

Minutes of the UEMO Working Group "Specific Training"

Thursday, 25-5-2000-03-12

Chairman: Dr. Jarmatz (D)

Rapporteur: Dr. Lemaire (B)

Dr. Von Der Damerau – Dambrowski takes the chair and excuses Dr Jarmatz, the Chairman of the Group, who could not be in time because of problems on the railway.

1. Lobbying process in Brussels

The German delegation reports of meetings with Rainer Wieland (Christ Democrats), the rapporteur for the EP amendment to the slim directive, with Evelyne Gebhardt (Coordinator for the Socialists within the legal committee) and the office of Mrs. Uca (Coordinator for the Ultralefts within the legal committee). Unfortunately, Mrs. Gebhardt left open her position saying that she had to take into consideration the positions of the socialist fractions of all countries and not only of the German Socialists.

The UK delegation reports that they sent letters to all British members of the EU Parliament and that their liaison officer had talked to the Greens which are in favour of the UEMO position. The British Socialists will also vote in favour when Mrs. Gebhardt so advises.

The Netherland's delegation who had monitored the lobbying process within UEMO had the same information as the others, stating that in some weeks the European Parliament would have to vote on the amendments and that the lobbying process would have to go on.

As the leader of the Socialist fraction within the European Parliament is a representative of Spain, the Spanish delegation was asked to report about their activities. A letter of that delegation to Dr. Cricelli was read to the group, saying that the Spanish delegation was not against the 3 years but was concerned about the many practitioners who could not get the specific training. Acquired rights would have to be respected.

After these reports some delegations (France, Italy, Switzerland) informed the group about practical and political difficulties concerning the implementation of specific training. France has 2 years and a half of specific training and the Government prepares for the year 2001 a legislation porting the training period to 3 years and ending the system of concours. Up to now candidates who fail the specialist concours are directed automatically to general practice.

Dr. Cricelli shall be asked to again address himself as President of UEMO to the European Parliament.

2. Principles of specific training and its organization – access to training posts etc.

There are legal, financial, and capacity obstacles to specific training in general practice. Germany had provided UEMO with a paper 2000/052 describing solutions found for a 5 years training and its financing. Nevertheless, some problems still persist.

Other countries agree on these type of obstacles.

As long as there persists problems with

- the image of general practice
- training posts for general practice
- financing these posts
- uninterested specialist teachers
- heavy working times
- and insufficient payment

the European Union will have problems to find enough candidates for the career of general practice.

Island reports that the medical profession had financed a professor for general practice until the Government took over that responsibility. Furthermore, Iceland pleads for a tutor system in which the tutor would be responsible to coordinate and monitor the total training period of a candidate for general practice.

3. Continuous development of contents

As UEMO asks for a 3 years training period, contents would have to be updated. There is general agreement that in this respect the scientific societies of general practice are needed.

4. Any other business

An enquiry is agreed upon to analyse the situation in all countries as to the fact whether there exists

- general practice or family medicine as a specialty
- general practice not as a specialty or
- both types of qualification.

Mrs. Merte Bosch (D)