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UEMO 2003/175

Working Group on Quality Assurance and Specific Training

Cavtat, Coatia
Friday October 2nd, 2003

Chair: Dr von der Damerau (Germany)

Rapporteur: Dr Roger Chapman(UK)

The Working Group was very well attended with representatives from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and PWG

1. Approval of agenda

The chairman explained that it was proposed to merge the meetings of the Quality Assurance and Specific Training Working Groups and the meeting agreed with the agenda outlined by the chairman and followed as set out below.

2. Business of the Quality Assurance Working Group

Mateja Bulc presented the results of surveys on the content of training and on quality assurance in member countries.

The survey on the content of training had a response from all delegations except Italy and France and the latter is, of course, no longer a member. The results of the survey will be distributed to all delegations in the near future and the presentation is attached to these minutes.

At the time of the meeting only 7 replies had been received to the quality assurance questionnaire and a meaningful analysis was therefore not possible.

UEMO – PRESIDENCY

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This will be carried out, and the results circulated once sufficient additional replies have been received.

3. Future of the Group

It was proposed that the CME/CPD, Quality Assurance and Specific Training Working Groups were now covering very similar ground with much overlap in their work and that therefore these groups should merge.

It was pointed out that in order for them to do so and to cover the work effectively the new group would need to meet for both working group sessions during each meeting and that different rapporteurs might be desirable for different parts of the session, at least in part to spread the work load.

It was agreed without dissent to propose to the General Assembly that:

- The CME/CPD, Quality Assurance and Specific Training Working Groups should merge
- That revised Terms of Reference for the new group would be presented for adoption at the first 2004 meeting of the General Assembly
- That meetings of the new group should occupy both working group sessions at future meetings

4. Update on the progress of the draft directive on professional qualifications

Roger Chapman outlined the problems facing the passage of the draft directive and highlighted the fact that this was now very unlikely to be in place before the European Parliamentary elections of 2004, representing a further significant delay. This, in turn, presented an opportunity of pursuing UEMO's case for recognition as a specialist discipline or a threat of even further delay if this could not be achieved in the present round of protracted legislation.

There was no dissent from this analysis in the meeting and no dissent from the view that this made progress on the proposed UEMO statement even more crucial.

5. Proposed UEMO statement on Training in general practice/family medicine in Europe

Mateja Bulc described the work of a Subgroup of the Specific Training Working Group, which included input from the UK, from PWG and from EURACT, in the form of a policy paper containing the background to this work and a draft declaration.

After a long debate and acceptance of several amendments to and some deletions from the draft statement, attached to these minutes, it was agreed on a vote of 18 attendees for and 4 against that:

- The statement be recommended to the General Assembly for adoption
- That the background document required revision for it to be in a form suitable for more widespread use and dissemination
- That Mateja Bulc and the Austrian delegate would carry out this revision inviting input from all delegations, including contributions as to why this move is important for general practice in their countries. Contributions will be subject to a deadline of the end of November 2004.

6. A possible conference on training for general practice

The meeting agreed that UEMO should explore the possibility of participating in a conference on general practice training, being organised by the Dutch NHG and by EURO WONCA, as being of great importance significant possible benefit.

However, the meeting was conscious of the financial difficulties facing UEMO and was concerned that UEMO participation should be cost neutral at worst and if at all possible income generating.

7. Any other business

No other business was raised for discussion.

Dr Roger Chapman
October 2nd 2003