



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
Unione Europea dei Medici di Medicina Generale – UEMO
Europese Huisartsen Vereniging - UEMO
Unión Europea de Médicos Generalistas – UEMO
Uniao Europeia de Clinicos Gerais – UEMO
Euroopan Yleislääkärjärjestö – UEMO
Europeiska Allmänläkarorganisationen – UEMO



Document	UEMO 2007/072 Rev 1
Object	Minutes of the WG on specialist training
Author	Dr Terry John
Date of transmission	Toledo, October 26, 2007

Minutes of Working Group on ST Toledo, 26 October, 2007

**Room: Isabel la Catolica, Hotel San Juan de los Reyes
Time: 14 30 hrs.**

Chair: Dr. Volker von Damerou (Germany) and Dr. Mateja Bulc (Slovenia)

Rapporteur: Dr Terry John (UK)

1. Approval of the agenda

A welcome was given by Dr von Damerou and the agenda approved.

2. **Approval of minutes of the last meeting (UEMO 2007/ 029)**

The minutes were approved.

3. **Campaign for specialist recognition**

- Report from Ms Laura Rius Mendez

A letter was drafted at the beginning of summer. This letter detailed arguments in favour of Title 3 and was meant to help NMAs in their lobbying activities with national governments. During the summer the letter was seen and approved by the president and vice presidents and sent to delegations.

In April a new law in France recognised GP as a specialty.

The chairman thanked Ms Rius Mendez for her report.

- Report of the working party from Dr Jaime Correia de Sousa

Dr de Sousa acknowledged Roger Chapman's contribution especially the document he had produced. The group felt that the document would serve as an important tool in the lobbying process. An additional questionnaire was presented by Dr. De Sousa (see UEMO 2007/057). He wished to submit it to the plenary, and if accepted, wanted it sent to all delegations and to have answers in no later than 20th of December 2007.

- Information was lacking concerning several EU countries, who by the closing date had not responded to the first questionnaire:
 - Bosnia and Hercegovina
 - Greece
 - Estonia
 - Italy
 - Lithuania
 - Poland
 - Romania
 - Russia

A late answer had arrived from Greece.

UK

Dr. Terry John described the progress that had been made in the UK. The papers written by Dr. Chapman and Ms Rius Mendez had been a big help.

The first step was to take the campaign to the GPs' committee of the BMA where it was accepted. The next step was to involve the Royal College of GPs where support was secured. Discussion with the Department of Health was the most recent step. Negotiations have been slow and difficult but at last a senior person has come forward in the department who is prepared to put the matter on the agenda of issues that the British government is taking to

Europe. This has given the UK delegation a tremendous surge of hope in what is likely to be a painful and protracted campaign.

There are two things which give further cause for hope.

The European Forum (which has representatives from the profession and the government) meets next week and has the issue on its agenda.

The new training structure for all newly registered doctors (called Modernising Medical Careers or MMC), makes reference to General Practice as a specialty amongst others. This bolsters our argument that we must consider ourselves a legitimate specialty as we enter further negotiations.

Italy

There are two periods of training: the first lasts six years and the second three. GP teaching takes place for two weeks within the university for the first period; it takes place in 'regional units' for the second period. Teaching in the latter has not been satisfactory.

Portugal

We should concentrate on recognition of GP/FM. Now we have a way to proceed, recognising all the differences in our countries. Can we get our own colleges, ministries, politicians to support us?

Malta

Free movement of doctors within the EU is easy only for those who have the label 'specialists'! Malta recognised this and decided to 'convert' all its Title 4 GPs into 'specialist' GPs.

It set up a Specialist Accreditation Committee and every doctor who applied successfully to the committee was given the title. Hence Malta was seen to be acting pro-actively on behalf of its GPs, and the working party felt this was a good argument to deploy before hesitant governments.

UK

Can we now clearly specify the next steps the working party should take to make progress?

Portugal

- Do a follow up questionnaire and send the answers in before the deadline
- If a country's delegation needs help, ask for it from UEMO
- The way forward is through national organisations and authorities

Netherlands

Can we devise a standard letter in different languages which

- Describes possible blocks to progress
- Suggests where to get help in moving forward
- Lists details of countries which are having success?

The chair encouraged working party members to reply to the questionnaire and lobby their national governments. He said this would set a good example to the other delegations.

It was decided that these matters would be brought to the plenary for general approval.

UEMO – PRESIDENCY

*c/o Swedish Medical Association, P.O. Box 5610, Villagatan 5, SE-114 86 Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 790 34 52, Fax 46 8 20 57 18, E-mail: info@uemo.org*

4. Any other business

There were no matters.

The meeting ended at 4.10 pm.

Present at the meeting were members from

- Slovenia
- Croatia
- Germany
- Hungary
- Belgium
- Italy
- Portugal
- Sweden
- Spain
- Finland
- Czech Republic
- Iceland
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Luxembourg
- Austria
- United Kingdom