History of UEMS

50 Year Anniversary
Five Phases

1. Foundation
2. Sections & Boards
3. EC & Doctors’ Directives
4. Expansion & Diversity
5. EACCME
Foundation

20th July 1958

Instigators:

Dr Jacques Courtois (Fr)
Dr Oscar Godin (B)
Foundation

12 Attendees:
from Belgium – 4
from France – 3
from Germany – 2
from Italy, Luxembourg and Netherlands – 1
+ Mr Christian Paul
Foundation

First Office Holders:

President – Dr Courtois – Gynaecologist
Secretary-General – Dr Godin – ENT
Bureau Director – Mr Paul – 38 years
Primary Aim

First Statutes emphasised the role of UEMS in promoting the highest quality of care and training of medical specialists in Europe for the benefit of the health of all European citizens.
Primary Activity

To convince the European Commission (particularly Mr de Crayencourt) that health care required a Directive establishing comparable high levels of medical training in the Member States.

“Free movement” was conditional on “Mutual Recognition of Qualifications”.
In order to collect all the necessary evidence, collate and harmonise the different training in the Member States, individual Specialist Sections were formed in 1962 by UEMS. Each provided detailed reports on their speciality with future proposals. Dr G Des Marez collated them all.
Dr Guy Des Marez
Advisory Committee on Medical Training (ACMT)

Later, the Commission established the ACMT (Advisory Committee on Medical Training) comprised of 3 groups –

- Government officials in Public Health
- The Practicing Profession
- Universities

UEMS members have always been active in it with 2 being both President of UEMS & ACMT (Pouyard & Harvey) at the same time.
Doctors’ Directives

First Directive enacted in 1975
Replaced by Directive - 93/16/EC
Latest Directive - 2006/100/EC
Pre – 1993
Secretary-General controlled all UEMS activity
Increasing workload and diversity needed an active president and regular meetings of the Executive which continues today.
New Era

Dr Robert Peiffer (B) – Secretary-General –
1990 – 1999

Dr Leonard Harvey (GB) – President –
1993 – 1999

Dr Cees Leibbrandt (NL) – Secretary-General
– 1999 - 2002
Further Developments

EC involvement maintained re Specialist Recognition but also advice on other areas of developing EC policy

Strengthening relations between Council and Sections

Creation of European Boards to allow Scientific Societies to participate with the Sections
Further Developments

Increased contacts with medical organisations of Central & Eastern Europe enabling them to become Associate members of Council.

Development of consensus policy and Charters to enable UEMS member associations influence their own governments.
Documents approved

Charters on:

Postgraduate and Continuing Training of medical specialists

Visitation of Training Centres

Assurance of Quality

Autonomy of Practice
Documents approved

Declarations on Quality (Trilogy):

Promoting Good Medical Care – 2004
Ensuring the Quality of Medical Care – Budapest - 2007
Recent Presidents

Dr Cillian Twomey – Ireland – 1999 - 2002

Dr Hannu Halila – Finland – 2002 - 2005

Dr Zlatko Fras – Slovenia – 2005 -
Continuing Medical Education/Continuous Professional Development

Response to public & political concerns
Traditionally a voluntary professional obligation
Need for the profession to lead
Harmonisation of European CME
Mutual Recognition of CME awards between Member States
European Accreditation Council

Consultation with National Accreditation bodies and Medical Organisations led to the creation of the European Accreditation Council for CME – EACCME in January 2000.
European Accreditation Council

It is:

Based on mutual trust and understanding between authorities and professional societies
Independent
Free of commercial interest
Highly valued by CME providers
Electronic application
Reciprocal agreement with USA
Dr Bernard Maillet – current Secretary General
An expanding EU will continue to need expert Specialist advice to ensure high quality medical care for all its citizens.

Issues:

Cross-border provision of services
Free-movement of patients
Free-movement of doctors
E-Health in all its aspects
Revision of Directive on Recognition of Qualifications

UEMS will also need to modify its structure and working with a non-medical Chief Executive
The Future

UEMS has reached its 50th Anniversary. The enthusiasm of its Executive, Council, Sections & Boards and Bureau staff show that it is well prepared to continue to actively represent European medical specialists for many years to come.
To Finish
Thank You for your attention