



## **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 2002/110**

**MINUTES FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN GIARDINI NAXOS,  
FRIDAY 10 MAY 2002 AND SATURDAY 11 MAY 2002.**

#### **Opening of the meeting**

The President Dr Christina Fabian wished all delegates welcome to the General Assembly in Giardini Naxos.

Dr Nuzio Romeo, the President of the Medical Council in Messina, and Dr Mario Falconi, National Secretary of FIMNG, greeted all delegates welcome to Sicily and hoped that the UEMO delegates would have a productive meeting.

#### **Adoption of draft agenda**

Dr Fabian informed that there would be a report from the meeting of Heads of Delegation under point 2 and that applications for membership from Slovakia and Azerbaijan would also be discussed.

It is important for UEMO to have time to discuss certain items in more depth. Therefore the president proposed to discuss the following items during the first day before the working groups.

- CME/CPD
- The proposal for a Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications
- Direct-to-consumer advertising
- Elderly – the latest European Commission initiatives
- Tobacco

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#### **UEMO – PRESIDENCY**

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## **A short summary of the discussion**

Dr Peter Mortensen informed about the discussion about CME/CPD and asked the working groups to continue this discussion and that the General Assembly should have a further discussion after the report of the workings group.

Dr Christina Fabian informed about the work the Presidency has done regarding Direct-to-consumer advertising. The President has written a letter to MEP Mme Grossetête on this matter. The UEMO has also sent letters to other important politicians in the Parliament, stressing the importance to have a clear difference between what is considered information and what is considered advertising.

The Commission will discuss the care of the elderly. This is a very important question for all GPs and it is also important to cooperate with other organisations. The GP is a key person in the care of elderly.

The WHO has initiated a project on tobacco prevention. Tobacco is one of the most important risk factors for health. It is important that the UEMO participates in this work. The Working Group for preventive activities will discuss this question.

## **Minutes from Naples Meeting**

The minutes from Naples Meeting (2002/010) were approved.

## **President's report**

The President, Dr Christina Fabian, referred to the written report (2002/058), which was distributed to all delegates. Dr Fabian reminded all delegates that we will national reports only once a year at the autumn meeting.

Dr Fabian reported from Head of Delegation meeting about the presence in Brussels. The Swedish Presidency will start this process by distributing a paper to all national delegations prior to the Florence meeting in order to discuss this important issue further.

## **Finances**

The treasurer, Dr Benny Ståhlberg, reported on the state of the UEMO finances. The Italian budget will not be concluded until June 2002. The Swedish presidency will give a complete report at the meeting in Stockholm May 2003. The Swedish Medical Association has paid all costs for staff, telephone, fax and so on. It was pointed out that it is very important to clarify these costs in the budget.

The Dutch delegation informed that they have had costs for lobbying. They have discussed these costs at the meeting in Malta and Zurich. The Dutch delegation would like to have compensation for those costs. We will have a meeting between the Dutch delegation and the Swedish presidency to discuss this problem.

Dr Benny Ståhlberg reported about the arrears. France, Poland, Malta and San Marino have not paid their contributions.

According to our statutes France, Poland and San Marino will be automatically suspended. After discussion there was a vote for excluding France, but three quarters majority was not reached. According to the statutes it shall be three quarters of all members of UEMO.

After a long discussion the following proposal was presented:

The Presidency will prepare a paper to all countries with arrears and the question of excluding will be on the agenda for next meeting in Florence. It will also be necessary to review our statutes. The review will not include all the statutes but only those paragraphs concerning voting.

## **Kensington Publications Ltd**

Mr Tom Kennedy reported from a meeting with the Kensington Publications Ltd and the Swedish Presidency. It was decided that the Clinical Journal will be published twice a year. The Editorial board will be completed with an Advisory Board with medical journalists. The UEMO Reference book will be published once a year. It will be financed by the income from the Clinical Journal. The contract with KPL is renewed for five years.

From KPL there was a proposal to arrange a debate in some topic. The debate could be sponsored.

After discussion the General Assembly decided to allow sponsoring of the debate but not of the dinner after the debate.

## **Proposal for a New UEMO Contribution Key**

After the discussion at Vice-President meeting in February, Roger Chapman presented a proposal for a new contribution key. The proposal was discussed and many countries said it was a good proposal. In this proposal the contribution will depend on the population weighted by GDP.

The final decision on the proposal for a new contribution key will be taken at the autumn meeting in Florence.

Prior to the meeting in Florence it is important that each delegation discusses and gets an approval for the new contribution key at home.

## **Reports from Working Groups**

The Secretary General informed about the meeting with the chair persons. At that meeting the chairpersons had discussed the following issues:

The purpose of the working group

The current work of the group

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Time schedule

Any documents available for the associated organisations

Discussion about the members of the working group

The Presidency has decided to have this meeting before every general assembly. This is an important way to stimulate the work in the groups.

## **CME/CPD**

The working group had discussed the Basel declaration which was adopted by UEMS in October 2001 (UEMO 2002/024). The chair will work out a new paper on background of the discussion. He will also communicate this paper with several of the delegations who had spoken on the issues. The paper will be presented at the Florence meeting.

The working group also discussed if UEMO will participate in EACCME. The General Assembly decided that UEMO will have new contacts with UEMS before any decision.

## **Specific Training**

The working group discussed the new proposal for a new directive on mutual recognition of qualifications. The working group had decided to support the work done in CPME and the associated organisations and the elaborated points of views (UEMO 2002/069). The General Assembly decided to support this paper.

The working group had made a resolution in which UEMO declares and reaffirms the discipline of general practice to be a specialist discipline equivalent to all other medical specialities with its own unique contribution to health care and its own dedicated educational, academic and research base and therefore general practitioners are specialists in that discipline. The General Assembly approved this resolution.

## **Quality Assurance**

The working group works with the document "Quality Issues in General Practice". The working group will present a new updated document for General Assembly in Florence October 2002.

Wonca/Europe has drawn up definition of general practice/family medicine. These definitions will be taken at the Wonca/Europe conference in London in June 2002. The working group proposed the UEMO shall support this paper. After discussion in General Assembly the UEMO decided to support it.

## **Medical Informatics**

Dr Liam Lynch reported from the working group. The group has decided to discuss the following subjects:

The status of IT in health services

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The status of IT in primary health care

A system solution

Research

Confidentiality

Ownership of data

Freedom of information legislation

Training and CME/CPD implications

The working group has also discussed the use of Telemedicine/telematics in treatment and diagnosis.

The working group will present a draft document at the General Assembly in Florence.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The working group has decided to circulate the questionnaire from 1998 to all delegates. The group will update the questions. This group is a standing committee. The working group presented no proposal for a decision to the General Assembly.

## **Preventive activities**

The working group presented a document UEMO 2002/036. The document was discussed. The document will be further developed and a new version will be presented at the Florence meeting. It is very important for the UEMO to discuss these questions in order to be able to add points of view to the CPME working group.

This working group has also drawn up a proposal to the UEMO Resolution on Tobacco (UEMO 2002/073). The General Assembly adopted this resolution. The document will be used in corporation with other organisations, which work with this problem.

## **Reports from other organisations**

### **CPME**

The president of CPME, Dr Brettenthaler, reported that the corporation between the associated organisations is very important for CPME.

### **EANA**

Dr Jörg Pruckner informed that EANA works with “prevention in laboratory care”.

### **WONCA**

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Dr Phil Evans informed about the Wonca conference in London in June 2002.

## **PWG**

Dr Kate Adams informed about the work in PWG. She mentioned that PWG is currently discussing “refugee doctors”. PWG has elected a new President, Dr Nina Tiainen.

## **UEMS**

There was a written report from UEMS. Dr Willy André informed that Azerbaijan has been admitted as an associated member in UEMS.

## **Future meetings**

The future UEMO Meetings at a glance:

Florence, 4-5 October 2002

Stockholm, 30-31 May 2003

Antwerp, 3-4 October 2003

Reykjavik, 11-12 June 2004

## **Other Matters**

The Slovak Republic and Azerbaijan have applied for membership in the UEMO. They will be asked to send papers to UEMO and will be invited to the next meeting in Florence, where they will be asked to present their organisations.

## **Closure of Meeting**

The President of UEMO, Dr Christina Fabian, closed the meeting and thanked all the delegates for a good discussion and good participation. She also thanked the interpreters for their efforts. The Swedish Presidency looks forward to the meeting in Florence.

Dr Carl-Eric Thors  
Secretary General  
19 August 2002