



## EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Alment Praktiserende Lægers Europæiske Organisation – UEMO  
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## UEMO 2003/030

### Comments from the UEMO Presidency on the Spanish Proposals in 2002/122

#### *The issue of counting abstentions as votes cast or not*

On the agenda at the General Assembly in Stockholm is included the proposal put forward by the Spanish Delegation to create a two different systems as far as the counting of abstentions are concerned. The Spanish Delegation is quite right to point out that the proposal for changes to the statutes were triggered by inability to take a decision on expulsion in Giardini Naxos. This is usually the way that faults in, not only statutes and rules of procedures show, but also in legislation in general. The proposal was consequently put forward in order to avoid situations where a result could not be obtained despite the fact that a matter had been voted upon.

It seems to us that the Spanish suggestion would rather fit in in Article 6 (2) rather than in Article 10 (1). Apart from this the Presidency is not in favour of burden the statutes with different rules for different types of decisions. This increases the risk of a procedural mistake.

The proposal will be put to a vote for decision by the General Assembly in Stockholm.

#### *Deadline for submitting documents*

The second matter put forward of the Spanish Delegation is the suggestion to include in the statutes a deadline for sending in documents prior to a meeting. The Swedish Presidency would have nothing against such a rule were it not for the risk of hampering the activities of the organisation. Already today, it is sometimes very hard to get documents in time in advance of a meeting. If the suggested three-week rule was applied strictly, there would be items each time that would have to be postponed until the next General Assembly. This

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#### UEMO – PRESIDENCY

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would include all statements and resolutions created during the working group sessions the day before the General Assembly. We believe that this would be a very dangerous route to follow for a political organisation as the UEMO. Also, the UEMO cannot decide the agenda and time-schedule of the legislative process within the European Union institutions and sometimes there are important political development taking place just before a UEMO General Assembly. The European political environment is fast and the UEMO has to adopt to this.

The Presidency suggests instead that as far as possible everybody cooperates in order not to send for distribution documents at a late stage prior to a General Assembly, enabling everybody to study a certain document in detail a certain.

The proposal will be put to a vote for decision by the General Assembly in Stockholm.

UEMO Presidency  
Stockholm, 25 March