



The Newsletter of European Medical Specialists

NEW DATES FOR THE NEXT MEETINGS
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UEMS 2008 / 06

17th October 2008

Outcomes of the UEMS Council Meeting Copenhagen, 9th-11th October 2008

Editorial

Dear Readers,

The UEMS Newsletter is eventually back to present the latest news from the UEMS after the Council meeting in Copenhagen.

This issue of our Newsletter gives an overview of all the items covered, the decisions taken and documents adopted on that occasion.

Many issues of importance to medical specialists were also identified during that meeting. All efforts will be pursued to address the challenges lying ahead and ensure a bright and healthy future for all in Europe.

Frédéric Destrebecq
Acting Chief Executive Officer

From 9th and 11th October last, the Board and Council of UEMS convened in Copenhagen. This Meeting was the occasion to discuss major items of interest to the medical profession and currently active on the European agenda. Elections for a new Executive were also held in Copenhagen.

The main issues dealt with at the UEMS Council notably included:

- The UEMS Action Plan for 2009
- A Resolution on cross-border healthcare in the European Union
- The accreditation of e-Learning by the EACCME
- A Statement on European Principles for Medical Ethics



- A Statement on armed conflict
- A Resolution on the internal problems faced by the CPME - one of the UEMS sister-organisations.

Important discussions were also held on various issues of importance, such as: the directives on working time and professional qualifica-

tions, as well as e-Health, notably with the kick-off meeting of the UEMS working group on that particular subject.

An extensive coverage of the main decisions taken during that meeting is provided in this issue. Further information is also available on the [UEMS website](#).

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The newly-elected UEMS Executive



Dr Zlatko Fras
President



Dr Bernard Maillet
Secretary-General



Dr Gerd Hofmann
Liaison Officer



Dr Giorgio Berchicci
Treasurer

Dr Ricard Gutiérrez (ES) - Dr Romuald Krajewski (PL)
Dr Zoltán Magyar (HU) - Dr Kari Pylkkänen (FI)
Vice-Presidents

The new UEMS Executive will commence office on 1st January 2009.

The UEMS Action Plan for 2009 unanimously adopted!

The Action Plan for 2009, which aims to start the implementation of the UEMS Strategy, was unanimously adopted by the Members of Council in Copenhagen. This document defines the key priorities and objectives to be pursued and achieved in each of the UEMS Key Areas of interest set out in the Strategy.

KEY AREA	OBJECTIVES
1. POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE	<i>Development of lobbying, public relations and expert-knowledge to provide sound background for evidence-based policy-making</i>
2. HARMONIZATION of POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING in EUROPE	<i>Establishment of the cycle for setting standards for PGMST Having up-to-date review about the PGMST programmes in European countries Consultations on harmonization of PGMST to other European bodies European examinations and Fellowships</i>
3. COORDINATION of CME / CPD in EUROPE	<i>Define and disseminate the general standards for CME/CPD activities and for granting credit points Define the feasible and consensually agreed procedure for granting the credit points for CME/CPD activities in Europe Establish the central web-based database of CME/CPD activities Having up-to-date review on the CME/CPD situation in European countries</i>
5. DATA ANALYSIS	<i>Define & perform the 1st pan-European Survey</i>
7. LEADERSHIP and MANAGEMENT	<i>Management Structure Personnel</i>
8. MARKETING, IDENTITY and ENHANCED FINANCIAL STABILITY	<i>Define the potential public / commercial bodies Define the ways of communicating with such bodies Assure appropriate structure for communication and marketing Define financial resources besides membership fees</i>
9. CORPORATE IDENTITY	<i>Analysis of the current UEMS image Developing a plan to improve the UEMS already established corporate identity Improving the existing UEMS external corporate identity - visual image Improving UEMS corporate communication - increasing awareness of the organisation</i>

Full documents: [UEMS 2008/38](#) - Action Plan for 2009
[UEMS 2008/05](#) - UEMS Strategy

Annual Report of Dr Bernard Maillet, Secretary-General

In Copenhagen, the UEMS Council was reported by the UEMS Secretary-General Dr Bernard Maillet on the main activities carried by the organisation during the past few months.

This report notably pointed to the successful celebration of the UEMS 50th Anniversary earlier in the year. This was viewed as a tremendous improvement of the UEMS visibility, particularly in its main domains of activity and interest. The launch of the new EACCME online application form is also said to have contributed

to this end.

Dr Maillet also points to the enlargement of the UEMS Membership, which now extended its reach beyond the Black Sea.

The UEMS activities in major European issues as well as its cooperation with other stakeholders is also developed in minute detail.

The activities of the UEMS Sections & Boards are also detailed, notably in regard to European examinations ("CESMA"), the Alliance for MRI, and the elaboration of core curricula, such as the White Book in Physical

**He that would have the fruit
must climb the tree !**



Thomas Fuller, MD (1732)

and Rehabilitation Medicine. Future perspectives are also set out as regards Dr Maillet's vision for the future. He particularly emphasised the need to strengthen the relationship with the S&B and to increase the organisation's visibility.

Full document: [UEMS 2008/37](#) - Interim Report of the Secretary-General

The UEMS Resolution on cross-border healthcare in the European Union

While meeting in Copenhagen, the Members of UEMS Council adopted a Resolution on cross-border care further to their debate during the Discussion Forum. This session contributed to identifying key issues of importance for medical specialists in Europe and which were taken over in the Resolution.

This document sets out the position of the UEMS regarding the EC proposal on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. While the UEMS welcomes this initiative, as a guarantee for patients to access safe, timely and high-quality healthcare within the EU, and supports the mobility of both patients and health professionals, a few items were further clarification was deemed necessary were pointed to.

Clarity is requested on the following issues:

- the equity of EU citizens in ac-

cessing healthcare as close to their home as possible;

- The cross-border sharing of data;
- The conditions of reimbursement;

EU Institutions and Member States are called upon to:

- Ensure a close collaboration between health systems;
- Guarantee that mobility is driven by no other reason than medical opinion or patient choice;
- Empower patients and professionals with valid information;
- Secure appropriate funding of health systems and genuine healthcare planning;
- Further address the issue of professional liability;
- Clarify and harmonise the conditions under which prior authorisation must be sought and/or granted;
- Revise the professional qualifica-

tions' directive (2005/36/EC) as outlined in the Fourth and draft Fifth Report of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training (ACMT);

- Acknowledge the medical profession's commitment, initiatives and expert knowledge in addressing the issues of: quality improvement, assurance and control; continuity of care; post-graduate medical specialist training; continuing medical education and professional development

Besides, the UEMS commits itself to further elaborating its position, notably by means of a wide consultation of its constituent and associated bodies.

Full document: [UEMS 2008/47 - UEMS Resolution on cross-border healthcare in the European Union](#)

The Accreditation of e-Learning Materials by the EACCME

In Copenhagen, the Members of UEMS Council endorsed the policy document which will enable the European Accreditation for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) to accredit e-Learning materials as from next year. The document adopted sets out a certain number of criteria for evaluating and certifying the quality of e-Learning materials and will make the UEMS-EACCME the world leader in this domain.

The document in question will now serve as a basis for the EACCME to develop the accreditation of these materials at the European level.

Providers will notably be compelled to conduct needs assessment and define expected educational outcomes prior to applying for EACCME accreditation. The target audience of the materials will also have to be clearly identified.

While the content of the materials shall have to be evidence-based and fully referenced, no bias of any nature nor advertising will be admitted. The confidentiality and privacy will have to be respected and all ethical, medico-legal and legal requirements must be complied with.

Accreditation criteria also include a full disclosure on the designer of the material, the source of funding and the responsible medical practitioner.

Besides, all materials submitted for accreditation will need to be quality-assured, notably through a confirmation by an authoritative independent expert who will have to provide a declaration on potential conflicts of interest.

The document provides that the evaluation of the materials shall be carried by 2 designated EACCME assessors. They shall examine the

quality and independence of contents according to the criteria mentioned above. A procedure of appeal is also provided for.

The UEMS-EACCME will now work on implementing this document in concrete terms. Further developments on the EACCME online application will have to be made.

Accreditation of e-Learning materials should start at the beginning of January 2009.

Full document: [UEMS 2008/20 - The Accreditation of e-Learning Materials by the EACCME](#)



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NEW DATES FOR THE NEXT MEETINGS

**UEMS SECTIONS &
BOARDS (Brussels)
21st Feb. 2009**

**UEMS COUNCIL
(Brussels)
24th-25th April 2009**

**For further
information
on issues covered
in this Newsletter,
do not hesitate to
contact the UEMS
Secretariat.**

OTHER DOCUMENTS ENDORSED AND ADOPTED



UEMS 2008/39
Practice guidelines regarding conflict of interest in the relationship between European neurologists and pharmaceutical industry

Practice guidelines regarding conflict of interest in the relationship between European neurologists and pharmaceutical industry

UEMS 2008/39

This document drafted by the UEMS Section and European Board of Neurology was endorsed by UEMS Council.



UEMS 2008/40
Palliative Care in Neurology

Palliative Care in Neurology

UEMS 2008/40

This document drafted by the UEMS Section and European Board of Neurology was endorsed by UEMS Council.



UEMS 2008/41
Compulsory treatment in the Community

Compulsory treatment in the Community

UEMS 2008/41

This document drafted by the UEMS Section of Psychiatry was endorsed by UEMS Council.



UEMS 2008/43
Amended Rules of Procedure

Amended Rules of Procedure

UEMS 2008/43

Amendments to the UEMS Rules of Procedure were approved in order to clarify the financial issues relating to the activities undertaken by Members of the UEMS Executive or any other UEMS representatives.



UEMS 2008/44
UEMS Statement on armed conflict

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UEMS 2008/44

Further to the request from the Georgian Association of Medical Specialists, the UEMS Council approved a statement on armed conflict.



UEMS 2008/45
UEMS Statement on European Principles for Medical Ethics

UEMS Statement on European Principles for Medical Ethics

UEMS 2008/45

This document was prepared by the WG on quality in patient care under the coordination of its Rapporteur Dr Giorgio Berchicci (Vice-President) and sets out the basis to define European ethical principles applicable to the medical profession.



UEMS 2008/48
UEMS Resolution on the CPME internal difficulties

UEMS Resolution on the CPME internal difficulties

UEMS 2008/48

Upon proposal by the Panhellenic Medical Association, the UEMS Council discussed the internal problems within the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) and expressed its support towards a pacific solution of these divergences.