



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 2003/088final

MINUTES FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN STOCKHOLM Friday 30 MAY AND Saturday 31 MAY 2003.

Opening of the Meeting

The UEMO President, Dr Christina Fabian, wished all delegates and guests very welcome to the General Assembly – for the first time in Stockholm.

She wished the Swedish Minister of Health and Social Affairs, Mr Lars Engqvist very welcome. She also wished the President of the Swedish Medical Association, Dr Bernhard Grewin, very welcome.

Benny Ståhlberg, the treasurer of the UEMO and President of the general practitioners' organisation in Sweden, wished all welcome to Stockholm and he shortly described the situation of the Swedish primary health care.

Adoption of Draft Agenda

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

The Minister of Health and Social Affairs, Mr Lars Engqvist, described the work with the National Action Plan. In this plan the Swedish Parliament and the Government have decided to strengthen the role of general practitioner in the Swedish health care system. In this plan they will also increase the resources for the care of the elderly as well as the psychiatric care.

After the Minister's speech there was a discussion about the Swedish primary Health Care.

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

Mr Erick Savoye and Dr Alan White gave a presentation about “The European Men’s Health Forum” and their first report. The UEMO President, dr Christina Fabian, is one of the members of the board of EMHF. Dr Fabian emphasized the role of GP:s in work with primary and secondary prevention.

Dr Klas Winell presented the General Practitioners combating the Tobacco Epidemic. This is a work within the European Forum of Medical Associations and WHO.

Heads of Delegation´s Meeting

During this meeting, which took place before the General Assembly on Saturday 31 May 2003, there was a presentation and discussion about the finances of the UEMO.

General Assembly Saturday 31 May 2003

The UEMO President wished all delegates and guests welcome to the general assembly.

Approval of the Minutes from General Assembly in Florence (UEMO 2003/027)

In the meeting in Florence it was we decided to change article 10.1 to “.... abstentions are not counted as votes cast”. In the new statutes the word “not” has been missed. Therefore there will be an editorial change in the statutes according to the decision in Florence.

The Spanish delegation had objections (UEMO 2003/079) on the Minutes of the general assembly in Florence October 2002.

After discussion it was decided that the Minutes will be completed according to the Spanish proposal and sent out to the next general assembly in Dubrovnic in the autumn 2003.

President’s Report (UEMO 2003/044)

The report (UEMO 2003/044) had been sent out. Christina Fabian commented the main questions as the medical directive, the speciality and the UEMO:s finances. The medical directive is a long process and it has now reached the Legal Committee and they will take their decision in September 2003. The final decision will not be taken before 2004.

Finances

The Treasurer of the UEMO, Dr Benny Ståhlberg, reported on the status of the UEMO finances. He made the following comments:

“After the first year for the Swedish Presidency we can survey the finances of the UEMO. We have got 23 000 € as a surplus from the Italian Presidency.

The cost of the web-site was rather expensive during the first year because we had some starting costs. After negotiation we will lower the cost for the web-site to about 7 000 €

The cost of interpretation was rather low at the Florence meeting because most of the translators lived in Florence. As a whole the Florence was a rather expensive meeting.”

The auditors, Dr Willy André and Dr Terry John, accounted for their statement.

A big problem for the UEMO is the Kensington Royalties. For the year 2002 the Kensington royalties were only 2 300 € instead of estimated 30 000 €. And in the future there are no Kensington Royalties at all. The Swedish Medical Association pays the salaries and taxes for the staff in Stockholm. For this year UEMO need not to pay anything of these costs, but it is important to show that in the budget. Because of that it is calculated that the UEMO needs to save at least 30 000 €, and the Presidency is obliged to announce cost-saving measures. Today the UEMO is missing the contribution from Italy and Greece, and the Presidency are discussing with them.

For the Swedish Presidency it is clear that fundamental changes must take place in order to guarantee a viable organisation. Therefore the presidency presented some proposals to cut the costs (UEMO 2003/025). The proposals from the Presidency were:

- 1) Only active English. This includes active interpretation to and from English. The other languages (German, French, Italian and Spanish) are passive i.e. it is possible for those who wish to speak these four languages, but everybody must be able to understand spoken English. The saving is about 13 000 € per meeting.
- 2) UEMO will not pay any social activities. These will be paid by sponsoring or by the delegates themselves.
- 3) UEMO will not pay the lunches at the general assembly meetings.

The Presidency wants to have two years trial period. After a long discussion the General Assembly voted and accepted the above proposals. Spain, Portugal and Belgium voted against.

It was also proposed to establish a sub-committee (Benny Ståhlberg, Volker von der Damerau - Dambrowski and Roger Chapman). This committee will discuss the finances of UEMO in a long term view and the committee will be chaired by the Treasurer. This proposal was accepted by all delegates of the General Assembly.

Statutes

The Spanish Delegation had presented a proposal (UEMO 2003/066) and the Presidency had commented this proposal (UEMO 2003/030). The Presidency is not in favour of burdening the statutes with different rules for different types of decision. That would increase the risk of a procedural mistake. The proposal is not to count the abstentions.

The Spanish Delegation had also proposed to include a deadline for sending in documents prior to a meeting. According to the Presidency it is already today very hard to get

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*

documents in time. If the suggested three-weeks rule was applied strictly there would be items each time that would have to be postponed until next General Assembly. Therefore the Presidency suggests 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.

The General Assembly accepted the proposals from the Presidency.

UEMO Presence in Brussels

At the General Assembly in Florence this question was discussed. The Presidency described the situation and had a proposal to the UEMO General Assembly (UEMO 2003/042). The proposal is to mandate the Presidency to hire space and manpower in the CPME office for a trial period of three years after which this cooperation will be evaluated.

The President emphasized the importance of the good cooperation that already exists. It is very important to have this cooperation regulated. This cooperation will be even more important in the future when the cooperation will be more close than today. In the discussion some delegates (Slovenia, the UK) wanted to have a one year contract instead of the proposed three years period.

After discussion the proposal was changed as follows:

To mandate the Presidency to hire space and manpower in the CPME office for the amount mentioned (15 000 €) for a period until the end of 2004. A draft contract will be presented as soon as possible and the contract will be accepted by the General Assembly at the meeting in Dubrovnic 2003. After this period the cooperation will be evaluated.

This proposal was approved. Spain and Slovenia voted against. Germany abstained.

Patient safety

Patient safety is a coming question in the debate in Europe. The President will have proposals on how the UEMO will handle this question.

Exclusion of San Marino from UEMO Membership

San Marino has not paid their contributions for two years. According to the statutes a member which have arrears for two years or more will be excluded. The General Assembly decided to exclude San Marino. Portugal voted against. None abstained. The Presidency will write a letter to San Marino and inform about the decision.

Kensington Publications Ltd

Dr Fabian informed about the cooperation with Kensington Publication Ltd and that the cooperation is now finished. Roger Chapman and Tom Kennedy have met some possible publishers. The Presidency, Tom Kennedy and Roger Chapman will go on working with this matter and hope to get a contract.

Reports from Working Groups

Specific Training

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*

Dr Chapman reported from the working group. During the meeting there had been a long discussion about the adopted resolution regarding Family Medicine becoming a speciality equal to other specialities (UEMO 2002/160). In the discussion it was emphasized that it was a goal which will be realized in long term.

Dr Mateja Bulc chairs a subgroup which is working with “The Content of Specific Training”.

This work goes on and they will deliver a report later. In this sub-group the Euro Wonca and the PWG will participate.

CME/CPD

Dr Finnegan reported from the working group. The meeting decided to recommend the General Assembly to recirculate the questionnaire (UEMO 2000/042) for comparison purposes and to monitor the progress of CME activities. Accreditation was also discussed. The chairpersons will produce a position paper for the next meeting in Dubrovnic.

Quality Assurance

Lynda Hamilton, who is the new rapporteur, reported from the working group. There is some overlapping between this group and the working group Specific Training. Many countries report barriers in attaining their aspired quality in practice. Therefore the working group will send a questionnaire to each delegation.

Medical Informatics

The working group has decided to concentrate the attention of the group under the headings telemedicine och Computer information Technology. The group decided to produce a questionnaire, which will be circulated and analysed for the next meeting.

Equal Opportunities

The group discussed the report on Equal Opportunities Questionnaire. It was agreed that questionnaire (UEMO 2002/116) will be improved so that more data could be obtained when the questionnaire is repeated.

Preventive Activities

The working group approved the documents UEMO 2003/059 and UEMO 2003/060 on tobacco prevention. These documents were also approved by the General Assembly.

The working group decided to focus before the next meeting on the adolescent period of life. As obesity is one of the major health problems of modern society the Icelandic delegation propose that the UEMO prepares a policy paper. This paper will be drafted and distributed to the next UEMO meeting in Dubrovnic and be adopted in Reykjavik in June 2004.

Eric Bo Larsen was elected as new chair of the working group and Iona Heath as rapporteur.

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*

Liaison Officers

CPME

The main question for the CPME is the Directive.

EANA

Dr Jörg Pruckner reported from EANA meeting in Budapest. At this meeting homeopathy and quality assurance was discussed.

WONCA

Dr Philip Evans reported that WONCA Europe now has 46 members. There has been a World Conferens in Canada on "The Future Research in Family Medicine". A report will be published.

UEMS

Dr Vincent Lamy, Treasurer of UEMS, reported from the work in UEMS.

PWG

Dr Nina Tiainen reported from the PWG-meeting in Vienna May 2003. PWG has a discussion to have a global organisation for junior doctors. Next meeting in Madrid October 2003.

AEMH

Dr Marie Wedin reported from AEMH. AEMH:s 40th Anniversary will take place in Copenhagen on 4 September 2003. AEMH:s secretariat has moved from Dusseldorf to Brussels

Slovak Membership in the UEMO (2003/036)

Slovakia gave a presentation at the meeting in Florence. The General Assembly welcomed Slovakia as a member of UEMO.

Future Meetings

Dubrovnic, 3 – 4 October 2003
Reykjavik, 11 – 12 June 2004
Budapest, 28 – 30 October 2004

Presentation of Dubrovnik, Croatia

Dr Biserka Bergman Markovic presented Dubrovnic and the coming arrangement for next General Assembly. She wished all very welcome to Croatia.

Other Matters

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*

Christina Fabian reported that Mateja Bulc and Volker von der Damerau – Dambrowski are contact persons for new members of the UEMO.

The President, Christina Fabian, informed about the planned trip to a Swedish Health Care Centre (Vårdcentral) on Sunday 1 June 2003. Christina Fabian and her colleagues has arranged this trip for all delegates, who want to see Swedish Primary Health Care.

Christina Fabian thanked the Executive Secretary Johan Lindberg for a very good work and cooperation. Johan has got an offer to work with EMEA in London.

Christina also thanked Anne-Marie Johansson, who has worked for UEMO during the Swedish Presidency.

Dr Thomas Lipp also thanked Johan Lindberg for a very good work.

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.

Carl-Eric Thors
Secretary General

1 July 2003