EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC DIVING PANEL
(ESDP)

ISO Meeting 1 – 20th January 2021

Video Conference

Exchange of views on the advisability of initiating an ISO standardisation request procedure specific to scientific diving

MINUTES

		ACTIONS
1. Welcome and Present	PRESENT: J-P Féral (J-PF; France), M Sayer (MS; UK), A Norro (AN; Belgium), P Fischer (PF; Germany), J Leinikki (JL; Finland), M Asplund (MA; Sweden), P Balazy (PB; Poland), M Ponti (MP; Italy), W Plaiti (WP; Greece), B Kontny (BK; Poland), B Mavric (BM; Slovenia), D Paulo (DP; Portugal) Invited: P van Avesaath (PvA) Apologies: MARS-Matt Frost; NO-P Carlsson; BG-Ditmar Berov Absent: HR-Donat Petricioli,	
2. Adoption of the agenda	To examine the need and mechanisms for developing an occupational ISO standard for scientific diving	
3. Approval of minutes from the 25th ESDP meeting	The revised minutes were discussed. AN comments were amended. Norway national report needed	
4. ISO Presentation	Massimo Ponti presentation: European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) – based on the international bodies of standardisation. Mutual exchanges between the CEN and national systems. ISO can adopt CEN standards Not adjusting national laws – these are standards which can inform national laws/regulations. They are not	

	compulsory but there is a strong recommendation to adopt the standards into national laws What part of scientific diving that we are trying to standardise? Does it have to be measurable / quantifiable? Recreational diving standards are based on the levels of training required. So SD ISO standards could be based on training – the training system will standardise the competencies required to be an occupational SD. Related EN/EN ISO standards: Respiratory equipment (13949:2003) Gas cylinders (12209:2013) Recreational diving services – various (e.g. 24801:2014) Sampling/processing of marine soft-bottom macrofauna (16665:2013) Pim van Avesaath: Was involved in setting up ISO9001 for own facility. Noticed that there is an ISO standard for welding underwater and thought that it could be translated to SD. Qualifications standard may be the better way forward. WP: Need for minimum standards with additional add-on training	
5. ISO Discussion	WP: Need for minimum standards with additional add-on training MP: This can be included in the ISO framework by defining equivalencies. So pre-existing training and knowledge can be accepted as entry-level requirements. MA: ESD/AESD standards do not outline how training is delivered, just what minimum tasks must be achieved. PF: Is there a difference between competencies and how they were trained? Competence is the main requirement. J-P F: Should not be seen as competition to the recreational diving sector. SD is an additional layer on top of the initial diving competency.	

	PF: No need to change the current relationship with the recreational sector. No intention to teach divers from scratch. WP & J-P F: Would we be certified to provide dive training other than SD? Would need professional diving instructors to participate in courses. WP: Some divers are used for SD who are not scientists MP: Other divers can contribute towards SD, but scientists should have overview of the diving operation. SD needs its own training system but can be exchange between sectors. So do we need standards on competencies or on training? PF: SD training is targeted to the environments they are being trained in so could training be standardised? So a basic level of competencies is all that can be achieved – other environments or techniques would require additional (not standardised) training (MP agrees) J-P F: Agrees, the standard must be minimum competencies. Any ISO standards should be acceptable for adoption in the national laws of as many countries as possible. DP: Already have European standards but difficulty in being accepted in some countries (ESDP has no international standing). ISO approval will make this easier for the ESD/AESD standards to be adopted more widely and provide an internationally accepted platform. Training standards would be too complex to be implemented. MP: agrees but should have approved methods for demonstrating competence. DP: ISO provides an internationally acceptable framework – will promote SD as a more accepted PvA: Would there be a need for centralised certification PF: No. Would still have the same national certification agencies for SD approval.	

	MS: Would not be the same as the ISO9001 certification or similar (which require accreditation through national standards organisations) – these would be standards to underpin existing standards. AN: Which ISO groups should this application be placed through PvA: Groups in natural sciences, or safety may be the most relevant categories. MP: To ask the Italian standardisation body for guidance. PvA: Is there funding for the development of ISO standards. J-P F: No funding at present. No idea what the costs would be. PvA: MARS or EMBRC may see the benefit of having such a system to support transnational access. There will be a need for a management board. PvA: Be aware the CMAS is a ISO-registered body. AN: CMAS was active on the recreational diving standards – can't see that CMAS would be a competitor PvA: Would need to accommodate the CMAS SD certificate? PF: May be different country by country. J-P F: Need to conclude the session and need to agree next steps with more focus. PF: To provide initial framework – to include with existing Google Docs folder (MP to provide link)	
12. Any Other business	WP: outlined the current situation with commercial diving (including SD) in Greece	
13. Date of next meeting	Future ISO meeting: to be discussed Next full meeting of ESDP: Doodle poll for April/May	