

PRESENTATION

GOOD MORNING TO ALL OF YOU AND WELCOME TO ROME.

LET ME START BY APOLOGIZING FOR MY BAD ENGLISH.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK DR. STOLPE AND DR. BECKER FOR THE INVITATION AND THE HONOR GRANTED TO MOUNTAIN HEMS ASSOCIATION TO OPEN THE PROCEEDINGS OF AIRMED 2014.

AFTER THE INTRODUCTION BY DR. MULLER AND DR. STOLPE, I COULD CLOSE MY INTERVENTION BY SIMPLY WISHING THAT THESE DAYS OF CONGRESS AND YOUR STAY IN ITALY WILL ALLOW YOU TO APPRECIATE THE EXCELLENCES OF MY COUNTRY

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOU THE PECULIARITIES OF THE ITALIAN HEMS: A SYSTEM THAT CONFORMS TO THE COMPLEXITIES OF OUR TERRITORY AND OUR HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

(DIA 2)

ITALY HAS A FUNDAMENTALLY MOUNTAINOUS TERRITORY WITH ALTITUDES FROM MEDIUM TO HIGH: FROM EAST TO WEST, THE ALPS STRETCH FOR ABOUT 1100 KM (WITH MANY PEAKS ABOVE 4000 MT), FROM NORTH TO SOUTH THE APPENNINES COVER ABOUT 1400 KM (WITH PEAKS ABOVE 2500 MT). WE HAVE MORE THAN 3000 KM OF COASTLINE, VAST HILLY AREAS (I BELIEVE YOU ALL KNOW TUSCANY, UMBRIA AND THE LANGHE WITH THEIR WORLD FAMOUS WINES), ONE LARGE, FLAT AREA BUT DENSELY POPULATED AND WITH SOME LARGE CITIES.

(DIA 3)

ITALY HAS 20 REGIONS: EACH REGION AUTONOMOUSLY MANAGES THE HEALTH SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND EXPENDITURE. HEMS ARE ACTIVE IN 15 REGIONS WITH A NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS DECIDED BY EACH REGION ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHY, LOGISTICS AND POPULATION: AS OF TODAY 45 HEMS HELICOPTERS ARE IN SERVICE. 4 REGIONS DO NOT HAVE A HEM SYSTEM AND 1 REGION MAKES USE OF A FIRE-FIGHTING HELICOPTER WHENEVER NOT BUSY WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES.

(DIA 4)

THE ITALIAN SYSTEM IS THEREFORE A PUBLIC REGIONAL SYSTEM, PART OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM AS LEA (LIVELLO ESSENZIALE DI ASSISTENZA – ESSENTIAL LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE). DUE TO PECULIARITIES IN THE OROGRAPHY AND REGIONAL POLITICAL DECISIONS, THE ITALIAN SYSTEM PRESENTS LOCAL DIFFERENCES ON MANY LEVELS: OPERATIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL AND ECONOMIC.

(DIA 5)

IN THE 45 PLUS 1 BASES, SPECIFICITIES OF INTERVENTION ARE A CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR PECULIAR TERRITORY (FOR EXAMPLES ALPINE REGIONS HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS' OR THOSE WITH LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS): HENCE, NOT ALL BASES ARE EQUIPPED FOR SAR MISSIONS AND ARE, THEREFORE, STAFFED DIFFERENTLY.

IN ITALY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AERONAUTICAL REGULATIONS, NIGHT FLIGHT HAS IMPORTANT RESTRICTIONS WHICH LIMIT ITS PRESENCE TO ONLY 7 BASES.

(DIA 6)

AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, VARYING OPERATIONAL NECESSITIES ACCOUNT FOR DIFFERENCES IN THE WAY DIFFERENT SERVICES ARE STAFFED AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES (AS AN EXAMPLE, IN AREAS WITH A STRONG TOURISTIC IMPACT THE NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS DEPLOYED AND THEIR DAILY WORKING HOURS VARY ACCORDING TO THE SEASONS).

(DIA 7)

THE ECONOMIC BUDGET VARIES WITH EACH REGION AND THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF HELICOPTERS CHANGES ACCORDINGLY. MOREOVER, WHILE IN THE MAJORITY OF REGIONS THE HEMS SYSTEM IS FREE, SOME OTHER SEE THE APPLICATION OF A FIXED FEE OR THE COST OF THE ENTIRE MISSION WHENEVER THE HELICOPTER IS DISPATCHED BECAUSE OF IMPRUDENCE OR INEPTITUDE (FOR EXAMPLE OFF-TRACK SKIERS WHO START AN AVALANCHE OR THE EXCURSIONIST THAT TACKLES THE MOUNTAIN WEARING SANDALS OR INAPPROPRIATE SHOES).

(DIA 8)

HEMS IN ITALY IS THEREFORE A PUBLIC SERVICE ACQUIRED BY LOCAL HEALTH COMPANIES THROUGH TENDERS THAT LAST A MAXIMUM OF 9 YEARS. HELICOPTER DEALERS SUBSCRIBING CONTRACTS HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR BOTH THE MACHINE AND THE AERONAUTICAL PERSONNEL (FOR EXAMPLE PILOTS MUST GIVE PROOF OF AT LEAST 2500 FLIGHT HOURS, AT LEAST 300 HOURS OF SERVICE ON MOUNTAINS OR CARGO HOOK OPERATIONS FOR SAR BASES; THE FLIGHT TECHNICIAN HAS TO HAVE AT LEAST 100 HOURS OF HOIST OPERATIONS).

(DIA 9)

SANITARY PERSONNEL WORKING FOR HEMS-SAR HAS TO HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS SHOWN IN THE SLIDE. FOR PERSONNEL OPERATING ON EXCLUSIVELY HEMS BASES, QUALIFICATION FOR WORKING ON DIFFICULT TERRAIN BY THE ALPINE RESCUE SERVICE IS NOT REQUIRED.

(DIA 10)

HELICOPTER ALPINE RESCUERS WORKING FOR HEMS-SAR ARE SELECTED AT THE END OF A ONE-YEAR COURSE AMONG VOLUNTEERS. THEY ALSO RECEIVE SANITARY NOTIONS; BEING A STAFF MEMBER THEY PARTECIPATE IN ALL MISSIONS, NOT ONLY SAR, AND HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SANITARY PERSONNEL.

(DIA 11)

CONSIDERING THIS VARIED BACKGROUND, THE IDEA OF FOUNDING "MOUNTAIN HEMS ASSOCIATION" WAS CONCEIVED DURING A TRAINING COURSE HELD IN COURMAYEUR: THE SCOPE WAS THAT OF SHARING EXPERIENCES AND FIND COMMON OPERATIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS THAT COULD REPRESENT THE BASIS UPON WHICH TO BUILD A

NATIONAL IDENTITY. ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT WAS THE BUILDING OF AN ONLINE UNIFIED DATABASE: FOR THE FIRST TIME, CRITERIA FOR THE COLLECTING OF DATA (AERONAUTICAL, SANITARY AND ALPINE) ARE THE SAME AMONG THE DIFFERENT BASES, HENCE ALLOWING FOR STATISTICAL ANALYSIS. AS OF TODAY THE DATABASE INCLUDES MORE THEN 20000 MISSIONS.

(DIA 12)

FROM THE 7 ORIGINAL FOUNDING REGIONS (THE NUMBER 7 IN OUR LOGO), THE ASSOCIATION COUNTS TODAY THE MEMBERSHIP OF 24 BASES IN 10 OF THE 16 REGIONS WHERE HEMS ARE PRESENT. HEMS ASSOCIATION HAS COOPERATED WITH AGUSTAWESTLAND AND AIRBUS IN DESIGNING INTERIORS FOR THE NEW AW169 ED EC145T2; HEMS ASSOCIATION COOPERATES WITH MAJOR ITALIAN COMPANIES INVOLVED IN HEM SERVICES. AS FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS, EVERY TRIMESTER HEMS ASSOCIATION HAS MEETINGS OPEN TO SANITARY, AERONAUTICAL AND ALPINE RESCUE PERSONNEL AND HELICOPTER MANUFACTURERS; A 7-DAY-TRAINING COURSE IS ORGANIZED EACH YEAR (DAILY TRAINING IN ALPINE ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES DURING THE EVENINGS); MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN OPERATORS (DR. FLOCCARE FROM STATE OF MARYLAND HEMS, FRENCH GENDARMERIE). THE COOPERATION OF THE BASES MEMBERS OF HEMS ASSOCIATION HAS PRODUCED MANY OPERATIONAL INDICATIONS WHICH CONSTITUTE THE FIRST DOCUMENTS OF NATIONAL RELEVANCE CONCERNING HEMS.

(DIA 13)

I WILL CONCLUDE BY THANKING YOU FOR YOU ATTENTION AND WISHING YOU ALL A FRUITFUL CONGRESS.