



## **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 Yleislääkärjärjestö – UEMO  
Europeiska Allmänläkarorganisationen – UEMO



### **UEMO 2002/116**

#### **Report of the Permanent Working Group of European Junior Doctors (PWG) activities for the autumn meeting of UEMO, Florence, October 2002**

The PWG was founded in 1976 by nine national organisations representing junior doctors. Since then the organisation has grown to encompass 23 member countries and has considerable expertise in matters concerning junior doctors in Europe.

In May 2002, the PWG held its spring meeting in London. It was the first meeting to take place under the Finnish presidency and our new president Dr Nina Tiainen. During the meeting, Richard Smith, Editor of the BMJ, gave a presentation on the UK health care system.

This report will outline the main areas of PWG activity

#### **European Working Time Directive**

The British Medical Association hosted a conference on the European Working Time Directive prior to the start of the PWG meeting. The European Commission is conducting a survey looking at the implications of the SIMAP judgement for Member States. The PWG will co-ordinate responses from member countries and communicate these to Mr Fernando Pereira, administrator in charge of the working time directive at the Commission.

The PWG is seeking the support from associated organisations and national member associations and UEMS Boards for the implementation of the EWTD

#### **New Directive on professional diplomas**

The new Directive was discussed. The PWG expressed major concerns about provisions relating to part time training. The PWG endorsed the following statement

The PWG supports the principles agreed between the European medical organisations concerning the proposed Directive:

The PWG would like to emphasise the following points:

We insist on the importance of family friendly working and part time training and call for the proposed directive to be amended to affirm this.

We believe that the current time based system is not the best way to

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guarantee quality in training. We aspire to a more sophisticated system of quality guarantees that can take account of competency.

We support the extension of automatic recognition of qualifications to:

- EEA/EU doctors holding qualifications from third countries who have had their qualification recognised by an EU/EEA country (as proposed in new directive)
- Third country doctors holding EU/EEA qualifications

We welcome the recognition of General Practice as a speciality at some point in the future

### **Treatment and Integration of Non EU doctors into the medical workforce**

The plenary adopted the revised document and its recommendations and agreed to present it to the CPME.

Given that non-EU doctors are a significant part in some member countries, it was agreed that the policy ideas expressed in the paper should be taken back to national medical associations to stimulate in house debate.

### **Clinical risk management and postgraduate training**

The WMA's declarations and proposals on clinical risk management were considered and it was noted that these contained no reference to post-graduate training. The plenary agreed that an e-mail working group should be established to study clinical risk management and postgraduate training and prepare a discussion / policy paper for the next meeting

### **Competency based assessment**

The plenary agreed the following resolution on competency based training :

The PWG builds on the principles of the "Evaluation of trainees" section 45-49 in the PWG Policy Statement on Postgraduate training a European future (PWG 94/087).

The PWG believes that evaluation of trainees should incorporate competency based assessment. The PWG will work with this topic in the future.

### **Best Practice Forum**

The PWG agreed to set up a "best practice forum" for a trial period of one year. This forum is designed as a means by which members can discuss issues such as practical solutions to ethical dilemmas of interest to European junior doctors. For the London meeting a member of the BMA ethics team gave a presentation on the BMA's resuscitation guidelines and a member of the Norwegian delegation gave a presentation on how their association supports doctors who have been suspended

### **Other matters discussed / decisions taken**

- The PWG will carry out a survey comparing European junior doctors' salaries
- The PWG will participate in the European Forum of Medical Associations and World Health Organisations (EFMA-WHO) Tobacco Action Group
- The PWG will continue to participate in the Task Force on Social Dialogue in the European Hospital Sector
- The PWG agreed to compile all information relating to medical workforce data. In future, and in order to prevent duplication of work, the PWG will liaise with the CPME over this important ongoing project
- The PWG supports the Basel Declaration, which is a UEMS policy statement on CME/CPD
- The newly joined members working group will prepare a paper on experiences of industrial action in member countries.

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The PWG runs on a very small budget and in the past has been financially dependent on the national organisation of the president. The economy working group reviewed other AO's contribution keys and decided to remain with the current model. A 10% increase in contributions was agreed.

**Future meetings**

Autumn 2002: Bern, Switzerland

Spring 2003 Austria

**Kate Adams**

**PWG liaison officer to UEMO**

**September 2002**