



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Alment Praktiserende Lægers Europæiske Organisation – UEMO
European Union of General Practitioners – UEMO
Europäische Vereinigung der Allgemeinärzte – UEMO
Union Européenne des Médecins Omnipraticiens – UEMO
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National Report Germany

1. The German Health Minister and main officials of the Ministry have changed at the beginning of this year. The former minister, Andrea Fischer, had to resign because of the BSE problems. Medical professionals and Ms. Fischer had always had a tense relationship. However, the new Health Minister, Ulla Schmidt, seems more inclined to listen to problems and to find first solutions. She just drafted a new legislation lifting the collective drug budget from doctors and listing useful principles for contractual solutions.
2. General Practitioners (GPs) wanting to retire have great difficulties to find a successor for their practice. This problem is especially urgent in the east of Germany. The number of doctors going into General Practice is quite low in Germany. Although the sickness funds support financially the training of GPs, rotating posts for GP candidates are still not a general feature in hospital organisation.
3. Medical education in Germany still concentrates on theory. There are little opportunities for students to get in touch with General Practice. For years medical professionals have asked for renewing the correspondent legislation ("Approbationsordnung"). Also, efforts to increase staff in medical schools have been blocked by State Ministries of Education.
4. In the meanwhile non medical psychotherapists participate in ambulatory health care on the same foot as doctors and have become full members of the panel doctor's associations.

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UEMO – PRESIDENCY

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