



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

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Europäische Vereinigung der Allgemeinärzte – UEMO
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Europeiska Allmänläkarorganisationen – UEMO



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UEMO – PRESIDENCY

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CONSOLIDATION OF EUROPEAN MEDICAL ORGANISATIONS.

DATE:- 10.III.04

FROM:- THE IRISH MEDICAL ORGANISATION.

TO:- CPME, UEMS, UEMO, PWG, EFMA / WHO, EMSA, FEMS, AEMH, AND THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

OVERVIEW.

The Irish Medical Organisation is conscious of the efforts which have been made by the CPME, UEMS, UEMO, PWG and others to meet the challenges of EU enlargement. In particular these organisations have reviewed the situation thoroughly and;

- revised their finances,
- framed possible solutions to structural problems at the 'Salzburg Brainstorming' in 2001,
- and canvassed the opinions of the National Medical Organisations (NMA).

The time for analysis has concluded. It is fair to say that all National Medical Associations understand the probable outline structure of a consolidated European Medical presence in Brussels and that increasing financial burdens, which do not lead to increased advocacy on behalf of patients and doctors, are not sustainable.

Over the next five years or so the following issues will become common to all branches of the profession.

1. Multiple European Medical Organisations will increase the fragmentation of medical representation and patient advocacy at EU level.
2. A significant number of NMAs may be forced to rely on membership of a single European Medical Organisation.
3. This will lead to duplication; those NMAs, which are members of only one organisation, will expect it to cover all issues forcing a duplication of other organisations' work.
4. As a result the smaller organisations and those with a narrower focus will become increasingly unrepresentative.

The IMO believes that the current situation reduces the influence of the medical profession in Europe.

A Proposal for Further Action.

The IMO proposes that:

1. **All National Medical Associations agree effective representation and patient advocacy are the prime goals of the profession at EU level.**
2. **All National Medical Associations accept that the fragmentation of medical representation at EU level is a serious problem.**
3. **All National Medical Associations convene a delegate conference in 2004 consisting of NMAs and European Medical Organisations to achieve progress toward consolidation.**

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