

European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)

Unratified minutes of the Meeting on 4 May 2004 14th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Prague, Czech Republic

A list of attendees who signed the register is attached.

1. Apologies for absence

None received.

2. Minutes of meeting in Glasgow, 12 May 2003

The minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. EUCAST Steering Committee membership

Dr Kahlmeter reported that the current membership of the Steering Committee is:

Chairman	Dr Gunnar Kahlmeter	Sweden	2005
Scientific Secretary	Dr Derek Brown	UK	2005
BSAC	Prof Alasdair MacGowan	UK	2005
CRG	Dr Johan W. Mouton	Netherlands	2005
DIN	Dr Arne Rodloff	Germany	2005
NWGA	Dr Martin Steinbakk	Norway	2005
SFM	Dr Fred Goldstein	France	2005
SRGA	Dr Anders Österlund	Sweden	2005
General Committee	Dr Alkiviadis Vatopoulos	Greece	2004
General Committee	Dr Pavla Urbaskova	Czech Republic	2004

The term of membership of the General Committee representatives has expired. Applications from Russia and Spain were received by ESCMID. General committee representatives for the next two years will be Dr Olga Stetsiouk (Russia) and Dr Francisco Soriano (Spain).

5. Confirmation of membership of EUCAST General Committee

Membership was reviewed (the current list is attached). Dr Kahlmeter explained that manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and susceptibility testing devices no longer have named representatives as these have been replaced by an email network of all interested individuals in relevant industries in order to widen consultation. All interested members of relevant companies are invited to take an active part in the

network (contact gunnar.kahlmeter@ltkronoberg.se).

6. **Changes to the constitution**

Dr Kahlmeter reported on changes to the EUCAST Constitution to reflect the reorganisation of the structure of committees, working practices, decision making, consultation and funding. The amended constitution is attached.

7. **EUCAST documents**

Dr Brown reported that in future Discussion Documents would be published on the EUCAST website and, following consultation, Definitive Documents would be published in Clinical Microbiology and Infection. All documents are available as pdf files on the EUCAST website. It was suggested that the website should be checked to ensure that it is up to date [Action Derek Brown].

Noted that a leading article on harmonisation of MIC breakpoints in Europe and based on EUCAST activities has been published in the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (2003; 52:145-148)

A poster describing EUCAST is being displayed at the current ECCMID meeting.

8. **EUCAST progress report**

Dr Kahlmeter summarised activities over the past year.

- 8.1 A common format for expression for susceptibility classification, S_{\leq} and $R_{>}$, has been agreed.
- 8.2 The reference EUCAST microbroth dilution technique for the determination of MIC-values is being used as the basis of CEN and ISO documents. The joint effort will hopefully result in an international reference methodology for MIC determination by the end of 2004.
- 8.3 Processes for setting breakpoints for new agents and harmonising breakpoints for existing agents have been agreed (available on www.eucast.org).
- 8.4 Harmonised breakpoints for fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, linezolid and glycopeptides have been published for consultation (available on www.eucast.org).
- 8.5 New definitions for clinical breakpoints, wild type bacteria and epidemiological cut-off values have been agreed (available on www.eucast.org).

9. **EUCAST sub-committee report**

Dr Kahlmeter reported that currently the only EUCAST sub-committee was the Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Sub-committee. This is financed through EUCAST and has a decision/consultation process common with the process for the main EUCAST structure, including common definitions and strategy for breakpoint setting.

10. EUCAST and the European Commission

Dr Bronzwaer congratulated EUCAST on progress towards harmonisation of susceptibility testing in Europe and expressed the support of the EC for EUCAST activities.

11. Finance

Dr Kahlmeter reported that EUCAST is supported (2004 – 2007) by a grant from DG SANCO of the European Union, together with ESCMID and the National Committees represented on the Steering Committee.

12. EMEA-EUCAST co-operation

Dr Kahlmeter reported that EUCAST was collaborating with the European Medicines Agency regarding inclusion of the EUCAST breakpoint setting process in EMEA procedures for licensing new agents.

13. EUCAST website

Dr Kahlmeter reported on the current EUCAST website <http://www.eucast.org> which includes details of EUCAST organisation, EUCAST meetings, EUCAST documents, Wild type distributions and EUCAST breakpoints and epidemiological cut-off values.

14. Future activities

Dr Kahlmeter reported that activities for 2004- 5 will include:

- 14.1 Finalisation of harmonisation of clinical breakpoints for fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, glycopeptides and linezolid.
- 14.2 Start the process of harmonisation of breakpoints for cephalosporins, carbapenem and aztreonam breakpoints.
- 14.3 EMEA Standard Operating Procedure for registration of new drugs to be finalised.
- 14.4 Rationale documents explaining breakpoints to be established.
- 14.5 EUCAST documents to be updated as required.
- 14.6 A workshop on susceptibility testing for the General Committee will be set up in 2005.

15. Any other business

None.

16. The next meeting of the EUCAST Committee

Scheduled for 15th ECCMID, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2-5 April 2005.

General Meeting attendees signing the attendance register, 4 May 2004

Dr Antonio Anso	Spain
Mr. Robert E. Badel	U S A
Dr. Éva Ban	Hungary
Prof. Jacques Bille	Switzerland
Dr Steff Bronzwaer	Luxembourg
Dr. Derek F.J. Brown	UK
Dr Rafael Canton	Spain
Dr. J. Peter Donnelly	The Netherlands
Dr. Niels Frimodt-Moller	Denmark
Dr Beth P. Goldstein	USA
Dr Heinz Grimm	Germany
Dr. Roberta S. Hare	U S A
Prof. Wolfgang R. Heizmann	Germany
Prof. Dr. Dr. Waleria Hryniewicz	Poland
Ms. Manette Juvin	France
Dr Hanzen Juraj	Slovakia
Dr. Gunnar Kahlmeter	Sweden
Ms. Anna King	UK
Dr Fancoise Leblanc	France
Dr. Anna Liskova	Slovakia
Mr. Daniel Malait	France
Mrs. Maureen Mansfield	UK
Dr. Jean-Pierre Marcel	France
Dr Luis Martinea-Martinea	Spain
Dr Linda Miller	USA
Dr. Johan Mouton	The Netherlands
Dr. Paul Naaber	Estonia
Dr. Milan Niks	Slovak Republic
Prof. Ian Phillips	Spain
Dr. Robert Rennie	Canada
Mr Micheal Roche	Sweden
Dr Katrin Roscher	Germany
Dr. Arno Schmalreck	Germany
Dr. Sergei Sidorenko	Russia
Prof. Francisco Soriano	Spain
Prof. Claude-James Soussy	France
Dr. Martin Steinbakk	Norway
Dr Olga Stetsiouk	Russia
Dr Agneiszka Sulikowska	Poland
Dr. Arjana Tambic-Andrasevic	Croatia
Dr Peter Troke	UK
Dr Alkiviadis C. Vatopoulos	Greece
Dr. Jan Verhaegen	Belgium
Mr. Thierry Vidalenc	France
Dr. Hans-Otto Werling	Germany
Prof. Bernd Wiedemann	Germany

EUCAST General Committee April 2004

Chairman	Dr Gunnar Kahlmeter
Scientific Secretary	Dr Derek Brown
National representatives	
Austria	Prof. Helmut Mittermayer
Belgium	Prof. Jan Verhaegen
Bosnia	Dr Selma Uzunovic-Kamberovic
Bulgaria	Prof. Krassimir Metodiev
Croatia	Dr Arjana Tambic-Andrasevic
Czech Republic	Dr Pavla Urbaskova
Denmark	Dr Niels Frimodt-Møller
Estonia	Dr Paul Naaber
Finland	Dr Antti Nissinen
France	Prof. Claude-James Soussy
Germany	Prof. Bernd Wiedemann
Greece	Prof. Alkiviadis Vatopoulos
Hungary	Dr Éva Bán
Iceland	Dr Karl Gustaf Kristinsson
Ireland	Dr Martin Cormican
Italy	Prof. Pietro Varaldo
Lithuania	Prof. Arvydsa Ambrozaitis
Netherlands	Prof. John Degener
Norway	Dr Martin Steinbakk
Poland	Prof. Waleria Hryniewicz
Portugal	Prof. Jose Melo Cristino
Romania	no representative
Russia	Dr Olga Stetsiouk
Serbia	Dr Lazar Ranin
Slovak Republic	Prof. Milan Niks
Slovenia	Dr Jana Kolman
Spain	Dr Francisco Soriano
Sweden	Dr Barbro Olsson-Liljequist
Switzerland	Prof. Jacques Bille
Turkey	Dr Deniz Gür
UK	Prof. Richard Wise
Yugoslavia	no representative
ISC	Paul Tulkens
FESCI	David Livermore
Pharmaceutical Industry	Email network of any with an interest in antimicrobials
Device Manufacturers	Email network of any with an interest in antimicrobials

EUCAST Constitution with Amendments 2002 and 2004

The **objectives** of EUCAST are

- to form in EUCAST, under the auspices of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases", a professional network of (i) the national breakpoint committees and experts on antimicrobial susceptibility testing and (ii) industry involved in the production and marketing of antimicrobial agents or of in-vitro diagnostic medical devices used in antimicrobial susceptibility testing;
- to set common European breakpoints for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance;
- to identify national differences in clinical breakpoints and to harmonise breakpoints for existing and new antimicrobial drugs;
- to produce, disseminate and update a series of documents on the technology of in-vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing, promoting standardization of methods used in different parts of Europe and comparability of results obtained by different technologies;
- to encourage internal and external national and international quality assessment schemes;
- to collaborate with European and international groups concerned with antimicrobial susceptibility testing and/or the epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance;
- to advise European Community Institutions on the technology and interpretation of antimicrobial susceptibility testing;
- to work with NCCLS to achieve international consensus in susceptibility testing;
- to devise and participate in educational and training programmes for antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

The EUCAST general membership consists of

- A **Steering Committee**: ESCMID appoints the Chairman and Scientific Secretary of EUCAST and decides which national breakpoint committees shall be allocated a position on the Steering Committee. Active European national breakpoint committees may apply to ESCMID for a position on the EUCAST steering committee. Breakpoint committee positions on the steering committee will be re-appraised every three years (at annual general meetings in 2005, 2008, 2011 etc). ESCMID appoints two additional members from the EUCAST general committee (re-appointment every 2 years – at annual general meetings in 2004, 2006, 2008 etc).
- One member from each European country, representing and approved by national groups, preferably national societies of clinical microbiology and/or infectious diseases and/or medicine or national groups concerned with antimicrobial

susceptibility testing or antimicrobial resistance surveillance (re-appointment every 2 years – at annual general meetings 2004, 2006, 2008 etc).

- The immediate past EUCAST chairman (2 years);
- A network (list of email addresses) of one or more representatives of pharmaceutical companies that have an interest in being consulted on and informed of EUCAST activities;
- A network (list of email addresses) of one or more representatives of susceptibility testing device manufacturers that have an interest in being consulted on and informed of EUCAST activities;

EUCAST Decisions

Decisions by EUCAST are professional recommendations. The Steering Committee will make all decisions. Proposals will be distributed to EUCAST members for consultation and then ratified by the Steering Committee.

EUCAST Meetings

Business meetings will be held at least annually in association with the ECCMID. The annual meeting will be open to all attending the ECCMID meeting. The Steering Committee will meet as often as necessary.

EUCAST Publications

Discussion documents will be posted on the EUCAST website for comments and after a period of consultation they will be submitted for publication as Definitive Documents in CMI. Following publication they will also be available on the EUCAST website (www.eucast.org).

EUCAST tables of clinical breakpoints and epidemiological cut off values and distributions of wild type MIC values will be available on the EUCAST website (www.eucast.org).

Declaration of commercial interests by EUCAST Steering Committee members

Each Steering Committee member will make a declaration of commercial interests in companies involved in drug marketing and/or development or in the manufacture of susceptibility testing products.

EUCAST Finances

ESCMID is financially responsible for EUCAST. The EUCAST and its sub-committees may not accept financial support from industry.