



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS OMNIPRATICIENS



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Chair: Dr. Volker von der Damerau-Dambrowski
Dr. Mateja Bulc

Rapporteur: Dr. Terry John

1. Welcome

Dr. von der Damerau-Dambrowsky welcomed members to the meeting at 3.05 pm. The agenda was approved.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved with no corrections.

3. The campaign for specialist recognition

Dr. Jaime Correia de Sousa had supervised a small working group (SWG) since the Uppsala meeting and a lot of debate had taken place by email.

Ms. Laura Rius Mendez had produced a paper on the way forward.

This paper stated that

- A new speciality can be introduced in the Annexes of the Directive if at least 2/5 of the member states agree
- In order for it to be included in the Annexes not only 2/5 of the member states should ask for it, but they should also agree on the minimum training period required.

Ms. Riuz Mendez therefore suggested that movement for change should be attempted via the National Medical Associations (NMA's) influencing national governments to make their case at the EU.

There followed a lively debate within the working group

- The Swiss delegate discussed the difficult situation in Switzerland, and the fact that they need 300,000 signatures from patients to effect changes.
- The Turkish delegate explained the problem in Turkey where doctors were being coerced in to 5 or 10 day training programmes.
- We also heard of difficulties in Italy and Croatia.

There was discussion about the need to seek to increase the length of time for GP training, but it was clear that there was so much divergence among countries, that this would be a contentious issue.

After further questioning of Ms. Riuz Mendez it was obvious that if we pursued a strategy around the NMA's, we might have better success and we could have the luxury of returning to the length of training time at a later date.

The UK delegation, which presently is one of the "Title 4" countries, gave a short presentation on their attempts to influence the UK to move to "Title 3". The BMA and the Royal College are now agreed on the principle, and soon there will be discussion with government representatives of the Department of Health and Department of Trade and Industry.

The meeting agreed on the production of 3 papers :

- For the "Title 3" countries, a small letter for NMA's to lobby national authorities in order to put issue on the EU agenda
- For the "Title 4" countries a paper that will help persuade governments to move to "Title 3"
- A paper to be forwarded to CPME and other organisations detailing our plans

We also intend to use a paper from the UEMO Equal Opportunities Working Group to bolster our activity.

The SWG and Ms. Riuz Mendez will be responsible for these papers and we expect them to be ready by June 2007.

Dr. Volker von der Damerau-Dambrowski thanked all the participants of the Specialist Training Working Group for their energy and enthusiasm, and said he was looking forward to further good work coming from the group.

There was no other business and the meeting was closed at 4.45 pm.