



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
UNION EUROPEENNE DES MEDECINS OMNIPRATICIENS



PRESIDENT: Dr. Isabel Caixeiro (Portugal)
VICE-PRESIDENT: Dr. Reiner Brettenthaler (Austria)
VICE-PRESIDENT: Dr. Henry Finnegan (Ireland)
VICE-PRESIDENT: Dr. Eirik Bø Larsen (Norway)
VICE-PRESIDENT: Dr. Ferenc Hajnal (Hungary)

Document	UEMO 200/71
Object	UEMO WG Preventive Activities
Author	Charlotte May
Date of transmission	October 27, 2007

UEMO WG Preventive Activities

Toledo, 26-27 October, 2007

Chair: Dr. Eirik Boe Larsen (Norway)

Rapporteur: Charlotte May (UK) – covering for Dr Iona Heath (UK)

1. The **agenda** was approved.

2. **Minutes** of last WG in Lisbon (2007/028) were also approved.

Dr Larsen reported briefly on CPME activity on preventative activities. He had sent the minutes of the last WG to the sister WG on preventative activities at the CPME. Key issues for the CPME group were mental health and polypharmacy (on which there was a CPME paper). Dr Larsen said that he would write to the CPME WG to tell them about the UEMO's work on polypharmacy – the CPME have been considering holding a conference on the subject.

UEMO – PRESIDENCY

c/o Portuguese Medical Association, Av. Almirante Gago Coutinho, 151, 1749-084 Lisboa
Tel: +351 21 842 71 12, Fax +351 21 842 71 99, E-mail: info@uemo.org

Dr Larsen also reported that he was involved in a subgroup of the EU Platform on diet and health, which had been looking at the labelling of food. There were some significant differences in approach between the food industry and consumer groups which had not yet been fully resolved. Consumer groups favoured a simple traffic light system (green, red, orange), but the industry wanted to see more complex labelling. This disagreement has slowed down the platform. However, some progress had been made - some food companies had voluntarily decided not to advertise certain foods to under 12s.

3. Men's Health (Lynda Hamilton, UEMO 2007/074 rev 1)

Dr Lynda Hamilton reported that in the plenary in Lisbon, some countries had suggested the paper give examples and references as to practice and expectations in countries other than Ireland and the UK. Dr Hamilton said that she had been reliant on others to provide these, due to the language barrier. Dr. Nina Gucek agreed to supply some Slovenian and other references. Also Luis Miguel Santiago had also sent some, but these had not reached Lynda. It was agreed that these would be found and included, along with a link to the Men's Health Forum website. The paper would then go to the plenary.

It was also agreed that as well as the death of a spouse, the negative health impact of divorce should also be mentioned in the paper.

4. Prevention of Burn Out in General Practitioners: (Fritz-Georg Fark, UEMO 2007/009 rev 1)

Two slightly different versions of the paper were discussed – Dr Fritz Gerog Fark's latest version, and some suggested amendments by Dr Mateja Bulc. These were synthesized into a final document for submission to the plenary.

5. Draft paper Family Violence (Nina Kopcavar Gucek, UEMO [2007/013](#))

Dr Gucek said that medical associations should take a stand on family violence at national level. She reported that she had written a paper but had agreed to run it past Iona Heath before distributing it. Dr Gucek was a member of WONCA and EURACT's groups on family violence and had made contact with several European experts on the subject.

She reported on barriers to the prevention of family violence. These included shame and guilt on the part of the victim, fear of reprisals by the perpetrator, victims' fear of not being taken seriously or being criticized by the doctor. Doctors often lacked training in recognizing and dealing with family violence and/or were afraid to raise it with patients. Nurses and community health workers were also important in prevention. GPs should recognize that victims of violence often consult GPs about issues other than violence. Dr Gucek cited evidence that active questioning was more effective than screening in detecting family violence, although Dr Hamilton spoke about successful screening on maternity wards in Ireland. There was some discussion about support for victims of violence in various countries (eg phone lines for children (and parents), safehouses and the role of social workers).

It was suggested that a study be made of what works - and does not work - in preventing family violence in the various UEMO member countries, and the Chair invited WG members to send information direct to Dr Gucek.

It was agreed that Dr Gucek discuss with Dr Heath, incorporate any other suggestions and the paper would be discussed at the next WG, prior to submission to the plenary for approval.

6. Medicine use in children and young people (Luiz Miguel Santiago, UEMO 2007/041)

Dr Santiago was not present so it was decided to postpone detailed discussion until the next WG. However, it was agreed that the paper needed to finish with a focused message – perhaps calling for more research and/or guidance for GPs from the EMEA.

7. Future tasks for the working group

Dr Larsen said that he sent all WG papers to the CPME, but it was suggested that delegates should think about other ways the WG papers could be disseminated and implemented nationally and at European level.

8. Any other business

Dr Larsen reminded the group that he and Iona Heath intended to stand down from their chair and rapporteur roles in 2008.