



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

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UEMO 2002/025



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DEN EUROPAEISKE FORENING AF SPECIALLÆGER
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To Dr Christina Fabian
 President-elect UEMO
 Uppsala
 e-mail: christinafabian@lycos.com

Dear Colleague,

With mixed feelings we have taken notice of recent events in the beautiful city of Napoli. Main point from our view is that we hope and expect a fruitful continuation of the cooperation between both our organisations. On behalf of our executive committee I would like to congratulate you and your team with your election and wish you all the best. If we can be of assistance in some way, please let us know.

I hope that it will be possible early next year to have consultations between the executives of our organisations. We have a lot of common interests. In the medical professional representations UEMO and UEMS together embody nearly the complete curative sector of health care in the European Union.

In your document "Ideas and Goals" we have seen that you favour a permanent secretariat in Brussels. This is surely a point for consultation. The UEMS will have elections for a new executive later in 2002. This will most likely go together with changes in the function of Secretary-General in the UEMS and probably also in the functioning of our secretariat. There are opportunities for cooperation in this field.

Another point of common interest is Continuing Medical Education. In Scandinavia re-certification is more or less an issue on the sidelines, but elsewhere in Europe the pressure is on and more and more countries are developing legal re-registration programmes based upon mandatory CME.

The UEMS has established the EACCME[®], the European Accreditation Council for CME. This is a clearing-house for CME accreditation in Europe with the purpose to make exchange of CME credits in Europe possible based upon common quality criteria and upon national authority by the national CME regulating bodies.

We have discussed this on several occasions with consecutive UEMO presidents. The answer usually was that the UEMO is interested in CME, but that general practitioners do not often travel outside their own country to obtain CME and therefore do not need European exchange, certainly not in a situation in which CME is not yet mandatory. However, this is changing.

Due to our close contacts between the EACCME[®] and the national CME regulating bodies in the European countries we know that these bodies are anxiously awaiting a comparable European system for general practitioners as well. I have had talks with Cricelli concerning this issue and he completely agreed that some action by the UEMO in this field was necessary.

Earlier this year the UEMS did send a letter to the UEMO president together with the draft for a joint "Letter of Intent" which you might have seen already. As far as we know this has not been discussed in depth in the Malta and Napoli meetings and we have not heard a reaction. Yet it is important that the UEMO takes some action and establishes itself as a player in the field of CME in Europe. Signing of the "letter of Intent" or a similar document will put the UEMO on the map of CME in Europe, much to the reassurance of the European CME regulating bodies. If this takes place in cooperation with the already existing EACCME[®] or as a separate organization is for the UEMO to decide, but action is necessary.

The UEMS has already seen the danger in delay. Two years ago we had a nasty experience with an attempt by a commercial organisation backed by some European Societies to take over European Accreditation of CME. This was thwarted, but we will be experiencing more of these attempts.

This is why we are pressuring the national CME regulating bodies in Europe to give full support to the EACCME[®]. Otherwise national authorities and also UEMS and UEMO will be bypassed.

We will be happy to remain in contact,
With kind regards
Cees Leibbrandt