



## **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 2003/027final**

#### **MINUTES FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN FLORENCE FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER AND SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2002**

#### **Opening of the Meeting**

The UEMO President, Dr Christina Fabian, wished all delegates and liaison officers from the other organisations welcome to the General Assembly in Florence.

#### **Adoption of Draft Agenda**

The draft Agenda was approved. The Presidency has decided to have the same arrangement for this meeting as the meeting in Sicily and therefore we started with discussion the first day before the working groups.

#### **The Discussions on Friday 4 October 2002**

The president reported from the AO-meeting and informed about the discussion about the future cooperation CPME/AO and about the future lobbying in Brussels.

Dr Fabian presented the proposal of the Swedish presidency about the future UEMO lobbying. The UEMO has the possibility to rent its own office space in Brussels. This would give a better possibility to have near and good cooperation with CPME. She also emphasised the importance that doctors take part in the lobbying activities.

There was a preliminary discussion about the family medicine as a medical specialty. In this discussion the President emphasised the importance of a specialty. It is important both for the doctor and for the patient. The young doctors want to become specialists. The most countries could support the resolution.

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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

The Swedish Presidency had invited Stefano Zappalà. He is member of the European Parliament and rapporteur for the European Parliament on the Commission Proposal for a Directive of the EP and of the Council on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. In a general outline Mr Zappalà gave the background to the directive and pointed out the procedure to adopt this directive. He did not comment the specific rules concerning the doctors.

## **Minutes from Sicily Meeting**

The minutes from the meeting in Giardini Naxos were approved (UEMO 2002/110).

## **The President's report**

Dr Christina Fabian referred to the written report (UEMO 2002/136), which had been distributed to all the delegates.

Dr Fabian reported also from Heads of Delegation's meeting. There had been a discussion about the finances and the new contribution key.

## **Finances**

The treasurer, Dr Benny Ståhlberg, reported on the status of the UEMO finances. The incomes until this day are 178.000 Euros. He also reported that France, Poland and San Marino had not paid their contributions.

He presented a draft budget for 2003. In this budget he also clarified the costs that the Swedish Medical Association had paid. This amount is 60.000 Euros per year. The treasurer pointed out that we are depending from other incomes, for instance the Kensington royalties.

He also commented the costs for the web-side and for the interpretation.

UK remarked that the auditors had not been participating. The Presidency regretted that and of course the auditors will be contacted before the next meeting.

The General Assembly adopted the budget for 2003.

The General Assembly nominated Terry Jones, UK, and Willy André, Belgium, as auditors for 2003, and they were unanimously elected.

## **UEMO Contribution Key**

Roger Chapman presented the new contribution key, which was discussed at the Sicily meeting. After a long discussion the new contribution key was adopted after voting. The result of voting was 16 members voted for the new contribution key and 3 against.

## **Proposals for Change of the UEMO Statutes**

The Swedish Presidency had presented proposals to change the UEMO Statutes. The proposed changes are:

Article 4 (4):

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

Article 6 (2):

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

Article 9 (6):

“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, associated 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”

Article 10 (1):

“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.”

Article 10 (2)

“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).

There was also a proposal of new wording in Annex II in line with the discussions in General Assembly following the proposal that was presented at the General Assembly in Giardini Naxos on May 2002 (the new contribution key).

The General Assembly adopted the proposed changes.

Spain had a proposal (UEMO 2002/122) that all decision document shall be sent out at least three weeks before the General Assembly. As this proposal was not notified to members three months prior to the General Assembly the proposal will be discussed at next General Assembly in Stockholm.

## **Exclusion of France, San Marino and Poland from UEMO Membership**

The President informed that it is not possible to exclude San Marino at this meeting according to the statutes. The possible exclusion of San Marino will be a matter for the next General Assembly in Stockholm.

The General Assembly decided to exclude France and Poland.

## **Belgian Arrears**

Belgium had paid the contribution for 2002. But Belgium had reduced the contribution for 1999, 2000 and 2001. They have therefore an arrear about 7 700 € The Belgian delegation had proposed to arrange a meeting in Antwerp and in that way pay their arrears.

After discussion Belgium proposed that they will pay their arrears with 1/3 per year and that they will not arrange any meeting.

The General Assembly decided in accordance with this proposal.

## **The Results of the CPME/AO Brainstorming Meeting in Salzburg on 24 August 2002**

The President reported from the Meeting. It is important for the different organisations to cooperate. The Presidency was given a mandate to continue the discussions and to report back to the General Assembly.

## **Lobbying and Presence in Brussels**

The Swedish Presidency had made a proposal on future UEMO Presence in Brussels (UEMO 2002/153). The President informed about this proposal. The proposal is to have the mandate to hire for a trial period of one year the research assistant to do work for the UEMO in Brussels. In addition to that, the presidency wishes to rent space in the CPME office. The Presidency also wanted to have a mandate to continue the discussion with the CPME and the other associated organisations regarding the creation of common structure of the medical profession in Europe.

The General Assembly accepted the proposal to continue the discussion with the CPME and the other organisations regarding the creation of a common structure of the medical profession in Europe (point 2 of the proposal).

Point 1 of the proposal suggested the hiring of a research assistant for a trial period of one year and to rent office space within the CPME office. There were 12 votes for the proposal, 6 against the proposal and one abstention. The proposal consequently did not get the required three-quarter majority.

## **Reports from Working Groups**

This point was chaired by the Secretary General. He briefly informed about the meeting with the chairs of the working groups two days earlier.

### **Specific Training**

Dr Chapman reported from the working group. There was a long discussion in the group as well in the General Assembly about the duration of the training.

On the meeting in Sicily the General Assembly accepted a resolution. After a long discussion the General Assembly decided to vote on the following wording of the resolution:

The UEMO General Assembly:

- 1 Mandates the Presidency to seek to secure the inclusion of general practice as a specialist discipline recognised under Title III of the Directive
- 2 believes that the demands of General Practice require a training period of 5 years and will continue working to that end
- 3 will continue to explore the potential of systems competency based training and assessment.

The General Assembly adopted this resolution. The result of the voting was 8 votes in favour, 3 votes against and 2 abstentions. This is a mandate for UEMOs future work.

Under this item the Spanish delegation will make comments according to UEMO 2003/082.

### **CPD/CME**

Dr Henry Finnegan reported from the working group. The UEMO document 2002/119 was discussed and revised in detail. The cooperation with the UEMS and EACCME was voted down by the working group.

The General Assembly adopted UEMO 2002/119.

### **Quality Assurance**

The working group presented “The UEMO Statement on Quality in General Practice” (UEMO 2002/133 rev). This document was adopted by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly also approved UEMO 2002/127 “WONCA and UEMO Cooperation – Final version”.

### **Medical Informatics**

Dr Liam Lynch reported from the Working Group. The Working Group proposed the following statement for the General Assembly to vote upon:

- GPs have a responsibility to ensure that the most appropriate effective ICT is available to ensure best patient care
- ICT can assist the family doctor in patient management diagnosis and treatment
- Best practice inevitably involves the use of ICT throughout the practice
- Having consideration for various national standards and practices, further discussion is required to elucidate appropriate standards regarding: confidentiality, storage and handling of data, third party access and quality of data.

The General Assembly adopted the minutes from the working group including the statement above. The Working Group will study the EU-proposal regarding E-Health.

### **Preventive Activities**

Dr Eugene O'Connor and Dr Steinunn Jonsdottir presented the work in the group and the Consensus Document (UEMO 2002/103). The work in the group will continue having particular regard to the subject of tobacco.

The General Assembly adopted this excellent document and decided to send this paper to CPME and other associated organisations.

### **Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities**

The Committee had no meeting in Florence as the chairman Dr Isobel Caixeiros was absent.

The questionnaire (UEMO 1998/115) will be sent out to each national medical organisation and the result will be presented on the meeting in Stockholm 2002.

### **National Reports**

The Presidency stated that it is sufficient that national reports are sent to the Secretariat once a year, ahead of the autumn meeting.

### **Kensington Publications**

The president reported about the cooperation with Kensington. There are some problems and the contract has still not been signed.

### **Reports from other Organisations**

UEMO has not had a liaison officer for AEMH. The Presidency had proposed Carl-Eric Thors as liaison officer for AEMH. The General Assembly decided according to the proposal.

### **CPME**

Reiner Brettenthaler reported that the most important question is the Directive. The cooperation between CPME and the associated organisations is another very important question.

## **EANA**

It was reported that Russia has become an observer.

## **WONCA**

Phil Evans reported that the latest publication with the WONCA definition of Family Medicine was in great demand.

## **PWG**

PWG works with the working time directive. The General Assembly adopted the PWG document "Policy Statement on the Treatment and Integration of Non-EU doctors".

## **UEMS**

Jean-Claude Schaack reported that France did not pay their contribution to UEMS. UEMS Management Council will have a meeting in Stockholm October 2002 where the matter will be discussed.

## **AEMH**

The General Assembly decided that the Secretary General would be the UEMO liaison officer to the AEMH.

## **Election of a New UEMO Vice-President**

Dr Hartmut Seifert's period is at an end this year.

The German delegation proposed Dr Volker von der Damerau-Dambrowski as candidate for vice-President. The Austrian delegation withdrew the candidate Dr Mart from Luxembourg.

The General Assembly elected Dr von der Damerau-Dambrowski as vice-President in UEMO for four years starting 1 January 2003.

## **Application for Membership from the Slovak Republic**

Dr Ladislav Pásztor from Slovak Republic presented his organisation "The Association for Private Physicians of the Slovak Republic". According to the statutes the Presidency will prepare a decision at the Stockholm Meeting May 2003.

## **Future Meetings**

Stockholm, 30-31 May 2003

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*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*

Dubrovnik or Zagreb 3-4 October 2003

Reykjavik, 11-12 June 2004

Budapest autumn 29-30 October 2004

## **Other Matters**

Dr Hartmut Seifert thanked all for a good cooperation.

## **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 Presidency looks forward to the meeting in Stockholm.

Carl-Eric Thors  
Secretary General  
17 March 2003