

# ACCIDENT IN MALAGA AND AERO MEDICAL EVACUATION

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## CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

- FINNISH AERO MEDICAL EVACUATION SYSTEM
- DECISION MAKING PROCESS
- SITUATION ASSESSMENT
- AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION
- ACTIVITIES AT MALAGA AIRPORT AND DURING FLIGHT
- CONCLUSIONS

## BUS ACCIDENT ON 19.4.2008, LATE IN THE EVENING

- Bus a 48 Finns and the Spanish driver
- 9 died
- 26 injured, 9 seriously
- 12 without injuries



## KEY POINTS OF FINNISH AERO MEDICAL EVACUATION SYSTEM

- No specially equipped plane for evacuation
- Domestic flight company has legal duty to take part in preparedness activities.
- Finnair converts a passenger plane for aero medical evacuation
- Helsinki university hospital has medical responsibility of the operation and arrangements of human medical resources, medicines and medical devices
- The two-phased action model (assessment team – evacuation team)
- MSAH has general responsibility of action and is in charge of coordination on governmental level
- MSAH and ministry of finance defray the expenditure

## ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

- Meeting of heads of preparedness in Prime minister's office on Sunday on 20.4.2008 at 09.30.
- Aim: to estimate and to recommend measures to be needed national level

### Conclusions:

- Competent authority and the ministry in charge (formin)
- Finnish patients are in hospital care
- Assessment team will be sent immediately to Malaga for assessing measures needed to be taken in the future
- First aid and psycho-social support reception units will be set up in Helsinki-Vantaa airport
- Press conference

## I PHASE

### ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION BY EXPERT TEAM

- Recommendation of evacuation of patients on health.  
Justification:
  - need for additional operational treatment, especially plastic surgery
  - increased risk of infections (MRSA-colonization rate 10 times higher in Spain)
  - Language-barrier
  - Partly insufficient treatment of wounds and infections
  - Psycho-social services needed
- Minister of health, secretary of state of Prime minister's office and permanent secretary of MSAH agreed on need of evacuation

## II PHASE

### AERO MEDICAL EVACUATION FROM MALAGA

- Medical team departure by Finnairs scheduled flight via Barcelona to Malaga on 25.4.2008 at 17.40. The composition of medical team:
  - 1 abdomen organ surgeon, team leader
  - 1 general surgeon
  - 1 orthopaedist
  - 1 plastic surgeon
  - 2 anaesthesiologists
  - 5 nurses (specialised in intensive care, surgeon, operative care) from HUS
  - 4 technicians from Finnair

### ACTIVITIES IN MALAGA

- The flight arrived at Malaga on 25.4.2008 at 23.10 o'clock.
- Immediately after the landing Finnair's technicians installed the stretchers and the medical team equipped the cabin with medical devices
- SOS International arranged the transportation of the patients by ambulances from Malaga hospitals to the airport at scheduled time. The first patient arrived at the airport on 26.4.2008 at 1.10 and the last at 2.40. Finally the hoists were used to get the patients into the plane
- Altogether there were 12 patients in the plane, 7 travelled on the stretchers and 5 in the sitting position on the seats.
- Before the departure every patient got antitrombotic medication personal details and case histories were collected and transmitted to coordination unit in Finland (HUS), which planned in advance the patient transportation to different hospitals according to persons medical condition and place of residence.

## STAGES OF THE ACTIONS

- Accident on 19.4.2008 late in the evening
- Meeting in Prime Minister`s Office 20.4.2008 at 09.30
- Arrival of assessment team at Malaga 20.4.2008 at 20.50
- Evacuation team:
  - Arrival at Malaga on 25.4.2008 at 23.10 and departure 26.4.2008 at 3.20
  - Patients activities at airport on 26.4.2008 between 1.10 and 02.40 o`clock

## ACTIVITIES DURING THE FLIGHT TO HELSINKI

- The plane departed from Malaga on 26.4.2008 at 3.20.
- During the flight the patients were carefully monitored and the treatment of patients focused mainly on infected wounds. The drug therapy was also checked.
- Health condition of all patients remained stable during the flight.
- The plane landed at Helsinki-Vantaa airport on 26.4.2008 at 8.50.
- At the airport patients were moved from the plane in medical emergency order into ambulances and transported from airport according the original plan to hospitals. An exception was one patient, who had septicaemia and had to be treated first in Helsinki.
- Also 6 corpses were brought to Finland on this flight, 3 other corpses by an other one.
- One patient was in intensive care (brain damage) and stayed in Spain. A private company has later evacuated her

# CONCLUSIONS

## FINAL OUTCOME GOOD

### POSITIVE:

- Rapid alert system and response
- Cooperation between national authorities, and other actors, travel agency e.t.c.
- Detailed operational picture from Malaga
  - Assessment team
  - Defined contact point in Finland
  - Patient information system (Merlot-Medi)
- The two-stepped model (assessment team- evacuation team) a good solution
- Finnairs well planned and skilful action

## TO BE DEVELOPED

- Management of situation abroad
  - Assessment team did not get enough support and services from formin
  - The right of health care professionals to practise temporarily their profession abroad in that kind of situations
- Transport of the patients from hospitals to the airport
  - Private company (Sosinternational) in charge
  - Activities were coordinated by Spanish subcontractor, which was not professional
  - No MD available for patient transport









**Thank you for your attention!**