



## **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 2002/121**

### **NATIONAL REPORT – SPAIN -**

There has been an important change in Spain in the last year, following the transfer of the Health Competencies on the 1st January 2002 to the ten Autonomous Regions that did not yet have such competencies. This transfer has been performed in the absence of the promised law on co-ordination of the National Health System that has not yet been published and which is of paramount importance to guarantee the equity and basic rights of citizens in the whole of the national territory, namely:

- The universalisation of health care
- A unified management of the services for the entire National Health System
- Access to benefits in the whole of the national territory
- Guarantee of the quality of the services
- Access to advanced technologies
- The establishment of reference hospitals at State level for highly specialised services
- The policy of convergence to create infra-structures and new technologies which, in a reasonable period of time, may smooth out the inequalities between the Autonomous Regions and foster co-operation among the different regional services.

Another important question we would like to highlight is the increase in the migratory flows that is raising difficulties in primary health care and generating health problems.

In respect of the issue about whether or not General Medicine/Family Medicine must be considered a speciality, the Spanish delegation at the UEMO, at its last meeting held in Sicily, when referring to item 2 of the agenda on the “Proposed Directive relating to the recognition of professional qualifications” adopted a stance in favour of the contents of that proposal, in respect of the specific training of the General Practitioner (appendix 5.1.5); this posture has always been defended by the UEMO.

This directive is clear and coherent in all its structure and development through appendixes that clearly differentiate between:

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#### **UEMO – PRESIDENCY**

c/o Swedish Medical Association, P.O. Box 5610, Villagatan 5, SE-114 86 Stockholm  
Tel: +46 8 790 34 52, Fax 46 8 20 57 18, E-mail: info@uemo.org

- Basic formal qualifications of Doctors (appendix 5.1.2.)
- Formal qualifications of Specialists Doctors (appendix 5.1.3.)
- Formal qualifications of General Practitioners (appendix 5.1.5.)

At the same time as we express our support for the discipline of General Medicine being considered similar to other specialities as regards its status, quality training and contents, professional and political prestige, improved remuneration and material and human resources, we want to defend, nurture and exercise General Medicine as a specific area of medical science and at the same time not lose the privileged position in the health system which the status of General Practitioners or Family Doctors gives us.

We should define our own condition and the Spanish delegation holds the opinion that: we must claim our status but from the optic of our own area, namely, that of a very important doctor in the Health System who is called General Practitioner and that of a very important area of medicine namely General Medicine, independent of its duration (specific quality training), which we have always claimed, namely two, three, five or seven years.

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