



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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Euroopan Yleislääkärjärjestö – UEMO
Europeiska Allmänläkarorganisationen – UEMO



Stockholm, 20 June 2002

Proposals for amendments of the UEMO Statutes

Article 4 (4)

Current wording

When a new national organization is admitted as member, associate member or observer, the contribution key set out in annex II will be amended accordingly and submitted for approval to the General Assembly.

Proposed new wording

The UEMO Membership is dependent on the payment of membership fees, from full members, associate member and observers, as laid down in Annex II.

Rationale:

A change to Annex II (membership fees), see below, requires changes of Articles 4 (4) and 9 (6).

Article 6 (2)

Current wording:

“A decision to exclude a member may only be taken by a three-quarters majority of all members of the UEMO.”

Proposed new wording:

*“A decision to exclude a member may only be taken by a three-quarters majority of all members **present and entitled to vote.**”*

Rationale:

There is currently a discrepancy between the wording of the articles 6 (2) (exclusion) and 10 (1) (change of statutes). The Presidency proposes a change to article 6 (2) in order to give more power to the instrument of exclusion.

Non paying members obstruct the work of the UEMO and it is very difficult to draft a budget without knowing exactly from where the money will come. It is necessary for the Presidency to know the exact number of paying members.

It also happens that countries with voting rights are not present at a UEMO-meeting. With the very strict requirement laid down in the current wording of article 6 (2) the use of the article is very limited. Also in this respect the Presidency sees a need for change. It should be noted, however, that the quorum rule in article 9 (2) still needs to be respected.

Article 9 (6)

Current wording

The annual budget will be adopted by the autumn General Assembly each year. The basic contribution shall be determined on a yearly basis when the overall budget is fixed by the General Assembly. The contribution key will be as set forth in Annex II to these statutes. The key shall be revised in accordance with the admission of new members, associate members and observers. In extraordinary cases, the General Assembly may approve a deviation from the key by a three-quarter majority.

Proposed new wording

*The annual budget will be adopted by the autumn General Assembly each year. The basic contribution shall be determined on a yearly basis when the overall budget is fixed by the General Assembly. **The contribution of each member, associate member and observer will be calculated in accordance with the provisions of Annex II.** In extraordinary cases, the General Assembly may approve a deviation from the key by a three-quarter majority **of all members present and entitled to vote.***

Rationale

A change to Annex II (membership fees), see below, requires changes of Articles 4 (4) and 9 (6).

“..of all members present and entitled to vote” There should be congruency with the wording in Article 10. With the current wording one or a few delegations could block a vote simply by leaving the meeting room.

Article 10 (1)

Current Wording:

Decisions made by the General Assembly shall normally be by consensus. In the event of a vote, all decisions shall require a three-quarters majority of those delegations present and entitled to vote. A vote shall be required if two delegations request it.

Proposed new wording:

*Decisions made by the General Assembly shall normally be by consensus. In the event of a vote, all decisions shall require a three-quarters majority of those delegations present and entitled to vote. A vote shall be required if two delegations request it. **For voting procedures, when reference is made to the three-quarter majority, abstentions are not counted as votes cast.***

Rationale:

For all voting procedures where there is a reference to a three-quarter majority, abstentions are noted, but only cast votes (yes or no) contribute to the final decision.

Article 10 (2)

Current wording:

“Modifications of the statutes shall require a decision by three-quarters of all members. Changes in the statutes shall be notified to members at least three months prior to the General Assembly at which they are to be adopted.”

Proposed new wording:

*“Modification of the statutes shall require a decision by three-quarters of all members **present and entitled to vote**. Changes in the statutes shall be notified to members at least three months prior to the General Assembly at which they are to be adopted. **Any change to the annexes is not considered a change to the statutes and shall follow the procedure laid down in Article 10 (1).**”*

Rationale

Re: “*present and entitled to vote*”: There should be congruency with the wording in Article 10 (1). With the current wording one or a few delegations could block a vote simply by leaving the meeting room.

Re: “*Any change to the annexes is not considered a change to the statutes.*” Annexes are generally in legal documents intended to be an instrument for easy changes contrary to the bulk of the statutes themselves. The current UEMO Statutes do not regulate how the annexes should be treated and the proposed addition is merely a sentence for clarification.

Annex II

Proposed new wording

- 1. *The contribution of each member shall be determined as follows:***
 - i. A standing charge applied equally to all members***
 - ii. A contribution being a proportion of the budget of UEMO after deduction of the total of the standing charges collected, the ratio to be determined by multiplying the population of each individual country expressed as a percentage of the total population of member states and observers by the GDP of each country expressed as a multiple of the lowest GDP of any member state or observer***
 - iii. Except that contributions shall be subject to a maximum and minimum cut off so that the largest three and smallest three contributions contribute equally***
- 2. *Observer members shall contribute at 1/3 of the level they would have paid if they had the status of full members***
- 3. *National populations and estimates of GDP will be determined on an annual basis by the treasurer from the resources of the OECD***
- 4. *The level of the standing charge shall be determined by UEMO from time to time meeting in general assembly and shall be recorded formally in the minutes of the respective meeting.***

Rationale:

The proposal above is in line with the discussions in General Assembly following the proposal that was presented at the General Assembly in Giardini Naxos on 11 May 2002. The proposal for a new contribution key is intended to eliminate discrepancies in the current key and should provide a stable tool to be used by the UEMO Presidency.