Since its inauguration in Glasgow in February 2007, CESME held its third consecutive meeting in Brussels. Members from nineteen of the twenty one affiliated specialties were in attendance. The guest speakers where the President of UEMS and Mrs Eleanor Winton senior administrator of the Intercollegiate Specialty Board (UK).

President Fras addressed the meeting by outlining the structure of post graduate training and assessment currently adopted by UEMS and indicated how this may develop in the future. He emphasised the need for both summative and formative assessment of trainees. A productive discussion with the members ensued in which it was evident that many agreed with the Presidents position even though a significant number of specialties rely most heavily on formative assessment at this point in time. A suggestion was made that CESME might become CESMA in the near future, if “examinations” in the working title was replaced by “assessment”.

The membership indicated to the President that the amount of work to be done by CESME was such that it merited its own Committee structure if it was to become integrated into UEMS. Ways in which this might be achieved were discussed and was recognised as an essential step in gaining legal recognition of the many high level qualifications awarded under the aegis of UEMS. President Fras indicated that the Secretary General, Dr Bernard Maillet, would continue to advise CESME on the position of UEMS with regard to examinations and assessments. The Convenor thanked Dr Maillet for his patience and expertise in representing the interests of all UEMS members whilst recognising the unity of the CESME membership and how it may influence the development of future policy in this important area. The relevance of the European Qualifications Framework to the process was discussed following an encouraging written statement from Jan Figel, the Commissioner for Education.
Mrs Winton gave a very informative presentation on the administration of a multi-specialty examination board. The specialties of Dermatology & Venereology, Cardiology, Allergology & Clinical Immunology, Neurology and Respiratory Medicine, presented material on early experience on running assessments and plans to do so in the immediate future.

Appointments were agreed to expand the executive personnel. Mr Potts (Paediatric Surgery) continues as Convenor with Dr Zeev Goldik (Anaesthetics) as deputy. Prof Robert Carachi (Paediatric Surgery) will act as Treasurer and Mr John Boorman (Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery) as Secretary.

The next meeting is scheduled for 14:06:08 in Brussels.