



The Newsletter of European Medical Specialists

26 May 2005

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- EP Vote in plenary session on the recognition of qualifications and the organisation of working time
- UEMS at a WHO-WFME Conference in Moscow
- After many contacts, France would re-enter into UEMS
- UEMS Compendium: Reminder

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Meeting with UEMS Sections & Boards

On 21 May last, the Presidents and Secretaries of UEMS S&B convened in Brussels.

Links with
UEMS Council

This meeting was an opportunity to discuss the representation of S&B delegates amongst UEMS Council as well as a possible cooperation in view of elaborating websites at a lower cost. A proposal would be made by the Executive after talks with UEMS web provider.

New proposal
for a definition
of the medical
act

UEMS S&B representatives also examined the two proposals for a definition of the medical act

(See D-0514). After intensive discussions and comments, the following proposal was drawn up:

“The medical act is the totality of the professional action (scientific, teaching, training and educational, clinical and medico-technical steps) performed to promote health, prevent diseases, provide diagnostic or therapeutic care to individuals, groups or communities and is the responsibility of, and must always be performed by a registered medical doctor/physician or under a medical doctor/physician’s supervision and prescription.”

This proposal would now be transmitted to UEMS Council, which would take a final decision on this issue during its meeting to be held in Munich on 21-22 October 2005.

The meeting also fully supported the Executive’s proposal to join

UEMS would
join “Guidelines
International
Network”

“Guidelines International Network” (GIN). With this network, UEMS S&B would be involved in drawing up guidelines in order to promote the quality of care and assure patient safety. The significant input that UEMS S&B would be able to provide in this respect was pointed to.

Dr. Borman, Chairman

Promoting Good
Medical Care

of the working group on CME/CPD, also presented the Policy of UEMS on the promotion of good medical care, which was adopted during the Council Meeting of October 2004. This presentation was an occasion to strongly defend medical specialists’ professionalism based on voluntary CPD.

The Executive of UEMS was happy to see such a large audience and

Acknowledgement from UEMS
Executive

would like to thank all the delegates for their presence and participation. This would help strengthening the links between the main bodies of UEMS, i.e. the Council and the Specialist S&B.

Outcomes of the EP May plenary session

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Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications

On 11 May last, MEPs, convened in plenary session, approved a set of amendments to the draft Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications. It is already clear from the informal discussions between MEPs, Commission officials and delegates from Council ("trilogue") that this set will be supported by the EU Council which would formally adopt this text during its meeting on 6-7 June. The European Commissioner for Services and Internal Market M. Charlie McCreevy welcomed this progress and acknowledged this excellent cooperation between the different EU Institutions.

The major breakthroughs from the EP decision are notably the following:

The 52 medical specialties already recognised would keep their "acquired rights" and would then not be affected. After the entry into force of the Directive, a threshold of 2/5 of Member States would be needed to launch the process for granting automatic recognition for new specialties.

A professional card would be made available for professionals and help

them to move easily. This card would contain information on the worker's career: training, experience, etc. and is destined to speed up the exchange of information between the country of origin and the host country.

Linguistic assessments could be carried out. It must though be reminded that, according to previous rulings from the European Court of Justice (notably the Hoczman Case G238/98), only a "communication level" can be required by Member States.

After the entry into force of this Directive, a "Recognition Committee" would be set up and would be assisted by experts from European professional organisations. UEMS was already assured to be involved in this consultation as it can provide a strong expert-knowledge through its Sections and Boards, notably on the level of training.

This expertise is based on a work laid down for many years now. The Executive of UEMS is currently looking into the question to take over the work realised by the Advisory Council for Medical Training (ACMT) and update the list of recognised specialties in Europe.

Directive amending the organisation of working time

The latest EP plenary session was also the opportunity for MEPs to vote the Report of Mr. Cercas on the draft Directive amending the organisation of working time. According to the EP proposal, EU Member States would lose current "opt-outs" after a 3-year transition period and the time spent by workers "on-call" will be counted as working time, i.e. within the 48-hour working week.

Moreover, when employers require greater flexibility by calculating working time over a 12-month period, stronger control by trade unions in concluding agreements would be provided for.

The European Commission (DG Employment and Social Affairs), which

defended the possibility to "opt-out" on an individual basis where collective agreements were not possible, was not really enthusiastic after this vote.

For recall, UEMS, in a recent motion adopted during its March Council meeting, defended the right for doctors in training to be derogated from the individual "opt-out" possibility even though "it is in the interest of medical specialists to have the possibility to work more than the average 48 weekly hours".

The Executive of UEMS remains careful with regard to this issue and will keep you fully informed of the next progress.

"It facilitates free movement of professionals, while safeguarding training standards and protecting the consumer"

Stefano ZAPPALA

EP Rapporteur for the Recognition Directive

UEMS represented at all-Russia national meeting of Rectors of Medical Schools

WHO/Europe and WFME (World Federation for Medical Education) along with Russian authorities organised a meeting in Moscow on 13&14 April 2005 for Rectors and Deans of Russian Medical Academies and Schools.

This meeting convened around 150 participants and included talks from international experts within medical education. These included Dr. Hannu Halila, President of UEMS, who gave a talk on the recognition of medical specialties in the EU countries and the role of UEMS in the field of postgraduate training and CME/CPD in Europe. This talk was very well received and created interesting discussion.

Russian medical schools want to develop their education so that it fulfils the EU criteria and this was partly background for the meeting.

The meeting also focussed on the WFME global standards for medical education that were presented by Dr. Hans Karle, President of WFME and Professor Janet Grant from the Open University Centre for Education in Medicine, United Kingdom.

This meeting was also useful in making connections between UEMS and WHO/Europe as well as the Russian authorities.

UEMS invited to present the European system of recognition and CME at a WHO-WFME Conference in Moscow

White smoke from Paris

In N-0403 (27/10/2004), we announced the dismissal of the "Union Nationale des Médecins Spécialistes Confédérés" (French organisation) from UEMS.

Since then, many contacts were in force, especially within UEMS Sections, in order to reintegrate France amongst the member countries of UEMS. These contacts led to several meetings between UEMS Executive, notably Dr. Bernard Maillet, Secretary General of UEMS, and French representatives and more particularly their President Dr. Jean-François Rey.

We were recently pleased to be in-

formed of the French intention to pay for UMESPE's debt and apply to be reintegrated within UEMS.

The UMESPE delegation addressed a letter to UEMS Executive stressing their wish to remain the representatives of France within UEMS Council.

The Executive of UEMS is delighted to inform you of these recent progresses and hopes to see this process through at the Council meeting in Munich (21-22 October 2005). UEMS Executive would also like to thank all those who were involved in this process, especially the delegates amongst UEMS Sections and Boards.

UMESPE would apply to re-enter into UEMS

UEMS Compendium



The Executive of UEMS would like to warmly thank the contributors to UEMS Compendium.

As many articles are still missing, we would like to take the opportunity to remind the importance of this publication for the UEMS, its Member Associations and Sections & Boards.

We also fear that these efforts would be useless if some Member Associa-

tions or Sections fail to comply with this request. It would indeed look inappropriate to issue an incomplete edition.

We would then kindly invite you to send your contributions before 31st of May.

Looking forward to receiving your article,

Dr. Leonard Harvey
Editor-in-chief

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UEMS ON THE WEB:

WWW.UEMS.NET

Events - Conferences - Seminars

Medicines Research - Driving Europe's Health

Brussels, 1-3 June 2005

European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations

www.efpia.org

Stakeholders workshop on advanced therapies and tissue engineering

Brussels, 7 June 2005

European Commission - DG Enterprise

<http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/advtherapies/index.htm>

Europe's Global Leadership on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Luxembourg, 17 June 2005

IPPF European Network

www.ippfen.org

Euregenethy: clinical gene therapy

Paris, 20-21 June 2005

"Ecole Normale de Cachan" & Eurocancer

www.mcocongres.com

European Conference on Rare Diseases

Luxembourg, 21-22 June 2005

European Organisation for Rare Diseases

www.rare-luxembourg2005.org

Community Mental Health Care

Bratislava, 23-24 June 2005

Psychiatric Association of Slovak Medical Association

www.ephpa.org

Future meetings

UEMS Council

Munich, 20-21 October 2005

Brussels, 11 March 2006

EACCME Advisory Council

Brussels, 26 November 2005

The voice of practising medical specialists in Europe