



**President: Kristiina Aalto-Korte**  
Department of Occupational Medicine  
Finnish Institute of Occupational Health  
Helsinki, Finland  
e-mail: kristiina.aalto-korte@ttl.fi

**Secretary: Mihály Matura**, Sweden  
**Treasurer: Vera Mahler**, Germany  
**Past President: Thomas Rustemeyer**, Netherlands  
**President Elect: Jeanne Duus Johansen**, Denmark

<https://escd.org/>

## **Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting of the European Society of Contact Dermatitis 2022**

The meeting was held at the Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam, in the congress venue of the ESCD Congress 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 12.45-14.00

The invitation letter with the agenda to the meeting and the elections of the Executive Committee members was issued in due form and time. The was sent to the members 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

The minutes prepared by the secretary of the ESCD, Mihaly Matura, were released 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

- a) The GAM was called to order with a quorum achieved and 47 ESCD members gathered. The meeting was opened by the president Kristiina Aalto-Korte.
- b) The agenda was approved with some additions under any other businesses.
- c) Approving the minutes of the GAM 2020 (appendix I) – the minutes were approved
- d) Election of two persons to verify the minutes of GAM 2022 – two members were selected: Ian White (Great Britain) and Wolfgang Uter (Germany).
- e) President's report. The president of the ESCD Kristiina Aalto-Korte has presented highlighted details of her written report. (appendix II) No questions were raised.
- f) Secretary's report. The secretary of the ESCD Mihály Matura gave some details of his written report. (Appendix III) No questions were raised.
- g) The treasurer's report. Vera Mahler, the treasurer of the ESCD presented and explained all details of her report. (Appendix IV). Jan-Pieter Coenraads commented on the necessity of a negative financial balance this time, as spending our money is also a need for the charity status of the Society. No further questions were raised.
- h) Auditors' report. (Addendum I) was read by the secretary of the ESCD as the auditors could not participate at the GAM themselves. The auditors confirmed that they had read through the accountancy reports and balance sheets prior to the GAM, and that these were all in order.
- i) Discharge from duty for the Executive Committee. Among the members present at the meeting, then in the absence of the auditors Wolfgang Uter asked formally to discharge the current Executive Committee from their duties. No closed voting was requested. 42 of 47 members voted in favor; hence the Executive Committee was discharged from its duties. (The five members of the Executive Committee abstained from voting)
- j) Membership fees for 2023 and 2024 – appendix IV. It was unanimously decided to keep the membership fees unchanged for 2023 and 2024.
- k) Budget for 2023 and 2024. (Appendix IV) The treasurer presented the budget plan for 2023 and 2024. The budget was unanimously accepted.

- l) Contact Dermatitis Journal Editor in Chief report. Jeanne Duus Johansen has presented her report (Addendum II.) Katri Suuronen asked if it makes difference for the statistics on the usage of the journal if we download the articles for reading or “just” read it on-line. The Editor in chief answered that citing is the most importance difference for the journal, not the way of reading. Yolanda Hedberg asked if the journal considered open review process. The editor’s answer was that this question was not previously discussed but it will be considered.
- m) Ratification for changes in the Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs). (Appendix V) A new version of the SOP on Timeline responsibilities for secretary /secretariat of the ESCD was presented by the secretary Mihaly Matura. The changes are based on the experience with re-registration of the Society at the Court of Mannheim which turned out to be complex and requires several steps in the preparation of the documents that must be handed to this Court after changes in the Executive Committee or the AoA. The new SOP was unanimously accepted.
- n) Election of two auditors. One of the current auditors Tamar Kinaciyani is willing to continue but the other position became vacant. Vera Mahler is willing to step in. Both auditors got unanimous support of the GAM participants.
- o) Voting for candidate for President elect Mark Wilkinson (born November 1959, citizen in Great Britain). No closed voting was requested. 46 of 47 members voted in favor. 1 member abstained. Mark Wilkinson was voted as president elect of the ESCD and he wholeheartedly accepted it.
- p) Voting for Kristiina Aalto-Korte (previously President) to take over the new roll of Past President in the Executive Committee. No closed voting was requested. 46 of 47 members voted in favor. 1 member abstained. Kristiina Aalto-Korte was elected as past president of the ESCD and she wholeheartedly accepted it.
- q) Voting for Jeanne Duus-Johansen (previously President Elect) to take over new roll of the President of the ESCD. No closed voting was requested. 46 of 47 members voted in favor. 1 member abstained. Jeanne Duus Johansen (born July 1958, citizen of Denmark) was elected as president of the ESCD and she wholeheartedly accepted it.
- r) Voting for candidate for next Secretary. No other candidates were nominated than the current secretary, Mihály Matura for his third and last term. No closed voting was requested. 46 of 47 members voted in favor. 1 member abstained. Mihaly Matura (born July 1964, citizen in Sweden) was elected as secretary of the ESCD. Mihály Matura accepted the election.
- s) Voting for candidate for next Treasurer. Vera Mahler has served three terms as treasurer thus the position was vacant. Only one candidate was nominated, Elke Weisshaar (born February 1966, citizen in Germany). No closed voting was requested. 46 of 47 members voted in favor. 1 member abstained. Elke Weisshaar was elected as new treasurer of the ESCD. Elke Weisshaar accepted the election.

- t) With these elections completed Jeanne Duus Johansen becomes President and previous President Kristiina Aalto-Korte becomes Past president, previous Past president Thomas Rustemeyer leaves the Executive committee.

**The new Executive committee thus includes:**

**President Jeanne Duus Johansen**

**Past president Kristiina Aalto-Korte**

**President elect Mark Wilkinson**

**Treasurer Elke Weisshaar**

**Secretary Mihaly Matura.**

- u) Voting for candidate for honorary members. Thomas Rustemeyer proposed a new honorary member, Anton de Groot. A motivation summary highlighting the candidate's contribution to the society and its members including his recent token providing his latest textbook for free electronic use for the ESCD's members were read by Thomas Rustemeyer. Anton de Groot was rewarded honorary membership of the ESCD unanimously.
- v) Ratification of selection of congress venue in 2026 Dublin. John Bourke from Dublin has welcomed the future congress participants to Ireland. The British Association of Dermatologists promised support in the preparation of the congress.
- w) Ratification of next national representatives. As not all European countries with more than 6 ESCD members, thus having the right to delegate a national representative to the council, have not yet declared the name of the national representative this issue will be solved via e-mail later in 2022. Ian White has stressed that this unfortunate situation repeats itself after 2020 requiring action from the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee promises to take measures to ascertain that centrally checked and arranged elections will be initiated in the future.
- x) Ratification of working party reports
- a. ESSCA – (Addendum III) Wolfgang Uter has highlighted some achievements of the working party from the written report. No questions were raised.
  - b. Fragrance – Jean-Pierre Lepoittevin has reported that this self-financing WP had low activity in the last two years.
  - c. Photoallergy – Margarida Goncalo reported that this working party had no current activity in the last two years due to the pandemics.
  - d. European Baseline Series – (Addendum IV). Mark Wilkinson has highlighted achievements and publications of this working party. No questions were raised.
- y) Update of the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ESCD, Dresden 4-7<sup>th</sup> of September 2024. In the absence of Andrea Bauer, the president of the Congress Vera Mahler gave a short report on the preparations and the very favourable financial situation as the venue will be provided free of charge for the ESCD.
- z) The next General Assembly Meeting of the ESCD will be held in Dresden 2024 during the above-mentioned congress of the ESCD.

- aa) Any other businesses: Two new task forces were decided on.
- a. The current situation and consequences of the legal issues of patch test materials forces us to start a task force on this matter. (Exact name of the group will be agreed on later). The GAM agrees unanimously. The chair of the taskforce is Swen Malte John, several members have already signed up, but after announcement on this action all members willing to contribute with work are welcome. Country representatives have an important role in describing the legal situation in the respective countries.
  - b. A taskforce on greater social visibility of our society got also unanimous support of the GAM. The chair of this group is Marie-Louise Schuttelaar.
- bb) The GAM was closed at 14.00.

The minutes are signed by the following members of the ESCD with their positions as at the closure of the GAM.

Date

Date

Jeanne Duus Johansen	Mihaly Matura
President of the ESCD	Secretary of the ESCD