



## 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 2003/162

Madrid, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2003

Dear Dr. Fabian,

As you may remember, at the last UEMO meeting held in Stockholm on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May, it was decided by a majority to do without the interpretation of five official languages during the next two years. The Spanish Delegation voted against this proposal, and this letter wants to explain its reasons.

When our country entered the European Union of General Practitioners eighteen years ago, at the Plenary Assembly held in London on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 1985 under the Presidency of Dr. Alan Rowe, it was decided that Spain will become a member of the UEMO from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1986 with a rate of 5.5%, provided that it has active and passive interpretation to Spanish, as well as the English, French, German and Italian languages.

As the German Delegation explains on its report UEMO2003/132, four countries (Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and Spain) pay for 70% of the contributions, 16 other countries pay for the remainder of 30 %. And we consider this fact untenable.

It could be a good moment for the UEMO to review its expenses and start an internal economising policy that does not revert in prejudice for those national organisations that contribute the most.

We would like, and it would be convenient, for all countries to enter and to form part of the UEMO. But we don't know in what concept they are being asked to pay a lower rate.

Before joining an organisation, one must negotiate, with real figures, how much the contribution is going to be, and under what conditions members will enter; just as has been done with the other countries that have been joining the UEMO. It would be possibly timely to analyse the number of votes in terms of what is paid.

According to what has been stated above, we are still asking for there to be five active languages. If this is not possible due to economic problems, then the Spanish Delegation would like to pay less in order to be able to finance our own interpreters and maintain the legal conditions under which entered the UEMO in the year 1986, which we understand must be respected by the General Assembly.

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Hoping these proposals will be attended by the UEMO Presidency, we remain

Yours sincerely

UEMO Spanish Delegation

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