



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
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MINUTES FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN CAVTAT, CROATIA, Friday 3 OCTOBER AND Saturday 4 OCTOBER 2003.

Opening of the Meeting

The UEMO President, Dr Christina Fabian, wished all delegates and guests very welcome to the General Assembly.

She wished the Croatian Minister of Health, Dr Andro Vlahusic very welcome. She also welcomed dr Hvroje Minigo, President of the Croatian Medical Chamber, and dr Boris Labar Dean of Zagreb Medical School.

Adoption of Draft Agenda

The draft Agenda was approved. The first day started with the following presentations:

The President of the Croatian Medical Chamber, dr Hvroje Minigo, wished all delegates and guests very welcome to Croatia and he hoped that UEMO will have a good stay in Croatia.

The Croatian Minister of Health, Dr Andro Vlahusic presented the Croatian Primary Health Care. He called his presentation “The Primary Health Care today and tomorrow”.

The Dean of Zagreb Medical School, dr Labar, presented the medical education in Croatia.

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Dr Wolfgang Rutz, Regional Adviser, Mental Health, WHO Regional Office, gave a very interesting presentation on “Mental Health as a Public Health Factor in Societies and Populations in Stress”.

Dr Toon Malfliet from Belgium gave a personal and interesting presentation on “The History of the UEMO”. His speech will be published in the Reference Book.

Dr Joseph Fumadó presented “General Ultra-Sound Scanning available to the GP in Primary Health Care”. The Spanish delegation has proposed a special working group on that issue. This question will be discussed during the general assembly.

1 Opening of the General Assembly

The President, Dr Christina Fabian, wished all the delegates welcome to this meeting. She welcomed Dr Brettenthaler, CPME, and the Turkish representatives. She also reminded that this is the first meeting with the new routines for interpretation. Dr Fabian announced that the finances will be discussed later this day, because the Italian delegation will arrive later.

2 Approval of the Minutes from the General Assembly in Stockholm and Florence

At the Stockholm Meeting in May 2003 the Spanish delegation had objections to the Minutes from the General Assembly in Florence. The secretary general presented the amendments. We have referred to the Spanish document. The general assembly approved the minutes from the Florence Meeting with the proposed amendments according to UEMO 2003/082.

The General Assembly also approved the minutes from the meeting in Stockholm in May 2003.

3 Proposal for Amendments in the UEMO Statutes

The General Assembly adopted the amendments in the UEMO Statutes according to document UEMO 2003/087.

4 The President's Report

The report (UEMO 2003/114) had been distributed to all delegates. The President stressed the economic problems and the emphasized the importance of the cooperation with the CPME. She also emphasized the importance that all members pay their contributions. Otherwise the Presidency cannot function properly.

5 Suspension of Greece

Since Greece had not paid their contributions they would be suspended according to our statutes. The Greek delegation declared that they are willing to pay for 2002 and 2003, and that they will discuss with The Greek Medical Association about 2004. The General Assembly decided that Greece is not suspended. The Presidency will write a letter to the Greek Medical Association and support the Greek UEMO delegation. The decision was unanimous.

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6 Finances

The UEMO's financial situation is problematic because of Greece and Italy still not having paid their contributions. The Presidency has had many contacts with Italy and Greece. At the meeting in Stockholm in May 2003 the general assembly adopted the proposals from the Presidency to cut the costs (UEMO 2003/025) meaning only active English, that the UEMO will not pay any social activities and that the UEMO will not pay the lunches at general assembly meetings.

A sub-committee was established to discuss the finances of UEMO in a long term view.

Dr Losurdo, the Italian representative and treasurer of the Italian Medical Association, declared that Italy will pay their contributions for 2003 and has the intention to stay in the UEMO also 2004. He emphasized that it is very important for UEMO that big countries as Italy and France are members of UEMO.

The Greek situation is described under item 5.

The Treasurer of the UEMO, Dr Benny Ståhlberg, reported the status of the UEMO finances. He commented the economic result and he pointed out the problems. He emphasized that the Swedish Medical Association will continue to contribute for the staff but they will not pay the running expenses. It is not possible to arrange the meeting in Reykjavik in June 2004 if Italy and Greece do not pay.

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

Dr Benny Ståhlberg also commented the UEMO document UEMO 2003/150 concerning the short term solution for UEMO finances and Dr Roger Chapman UEMO 2003/151 concerning the long term solution for the UEMO finances and future.

Dr Thomas Lipp presented the German proposal for a new UEMO Contribution Key according to document UEMO 2003/132. This proposal and the proposal from Spain concerning interpretation will be discussed in the working group.

The treasurer presented the new budget. He presented two alternatives. In the first alternative we presume that all countries will pay their contributions and that gives the possibility to have the meeting in Reykjavik and to start with the lobby activities. The other alternative is that Italy and Greece do not pay.

The General Assembly adopted the proposal of budget (including both scenarios). (14 in favour, 4 abstentions).

7 The Future Cooperation with the CPME

The President presented a draft contract and reported about the contacts with the CPME. Because of the financial situation the Presidency had not distributed this draft contract. But if all members pay their contributions the Presidency will sign the contract and it will be valid from 2004. The General Assembly adopted the draft contract.

Christina Fabian presented a paper (UEMO 2003/110) about patient organisations. There was a discussion whether the European Patients' Platform is sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry.

The General Assembly adopted the paper UEMO 2003/110. The result of the vote was 8 in favour, 9 abstentions and 1 against.

The document UEMO 2003/111 was adopted – all 18 members in favour.

The CPME had distributed a questionnaire on preventive activities. The discussion will continue and a conference is planned to 2004, where the CPME will be responsible for one day and UEMO for one day.

8 Patient Safety

Dr Fabian informed about the working group on patient safety where the CPME participates. The CPME has prepared a paper on this issue. The Presidency asked all delegations to mail their points of view on this subject. It is important to have points of view from the primary health care.

9 UEMO Reference Book

Dr Fabian and Mr Tom Kennedy informed about the contacts with the new publisher – Medical Future. Medical Future has not yet presented a draft contract, but we expect a draft contract later this year.

10 New working groups

Hilde Roels proposed a new working group to study why the medical students no longer choose the specialty family medicine to the same extent as earlier and the group will also study what we can do as professionals, as political advisors and as academic responsables (UEMO 2003/103). After the discussion the general assembly decided to constitute an e-mail working group chaired by Hilde Roels and Iceland, UK, Switzerland, Ireland, Norway and PWG will participate. The working group will present a document at the next general assembly.

The Spanish delegation proposed a new working group “General Practice Scanning” (UEMO 2003/126). The proposal had been discussed at the vice-presidents' meeting. They wanted to broaden this item. After discussion the general assembly decided that the Spanish delegation (Dr Fumado) will present a paper with title “New Technology in Primary Health Care” at the next general assembly. The paper will first be discussed in the working group “Quality Assurance”.

11 Enlargement

The President informed about the enlargement. The Presidency has written to the applicant countries and we have got response from Poland and Cyprus. Both are interested to be member of UEMO. Poland has earlier been a member and has an arrear. Dr Roger Chapman

presented a proposal how the new applicant countries will pay their contributions. He proposed that they will pay according to the rules in the contribution key.

The General Assembly adopted this proposal. (15 in favour, 1 against).

12 Reports from the working groups

Specific Training and Quality Assurance

The two working groups Specific Training and Quality Assurance worked together. It was proposed that the CME/CPD, Quality Assurance and Specific Training Working groups should merge into one working group.

After discussion the general assembly decided to merge the Specific Training and Quality Assurance working groups. The working group CME/CPD will continue.

Dr Mateja Bulc presented the UEMO 2003 Declaration on specific training in general practice/family medicine in Europe (UEMO 2003/179). After a discussion about the duration of specific training the general assembly adopted the document (15 in favour, 3 abstentions).

CME/CPD

Dr Peter Mortensen presented the results of the latest CME/CPD questionnaire. Dr Mortensen will produce a written document on the questionnaire results. It was the last time Dr Peter Mortensen chaired this working group and the President thanked him for a very good work.

Dr Henry Finnegan will be the new chairman and Gordana Zivisce-Karan the new rapporteur.

Medical Informatics

Dr Steinnun Jonsdottir reported from the working group. The main discussion was about the returned questionnaire on informatics and concluded two main areas:

All patients should have a unique identifiable number which is usable across all information system and patient confidentiality must be paramount.

Dr Steinnun Jonsdottir presented a draft paper on the principles of health information system in Primary Care. The final document will be presented at next plenum for adoption.

The general assembly adopted the following text:

“The UEMO calls on the European governments and health authorities to achieve a comprehensive coordinated and appropriately resourced approach to our health information needs. It will require the involvement and commitment of all the relevant stakeholder groups in health. It is a task to which we believe our governments should now make a firm policy commitment.”

Equal Opportunities

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The results of the questionnaire on Equal Opportunities and Return to Work policies (UEMO 2002/166) was presented and discussed. Dr Caixeiro reported that the CPME had accepted our policy statement on Equal opportunities and return to work policy. The CPME has initiated a questionnaire written by Dr Chapman to all national medical organisations.

Preventive Activities

A draft statement on preventive activities for adolescents was discussed in detail. Dr Heath and Dr Larsen would revise the statement and recirculate it to the members of the working group and the revised paper will be presented at next general assembly for adoption. It was also discussed the possibility to arrange a conference on preventive activities.

13 Liaison Officers

PWG

Kate Adams gave a short report from PWG. The next meeting takes place on 24-25 October 2003.

AEMH

Carl-Eric Thors reported from AEMH meeting in Copenhagen. AEMH in September 2003. AEMH celebrated their 40 th anniversary. Their next meeting will take place in Madrid April 2004.

14 Election of Vice President

Peter Mortensen has been vice president for four years. Dr Isabel Caixeiro was elected new vice president for the next four years.

15 Future Meeting

Reykjavik, 11 – 12 June 2004
Budapest, 29 – 30 October 2004
London, 2005

16 New members

The General Assembly welcomed Hungary as a full member of UEMO. The Hungarian delegation gave a short presentation of the Hungarian primary health care.

The General Assembly also welcomed Turkey as an observer of UEMO and Turkey gave a short presentation of the health care in Turkey.

17 Presentation of Reykjavik

Dr Steinnun Jonsdottir and Dr Katrin Fjeldsted presented Reykjavik and Iceland and they wished all very welcome to Iceland.

18 Other matters

Dr Christina Fabian thanked Dr Peter Mortensen for his very good work as vice president for the last four years.

Dr Peter Mortensen thanked for a very good cooperation and wished UEMO good luck in the future. Dr Fabian also thanked Mr Thomas Kennedy for his good work for the UEMO and as an editor for the Reference Book .

19 Closing of Meeting

The President of the 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. She also thanked the Croatian delegation for the arrangement.

Carl-Eric Thors
Secretary General
4 February 2004