



## 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  
Unione Europea dei Medici di Medicina Generale – UEMO  
Europese Huisartsen Vereniging - UEMO  
Unión Europea de Médicos Generalistas – UEMO  
Uniao Europeia de Clinicos Gerais – UEMO  
Euroopan Yleislääkärijärjestö – UEMO  
Europeiska Allmänläkarorganisationen – UEMO



**UEMO 2002/005**

### MINUTES FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS MEETING ON 21 FEBRUARY 2002 IN BRUSSELS

#### **Attendees:**

Dr Christina Fabian  
Dr Carl-Eric Thors  
Dr Benny Ståhlberg  
Dr Hartmut Seifert  
Dr Peter Mortensen  
Dr Mateja Bulc  
Dr Roger Chapman  
Mr Tom Kennedy  
Mr Rob Vierhout  
Mr Johan Lindberg

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

Christina Fabian, UEMO President, wished all very welcome to the first meeting under the new Presidency. The agenda was approved and no other matters were added. By way of clarification Dr Fabian started the meeting by saying that Dr Peter Mortensen should be considered the most senior vice-president for the rest of his term.

#### **2. Information on attended meetings**

Christina Fabian reported from the AO-meeting on 9 January 2002. At that meeting the presidents of the Associated Organisations had discussed, inter alia, the possibility of a Domus Medica in Brussels, future cooperation between the organisations, and the principles of handling and dissemination of documents.

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#### **UEMO – PRESIDENCY**

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Rob Vierhout reported on the HAI/EHPA-symposium on Direct-to-consumer advertising of medicines which was held in Brussels on 10 January 2002. After the symposium a press-release had been issued expressing the delegates' opposition to open up such advertising to patients.

Carl-Eric Thors reported from the second meeting "Social dialogue in the Hospital Sector" on 4-5 February 2002. The meeting had focused on topics such as free movement of doctors.

### **3. UEMO Finances**

The UEMO Treasurer, Benny Ståhlberg, then presented the state of the UEMO finances. The total arrears are 47,738 Euros. France has not paid their contribution fees from 1999, 2000 and probably 2001 (unless payment was made in the last days of 2001). This is a serious matter and it was considered necessary to start up a new dialogue with France.

A short discussion about the possibility of using external auditors followed.

Roger Chapman presented a new contribution key, which was discussed. A new proposal will be presented at the General Assembly in May 2002.

### **4. The UEMO-website**

The Swedish Presidency informed about the UEMO-website. The website is now managed from Sweden. It has been some troubles at the beginning, but hopefully the problems will be solved in the next few weeks.

### **5. UEMO External Working Methods**

A permanent representation in Brussel is an important question for UEMO. Until now it has not been possible for financial reasons. The participants discussed the possibility sharing an office with another associated organisation, such as AEMH. The Presidency will investigate this possibility further.

The future UEMO lobbying activities were discussed. The Vice-Presidents agreed that Rob Vierhout has made good work in the last year. The meeting agreed that Rob Vierhout will continue his work for the rest of the year 2002. As UEMO has no permanent representation in Brussels it is important to have a lobbyist.

BMA has written a document (UEMO 2001/023) about national medical associations and international human rights activities. The paper was discussed and Roger Chapman will make a revision of this paper and present it to the General Assembly in Sicily in May 2002.

A paper concerning general practice in Medical Schools and Universities was presented by the German delegation (2001/051) for adoption by the General Assembly in Malta. It was decided that this document will be put on the agenda again at the next General Assembly in May 2002.

### **6. UEMO Internal Working Methods**

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The participants at the meeting decided on the following persons on the posts as Liaison Officers:

UEMS – Dr Willy André  
CP – Dr Roger Chapman  
PWG - Dr Peter Mortensen  
A.O. – Dr Christina Fabian

It was also discussed whether it would be appropriate to have regularly held discussions in the General Assembly regarding who is acting as a liaison officer to the other organisations.

The expenses for interpreting are high and the principles for future interpreting must be put on the agenda. A reduction of the number of languages seems inevitable.

## **7. UEMO working groups**

The activities of some of the working groups were discussed.

Drugs Working Group: Under this item the Commission legislative proposal concerning direct-to-patient information regarding medicines within three specific therapeutic fields were discussed. For UEMO it is important to try to arrange a meeting with MEP Mrs Grossetête who is the European Parliament rapporteur on the pharmaceutical directive. It was also decided that all national delegations would be provided with a letter to be sent to politicians on national level.

CME/CPD Working Group: Within this group the Basel Declaration will need to be discussed. The group will, inter alia, have to deal with the proposal from UEMS regarding participation of UEMO in the EACCME.

Specific Training Working Group: The core content paper and the GP definition are hot topics being dealt with.

Following the recent activities within the Commission, Christina Fabian proposed the creation of a working group dealing with the problems of the elderly.

## **8. Kensington**

Mr Tom Kennedy informed about the Kensington activities – the UEMO Reference Book and UEMO Clinical Journal. The Presidency will have to have a discussion with Kensington on the future cooperation between UEMO and Kensington. With Kensington the possibility of having at the Florence meeting a discussion with invited speakers the evening before the start of the working groups.

## **9. Future UEMO Meetings**

The future UEMO Meetings at a glance:

Sicily, 10-11 May 2002  
Florence, 4-5 October 2002  
Stockholm, 30-31 May 2003

## **10. Date for next Vice-President Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 9 May 2002 in the evening.

Carl-Eric Thors  
Secretary General