



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

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UEMS 2011/24

MEETING OF THE UEMS BOARD

REPORT

*Meeting held at the **Regus Airport Meeting Center - Brussels***

*Box 75
BE – 1930 Zaventem (Belgium)*

Brussels, 24th May 2011

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 24th May 2011

From 14.00 to 15.30

Further to the Extraordinary Council Meeting aiming at adopting the statutes in accordance with the Belgian Law, an informal meeting of the Board was held in order to discuss current issues of the organisation.

1. UEMS Brussels Office

Dr Fras started the discussion with the issue of shortage of staff in the UEMS Brussels Office. There are currently 5 persons working in the office: Dr Maillet (0.5 FTE), Mr Destrebecq (1 FTE), Ms Reychler (0.5 FTE), Ms Paulus (0.8 FTE) and Mr Rouffet (1 FTE).

Dr Borman explained that due to the increase of UEMS-EACCME[®] activities, it was very difficult to continue to handle all the applications efficiently. He therefore urged the Executive to recruit 0.5 FTE immediately and 1 FTE in a near future. According to him, the credibility as well as the financial sustainability of the UEMS were at stake since it was not able to deal properly and timely with requests from providers. The continuous increase in CME applications was said to make the workload for one person unmanageable.

Dr Borman also reminded that half of the income of the UEMS came from the UEMS-EACCME[®] applications. As also stated by the EACCME taskforce, it was urgent to provide the UEMS Office with enough resource (particularly in terms of staffing) to support and ensure a satisfactory quality management of CME applications.

Dr Borman feared that 10 years after the launch of the UEMS-EACCME[®], the reputation of the UEMS would be damaged because of a lack of staff to handle the applications properly.

Dr Fras added that currently 200 events were still pending and that emails of complaints from providers were circulated. He also pointed out that some reviewers were not doing the evaluations in due time and therefore needed to be contacted by phone.

Dr Berchicci informed the members of the Board about the rules on VAT and non-profit organisations and how these could possibly have an impact on the recruitment capacities and future financial sustainability of the UEMS. According to him, the UEMS should reduce its expenses in order to remain in the medium-size category of associations and avoid paying VAT. For the time being, it was not clear whether the Belgian tax authorities would impose that VAT be applied to accreditation of CME activities. He therefore suggested limiting the UEMS CME activities to the accreditation of congresses or conferences organised in the interest of colleagues.

Dr Fras explained that the Office was currently seeking advice from a tax and legal expert whose conclusions were expected soon. The UEMS President expected to provide additional information at the next Council meeting in Naples. He therefore also proposed waiting until a final conclusion is provided before deciding on the further steps to take.

As per the shortage of staff, Dr Fras required the Secretariat to start the recruitment process for one additional member of staff to be employed for a fixed-term contract. On the short term, Dr Fras required to recruit temporary staff, possibly through an Interim Agency, in order to clear all the pending events from the EACCME website.

2. UEMS-ECAMSQ[®] developments

Dr Fras gave an update on the pilot tests organised in several medical specialties in the framework of the UEMS-ECAMSQ[®]. On 13th May, a second pilot test was organised in Anaesthesiology in order to test the e-platform supporting the competence assessment. Over 130 trainees from 10 different countries took part in this test which was a real success.

Two additional pilot tests are still to be organised: in Radiology and in Cardiology. The latter will be facilitated through the British Cardiovascular Society knowledge-based exam in June.

3. Subaccounts

Dr Fras reported to the Board background information with regard to the ongoing process of creating subaccounts for the UEMS Sections. Further to the Council Meeting in Prague, wrong information was circulated about this issue which needed to be clarified. The subaccounts will be introduced as a way to comply with the UEMS Statutes while at the same time facilitating the transfer of funds from the UEMS Brussels Office and the Sections (e.g. EACCME reimbursement). This process is also meant to increase transparency of financial management within the UEMS and within its constituent bodies. It needs to be emphasised that according to the Statutes, the Specialist Sections & Boards have no legal standing on their own and therefore cannot have their own accounts legally.

The idea was that these subaccounts will be managed by the Treasurer of the Section and overviewed and facilitated by the UEMS Brussels office.

4. VAT

It was reminded that the UEMS was not officially registered as a VAT tax payer and this in spite of the increasing volume of applications received for EACCME accreditation. The idea to establish a distinct entity to deal with this properly was said to be explored. Anyhow, the Executive made clear that it was considering all options available in order to bring the most appropriate solution in the best interest of UEMS.

Dr Krajewski pointed out that a similar problem arose in Poland. After consulting several experts, it was found out that no definite solution to this problem existed other than those provided by the tax authorities.

Dr Maillet added that the UEMS should gather as much information as possible before asking the tax authorities in order to have strong arguments to present in the case of need.

5. Any other business

Dr Frasn explained that he and Dr Maillet were most unfortunately unable to attend the meeting of the EMO's Alliance in Kos (Greece) on 10th June 2011 as it collided with the next meeting of the UEMS Executive.

Dr Borman pointed to the Conference on CME-CPD to be organised by the UEMS in November. Seeing the importance of such an event, he pleaded for a proper agenda to be established as well as a definite date be settled, ideally on the day before the Advisory Council on CME. Whilst these points were still under discussion, they will be confirmed on a very short notice once agreed by the UEMS Executive.