



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

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UEMS Annual Report 2003

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1 – Introduction – the position of UEMS in the profession in Europe

UEMS aims to harmonise and improve the quality of medical specialist healthcare in Europe. These goals are pursued with the collaboration of other European Medical/Scientific Associations. The core of this network is the UEMS Specialist Sections/European Boards. Informal meetings and close collaboration contributed to improve contacts with these associations.

Also, there is a growing need to improve the visibility of UEMS. This was achieved with our new website.

2 – Management Council of UEMS

The Management Council of the UEMS met in Brussels on 22 March 2003 and in Ljubljana on 17-18 October 2003. In the October meeting the Cyprus Medical Association was admitted as associate member of the UEMS and the Israel Medical Association was accepted as an observer. Contacts were also undertaken with the Lithuanian Medical Association, which remains the only one not to be represented at UEMS. But these attempts remained unsuccessful.

The key role of the Sections and Boards in the working of the UEMS was stressed and the delegates of the three groups were present at both meetings.

The liaison officers for and from UEMS to the European Medical Associations were also present and participated each time in the debates.

— The discussion concerning position and structure of the UEMS was continued. Changes in UEMS structure were discussed, but it was decided to maintain the present structure of the Executive Committee and Vice-Presidents. More tasks will be allocated to the Vice-Presidents.

- Following the efforts made in 2002, much energy has been given by the Executive Committee and the secretariat to the matter of the Proposal by the European Commission for a fundamental change in the Directive concerning the exchange of medical diplomas in the European Union.
- Concerning the EACCME® : the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education started in 1999 and coming into operation in 2000 have reinforced the involvement of the UEMS in Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development. The aim is now to have a formal agreement on mutual recognition of credits throughout Europe and this was started by the signing in Ljubljana in October 2003 of two agreements : one with the Spanish Medical Association and one with the Cyprus Medical Association. Contacts are undertaken to try to continue this work so that the process will be more harmonized and easier for all stakeholders in the accreditation process.

3 – Executive Committee of UEMS

The Executive Committee met 6 times during the year 2003, 3 times together with the vice-presidents.

Main points of attention of the Executive Committee in the year 2003 remained the same as in 2002:

- Future structure of the UEMS;
- The Proposal for a new Directive concerning the free exchange of doctors in the European Union, replacing the "Doctors Directive" 93/16/EC and its amendments;
- Matters involving the UEMS Specialist Sections;
- The development of CME/CPD (Continuing Professional Development) policy, the EACCME (European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education);
- The relation with the European institutions, particularly with the new Directorate for Health and Consumer Protection;
- The relations with other European Medical Associations, especially the CPME.

4 – National Medical Associations (see website)

The reports by the delegations to UEMS of the national member associations concerning the situation in their countries in the year 2003 will be published on the website as soon as they are available.

The 2003 overview of the situation concerning Continuing Medical Education in the member states will be also published on the website. Its importance has made it a full document and will not be considered as an addendum of the EACCME yearly report any longer.

5 – Working Groups UEMS Management Council

The Management Council Working Groups were established in September 2000 for a 2 year period.

Their work was reviewed in the Management Council meeting of October 2003.

5.a Working Group on Postgraduate Training

This group is now chaired by Dr. Fras (Slovenia). The group was continuing to upgrade Chapter 6 of the UEMS Charter on Postgraduate Training after some sections (Pediatrics, Surgery and Neurosurgery) has requested further changes. Chapter 6 will be finalised soon. The Working Group will consider assessing the topic of the status and position concerning the European Board Examinations. This assessment will then be proposed to the Management Council for discussion.

5.b Working Group on CME/CPD

The Working Group on CME/CPD is chaired by Dr Borman (UK). This group is now working on quality assurance of CME. This document was extensively discussed in Ljubljana and will be proposed to the next Management Council after consultation of the National Member Organisations.

This group was also given a mandate to continue.

5.c Working Group on Quality of Patient Care D 0254)

This group, chaired by Dr Peter Theuvenet (Netherlands) had not met in 2003. The questionnaire sent yielded only 8 responses. This working group will focus more specifically on developing an effective specialist quality policy program.

5.d Working Group on Specialist Practice

This Working Group experienced still some problems. Therefore it was proposed to terminate the current work and to establish a new Working Group on statutes, rules and procedures and looking particularly to issues concerning the enlargement of the Union.

5.e Working Group on Relations with Sections and Boards

The system of representation of Sections and Boards to the Management Council appears to be working well and do not require any major change until it had been given a chance to work. There are still some communication problems but of course this are child diseases and can be solved in the future.

6 – UEMS Specialist Sections (D 0340)

A detailed overview of the activities of the UEMS Specialist Sections is given in D 0340. On 10 May 2003 the Presidents/Secretaries of the Sections/Boards met with the Executive Committee. This meeting was well attended with also many observers from associated medical bodies being present. The reports are available under no D 0324 and D 0347. There have been frequent and fruitful contacts between representatives of the Sections and members of the Executive Committee throughout the year 2003 as well.

7 – European Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education, EACCME®

○ **The Advisory Council for CME of the UEMS**, the steering body of the EACCME, convened in Brussels on 26 November 2003. This meeting is intended to join the delegates of the National Authorities on Continuing Medical Education of the member states and the UEMS Executive Committee. The meeting was attended by Dr D.K.Wentz, Director of the CME/CPD Department of the AMA (American Medical Association).

The report of the meeting will be published on the website.

There is a continuous increase in the number of requests. Following the decision of the Management Council of March 2003 the sliding scale system for subscription fees was introduced on April 1st 2004.

- Our agreement with the AMA for mutual recognitions of the credits works well.
- The UEMS has signed an formal agreement on mutual recognition of credits with the National Accreditation Authorities of Spain and Cyprus and this signature took place during the meeting of the Advisory Council in November 2003.
- The EACCME annual report 2003 will be published separately.

– EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

○ **DG SANCO (Directorate Health and Consumer Protection), European Health Forum:**

The UEMS has been putting emphasis on its relation with the Directorate of Health and Consumer Protection and it participates in the European Health Forum of this Directorate. Meetings of the Forum took place on 6 June and 5 December 2003.

A document on Mobility of Health Professionals was produced by the European Health Policy Forum together with CPME and other Organisations of Health Professionals.

○ **DG MARKT (Directorate Internal Market), Directive proposal on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications:**

During the last months, the Executive Committee was rather concerned with the possible consequences of this Directive for the practising medical doctors, especially the specialists. Several MEPs were met in order to discuss these possible problems. Afterwards, several amendments were proposed.

Due to the hectic developments this Directive proposal has known (rejection of the Zappala report in the EP committee and drafting of a renewed text), it is hard to say when it would enter into force. Contacts were kept with MEPs and other medical organisations in order to ensure a concerted action.

9 - European Medical Associations and Societies

○ **Comité Permanent des Médecins Européens (CPME) (D 0329, D 0348):**

CPME General Assemblies notably focussed on the following points:

- The directive proposal on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications: drafting of amendments to submit to Mr. Zappala, setting up of working groups;
- Several policy statements, such as on clinical risk management, the quality of the prescription, the free movement of patients, the management of patient safety, the quality and safety of human tissues and cells;
- Several surveys and notably on the secondary prevention of ischemic heart disease in the elderly;
- CPME's involvement in the European Commission's High Level Process of Reflection on Patient Mobility and Healthcare Development in the EU;
- The dialogue with European Patient's Platform;
- A response to the draft EU Constitutional Treaty;
- A number of issues also remaining in progress such as:
 - projects of policy statements on financing CME/CPD, ethics and discipline in the medical profession;
 - lobbying to Convention members in order to keep health as a social objective of the EU Constitutional Treaty as well as a shared competence;
 - the European Health Insurance Card.

○ **European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO) (D 0332):**

Dr. Lamy attended UEMO General Assembly in Stockholm in May 2003. The main issues dealt with at UEMO General Assemblies were: the Patient Safety and the European Health Action Programme (2003-2008). UEMO working groups also reported on the quality insurance, CME/CPD and medical informatics.

○ **Permanent Working Group of Junior Doctors (PWG) ():**

10 – UEMS Secretariat

○ **Secretariat:** Regarding the staff of the Secretariat, Ms. Degotte retired at the end of 2002 and has not been replaced yet. Despite this, Ms. Reychler, our Managing Director, and Ms. Paulus, our secretary, ran the Secretariat very well especially as regards the rising number of submissions for accreditation. Moreover, investments in infrastructure will have to be continued in order to meet the increasing requirements (the website, accreditation and the Specialists Sections notably).

○ **Website:** UEMS website remained a priority for 2003 in order to improve our visibility. It is now recognised as a major source of reference for specialist medicine in Europe.