

UEMO 2000/186

REPORT OF UEMO WORKING GROUP ON SPECIFIC TRAINING ZURICH, SWITZERLAND 13th October 2000

Chair: Dr. Von der Damerau (Germany)

Rapporteur: Dr. P Evans (UK)

1. Lobbying Process

The Group was informed of the Council of Ministers rejection of the European Parliament's amendment to increase training from 2-3 years. Only two countries, the United Kingdom and Greece voted in favour. The amendment also included a clause on compulsory CME for general practitioners which some countries were unable to support. The detailed papers on the situation from the Dutch, German and UK delegations were considered. It was confirmed that the UEMO President had requested and received support for the 3 year amendment from all other European medical organisations linked to the CP.

It was considered important when lobbying to separate the issues of an extension to 3 years and to CME. The following considerations were noted.

- (a) There is an apparent lack of understanding of the nature and importance of general practice at EU Council level, particularly with regard to how it complements specialist medicine.
- (b) It is important to stress the quality of care for patients.
- (c) There has been no previous EU competence under the directive regarding CME.
- (d) If CME was to be considered it should apply to all professions, not just to GPs.
- (e) UEMO should stress its commitment to CME and express its willingness to discuss this with the European Parliament.
- (f) National Organisations should consider using patient groups for indirect lobbying.

It was agreed that the Dutch and UK delegations would prepare specimen letters to be sent to National Governments and patient organisations. The presidency would be asked to write to both the EU Council and EU Parliament. The ESGP/FM would be asked to act in a similar way. It was important that this lobbying was carried out by 8 November 2000. Contract details for National Governments would be provided.

The Irish delegation expressed its concern at the impotence of UEMO since the conference in Copenhagen on 1994.

2. Principles Regarding the Future Development for Specific Training

The paper UEMO 2000/133 from Florence was considered and approved. As a plan of action for UEMO in conjunction with the ESGP/FM. In pursuit of this the UK and German delegations were asked to prepare papers on the organisation and monitoring of specific training in their countries for the next meeting of the Working Group. UEMO should build on its previous work, for example, the consensus statement from Copenhagen and set out clear principles for use at both National and European levels.

3. Core Content/Curriculum Development

It was confirmed that the ESGP/FM and EURACT were holding an expert conference on this subject in Barcelona on 12-13 October 2001. UEMO has been invited to jointly sponsor and contribute to the meeting. As a result of these two initiatives during the next year it was hoped that UEMO would be able to prepare a number of brief clear statements on specific training which it would then pursue vigorously and effectively.

4. Any Other Business

(a) ESGP/FM Liaison Person

The Working Group proposes to the plenum that UEMO has a liaison person to the ESGP/FM.

If approved it suggests Dr P Evans (UK) would be an appropriate appointment.

(b) Slovenia

The Slovenian delegation would circulate a questionnaire to all other delegations on the organisation of care and training.

Zurich, 13th October 2000