



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

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**Minutes first meeting UEMS Section of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery**

Brussels, Av. de la Couronne 20, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2002

*Present:* C.C. Leibbrandt, Secretary-General UEMS, chairman

T. Åberg (S), E. Berreklouw (NL), A. Henssens (NL), H. Huysmans (European Board of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons) (minutes), P. Jönsson (S), W. Klepetko (A), A. Lerut (B), P. Magee (UK), C. Muneretto (I), M. Polonius (D), H.J. Schäfers (D), L. von Segesser (CH), W. Weder (CH), F. Wellens (B), J.-M. Wihlm (F)

*Apologies:* C. Mazzuco (I), J.-N. Fabiani (F), P. Goldstraw (UK)

1. Dr. Leibbrandt welcomes the new (preliminary) members to the new Section of Cardio-Thoracic surgery. The meeting will be explanatory on structure and function of UEMS. The new Section will have to start its activities from there on.
2. Dr. Leibbrandt explains, that the UEMS is an umbrella organisation for EU medical specialists. It covers political and professional aspects. It is supported by scientific groups in the Sections.

There are now 39 Sections. The problems in creating a Section of Cardio-Thoracic surgery are briefly discussed. It is mentioned that a good cooperation with the Section of Surgery is essential, especially in the field of general thoracic surgery.

UEMS was founded in 1958 as a consequence of the treaty of Rome. It is directed to a common market: free exchange of goods and citizens. To this end many items were important; among them: contents of diploma's must be similar. Ways to reach these goals were: new European legislation, creation of Charters for training, CME, etc., etc. So far the decisions of UEMS have no legal status. Consensus documents on the specialities have turned out to be very helpful.

At present UEMS counts 15 members from the EU, 3 members that have signed a treaty with the EU (N, ISL, CH) and 10 associated members from eastern European countries with an observer status.

Several directorates of the EU cover the field of interest of UEMS. The Directorate Internal Market deals with the free exchange; they have shown no or little interest in quality or contents of training and diploma's. The Directorate for Health and Consumer Protection is mainly interested in public health, food, infectious diseases, etc.

3. A Section is autonomous in internal issues. Any implication for other Sections asks for a decision by the Management Council UEMS. A first task for the new Section will be to produce consensus documents for the speciality. As far as this concerns general thoracic surgery, this should be done in close cooperation with the new Division of Thoracic-surgery of the Section of Surgery.

The system of national delegates to the Section is explained. The delegates will choose a president, a secretary and a treasurer. A short discussion brings forward the names of candidates for these functions. The Secretary-General advises to nominate the new officers for a limited period the first time and to have definitive elections when the Section has properly started to function. This proposal is accepted by the delegates. It is decided to elect the new officers at the next Section meeting in the near future.

The Board will be part of the Section, but should remain independent, however close it will be integrated with the Section. It is decided to ask the present Board of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons to maintain its function for the coming year, especially in view of the continuity of the examinations, which take place twice a year now. Meanwhile the Board will be transformed into a new Board in accordance with the statutes of UEMS.

In order to keep the good coordination with the different sectors in the field of cardio-thoracic surgery it is decided, that representatives of the three major European societies will be invited as observers to the common meetings of Section and Board.

4. The Secretary-General will announce the foundation of the new Section. Working groups for preparing the consensus documents (cardiac, thoracic and maybe congenital cardiac) will be installed at the next meeting. As most material for these documents are already available, the aim will be to complete these documents in the next 6 months.
5. The next meeting will be in Monaco during the EACTS annual meeting on 24 September 2002.
6. H. Huysmans thanks the Secretary-General on behalf of all cardiac and thoracic surgeons for his support in creating the new Section and for chairing its first meeting. Dr. Leibbrandt closes the meeting.