UEMS 2007/12

Draft Report of the Secretary-General October 2007
for the Meeting of the UEMS-Council
Bratislava, 12-13 October 2007

0. Introduction.

In 2007 the presence of members of the Extended Executive in various arenas of the medical professional world was again intensified. The Executive worked very collegially and intensely on various issues with of course some particular fields of interests for each of its members. This networking activity is worthwhile since it increases the UEMS’s visibility and strengthens our input in the decisionmaking pathways. The EACCME activities were again strongly emphasised and we could again notice a marked increase in the number of applications for European Accreditation. In this field, the transparency and openness of the process are key issues of its success.

1 - New Members.

This year Bulgaria and Romania were “upgraded” to Full members following their entry in the European Union on January 1st. Contacts that have been made last year have resulted in the application of Lithuania for Full Membership which is on the agenda of the Bratislava meeting. There is a very strong support for this application by the different Specialist Societies in Lithuania. Israel and Georgia became Associated Members in 2006. Contacts are still on the way with Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia), Serbia and Armenia.

2 - European Issues.

The Directive on Recognition of Qualifications comes into force on October 27th 2007. Some important issues have to be looked at like the update of different specialties with regard to their denomination and the length of training. In this respect the update by the different Sections of their Chapter VI is of utmost importance. For the European Working Time Directive (EWTD), some issues are not clear at this moment, more particularly the implementation of it by the different Member States. What will the Commission do if a large majority of Member States are not compliant to the rules? Will infringement measures follow?

The UEMS has answered the questions asked by the European Commission concerning the Health Service Directive in the Green Paper. The Commission is now compiling all the different answers into a White Paper, which is expected to be launched at the end of the year. We will take note of this document and react to it according to our views on the subject.
3 - Revision of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

According to the Belgian Law our Statutes and Rules of Procedures were updated and reviewed in 2005. At the Bratislava meeting, we will discuss some procedural matters organizing the elections of the representatives of the Groupings representing the Sections in the Council.

In the near future, amendments to the Rules of Procedures have to be envisaged concerning the designation of subspecialty groups in a Section. The term Divisions seems more appropriate than Subsection, Commission and other designations used in the Sections up to now.

4 - European Organisations.

4.1 European Medical Organisations.

The relations with the other European Medical Organisations were continued and developed in a constructive way.

The UEMS is taking part in several joint Working Groups set up by the CPME together with the other EMO’s on issues such as CME-CPD, Patient Safety or Health services. The collaboration with PWG with regard to medical training within the UEMS Sections and Boards is already quite efficient and should still be developed into more active participation of the PWG delegates in the activity of the UEMS Sections and Boards.

Concerning EACCME, some contacts with UEMO are still preserved but no decision was taken until now concerning a more formal cooperation between UEMS-EACCME and UIEMO in this matter.

4.2 European Health Professional Organisations.

On the initiative of HOPE (The European Hospital and Healthcare Federation), several European Organisations representing Health Professionals, among which the UEMS, were invited to an informal roundtable to exchange information and views on the various issues at stake. It concerned mainly informal meetings with free discussion sessions. The UEMS hosted the meeting on June 6th and there was another meeting on September 28th.

4.3 Other European Organisations.

Through its secretariat in Brussels, the UEMS was able to make and maintain informal contacts with different stakeholders and associations.

The UEMS participates actively in Medine, a Thematic Network funded by the European Commission on Medical Education in Europe. I am a member of the Executive of Medine and as the Secretary General of our organization I convey our views on Post Graduate Training and CME-CPD. Our Past-President, Hannu Halila and other UEMS delegates participated actively in the update of the WFME Books on the three phases of Medical Life by editing a book on the European Specifications of these guidelines.

5 - UEMS Sections and Boards.

The contacts with the different UEMS Sections and Boards have been intensified in 2006 and also in 2007. This resulted in a better understanding of the role, goals and aims of these very important structures of the UEMS.
The White Book edited by the Section of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine is a good example of a document that can be used to promote and harmonize the practice of a Specialty throughout Europe.

6 - Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee met on 13 January, 23 and 24 February, 9 March, 25 May 5 July and 30 August. At the meeting in March held before the Management Council as well as in May at the occasion of the Meetings of the Sections and Boards, the Vice Presidents were also invited.

Focus of attention were the document proposed by our President on the Future Strategy of the UEMS, the different Directives and the Structure of the UEMS. Some time was also devoted to the preparation of the Ceremony for the 50 years of UEMS in April 2008.

7 - EACCME:

The number of applications for European accreditation is increasing steadily (by about 40 % each year).

Serious efforts are made also to increase the number of agreements with our different UEMS Sections and Accreditation Boards as well as with the National Accreditation Authorities.

However many EU Member States are still missing in the list of countries having signed an agreement with UEMS-EACCME.

One of the major recent achievements is the agreement signed with the American Medical Association for a mutual recognition of credits for a period of 4 years starting on July 1st 2006. This strengthens the position of UEMS-EACCME.

8 - UEMS website:

Unfortunately, due to technical problems our website could not be updated as it should have been, but major efforts are undertaken to improve this. Following the start up of the website for the applications for European Accreditation, the same provider will revise the actual website so that it could more easily updated.

9 - NewsLetters.

Similar technical problems made it impossible to continue the frequency of our NewsLetters that appeared to be a very important promotional tool for UEMS-EACCME. Only two NewsLetters could be edited this year in contrast with the many editions we had in 2006.

Efforts will also be undertaken to improve this.

10 Secretariat.

The Staff remained unchanged despite the enormous increase in workload occasioned by on the one hand the political tasks we have to undertake and on the other hand the steady increase in the applications for European Accreditation we experience.

The Director for EU Affairs and Assistant to the Secretary General has been promoted to Acting Chief Executive Officer to enable the Secretary General to fulfill his duties in representing the UEMS either in the structures of the UEMS as well as outside our Organization.
List of meetings attended by the Secretary General.

2007

January 12 : Meeting Executive Board Medine – Bristol.
January 13 : Meeting UEMS Executive – Brussels
January 18-21 : Meeting Alliance for CME – Phoenix (Arizona USA)
January 26 : Meeting with IPULS (Swedish Accreditation Authority) – Stockholm.
January 27 : Meeting of the International Committee Belgian Academy for Medicine – Brussels.
February 2 : Meeting Core Group Medine TaskForce 2 – Brussels
February 7 : Meeting Informal Group Health Professionals EFN – Brussels
February 9 : Meeting CESME (Glasgow Declaration) – Glasgow.
February 11-12 : Meeting Executive Board Medine – Heraklion.
February 23-24 : Meeting Executive and Working Group Structure of the UEMS – Brussels
February 24 : Meeting Section Gastro-Enterology and UEGF – Vienna.
March 3 : Meeting MJC Sport Medicine.
March 5 : Meeting European Task Force on CME – Rome.
March 9-10 : Meeting Executive and Council UEMS – Brussels.
March 16-17 : Meeting Council CPME – Warchaw.
March 20 : Meeting DG Sanco – Luxembourg.
March 23-24 : Meeting of the Section of Neurology – Luxembourg.
March 28 : Round Table Meeting on Endometriosis – European Parliament – Brussels
March 30-31 : Meeting of the Section of PRM – Rennes (France)
April 1 : Meeting of the ESCMID – Munich.
April 12 : Meeting of the Federation of Surgical Disciplines – London
April 20-21 : Meeting of the EFMA – Lisbon.
April 25 : Meeting with Dr. Mike Watson and Ian Starke (RCPhy) – London
April 27-28 : Meeting of the Section of Psychiatry – Izmir (Turkey).
May 2 : Meeting of CME – PGT – Medical Association of Malta.
May 4-5 : Meeting PWG – Nice (France).
May 11-12 : General Assembly Medine – Oslo.
May 15 : Meeting with the Lithuanian Medical Association for Application to UEMS – Vilnius.

May 18-19 : Meeting North-America and Europe on CME – Rome


May 25 – 26 : Meeting of the Executive and Sections and Boards – Brussels.

May 27 : Meeting of the Section of Clinical Neurophysiology – Brussels.

May 29-30 : Meeting on CME – Bergamo (Italy).

June 2 : Meeting of the Section of Pathology – Ghent (Belgium).

June 6 : Meeting of the Informal Group of Health Care Professionals UEMS – Brussels.

June 10-12 : Meeting of the GAME – New York.

June 13 : Worklunch at the European Parliament on MRI – Brussels

June 14 : Presidents Committee European Medical Organisations – Mondorff les Bains (Luxembourg)

June 15 : Meeting with the Presidents of the 3 CME Committees in France – Paris.

June 16 : Meeting CESME (Glasgow Declaration) – Brussels

June 21-22 : Meeting of the Section of Nephrology – Barcelona.


June 30 : Meeting of the Section of Neurosurgery – Brussels


August 26-28 : Meeting on CME – London.

August 30 : UEMS Executive Meeting - Brussels

September 1 : Meeting of the MJC Sport Medicine – Athens.

September 10 : Meeting of the European Task Force on CME - Rome

September 13-16 : General Assembly and Closing meeting of Medine – Antalya.

September 18 : Meeting of the European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery – Geneva.

September 22 : Meeting of the Danish Delegates to the UEMS Sections – Copenhagen.

September 26 : Meeting of the Dutch Delegates to the UEMS Sections – Utrecht.

September 29-30 : Meeting of the Section of Geriatric Medicine – Francfurt.

October 4 : Meeting of SofMer (Société Française de PRM) – Saint-Malo

October 6 : Meeting of the MJC in Intensive Care Medicine – Berlin.

October 9 : Meeting on CME – Brussels.