



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

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European Union of General Practitioners – UEMO
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UEMO 2001/003

To the UEMO Presidency
and all UEMO member organisations and
all UEMO delegation members
By E-MAIL

24 Januari 2001

NvG\YM\01-00225 030- 28 23 734

Lobby results in Brussels and Strasbourg

Dear Colleagues,

First of all the Dutch UEMO Delegation wishes all of you a happy and a successful UEMO year.

Secondly and hardly less important we may inform you that the last stage in the UEMO lobby for a three year period of specific training in EU Directive 93/16 has been very successful and has almost come to an end.

As you will remember from our Zurich meeting in October 2000, there has been going on a hard fight between the member-countries with a two and a three year period of specific training. Belgium, Norway and Finland appear not to be willing to adopt a three year period. The other countries at first did not want to grant them a permanent exceptional position. The effect though of a compromise would be that GP's from these countries will remain GP's with another or at least a less longer specific training then GP's trained in the others Member-States. There remain then a difference and that would implicate that other member countries have to accept GP's from the three countries, although their own nationals are obliged to follow a three years training period.

France has chaired the EU during the second half of 2000 and has been trying hard to find a compromise. In the end its compromise text was agreed in the Council of Ministers by all member countries. Then some hard negotiations followed with the European Parliament delegation, which in the end accepted the compromise text, but only after the EU Council of ministers was prepared to give in a little. The legislation process is now almost finished. We will inform you of course on the definitive outcome.

Enclosed we do send you the compromise text, that is the pages 34 and 35 from the official text. We have only a text in French. Everybody has learned French in school, so that should not be a problem. As soon as an English text is available, we will send it around.

UEMO – PRESIDENCY

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What is the content of the compromise?

CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION:

In article 23 of EU Directive, some kind of a co-ordination article is added in a new subsection 6, stating that CME enables persons who have finished their studies, to follow the progress in medicine.

BASIS EDUCATION and GENERAL PRACTICE

In Article 24 of the EU Directive will be added that during the basic education adequate knowledge of general practice should be acquired.

TRANSITION PERIOD

The transition period for all new elements is that all member countries have to adopt to all changes by the year 2006.

SPECIFIC TRAINING

§ Nucleus of it all is the new text of article 31, paragraph one: **THREE YEARS.**

§ The compromise is in paragraph 2 of article 31.

- It says that when a member state has some kind of practical form of education in a hospital surrounding suited for general medicine, or in a GP practice or a health centre where doctors deliver primary care, then the period of this practical education may be included in the three year period, but at the utmost for one year. This provision is only granted to those member countries in which the specific training period on 1 January 2001 lasts two years.

- The next paragraph states what should happen, when the Commission sees great difficulties in a country regarding the three year period. Then it has to seek advice with the Committee of Senior Officials on Public Health, inform the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. Then the Commission presents to the European Parliament and the European Council, if necessary, proposals in the light of the best co-ordination of the length of the specific training period in general practice.

What exactly is meant in this last sentence is something known only to specialists in this kind of Legal language. We doubt if there is such a person on this earth. Maybe it means that the country involved will be advised to do its best. Hopefully a more learned person may shed some light on this some time.

As stated we will inform you later, when the English text is available and hopefully some expert comment.

Best wishes,

Joop H. Blaauw, GP
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