoph Siepe  
Chair of Membership Committee  
Head of Membership Council  
Member of the Executive Committee

14 October 2016

