



# The Newsletter of European Medical Specialists

UEMS News 2008 / 02

6<sup>th</sup> May 2008

## UEMS 1958-2008 – A celebratory Anniversary Brussels, 17-19.04.2008

### Summary

On the occasion of their Council Meeting held in Brussels on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in the framework of the UEMS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, members of the UEMS unanimously adopted the UEMS Strategy 2008 (UEMS 2008/05) which sets out the priorities and key areas where the UEMS intends to play a role in the future.

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Brussels, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008 – The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) was established in 1958 with an aim to represent medical specialists to the newly created European Economic Community. In 2008, the UEMS is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of existence and organised for this purpose a three-day event with a Scientific Conference and Gala celebration on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

### Building on solid foundations to improve specialist healthcare for European citizens

This Conference highlighted ways of guaranteeing the quality of specialist medical care for the sake of European citizens. Participants included representatives coming from the European Commission and Parliament, healthcare professionals and patient associations as well as health advocacy professionals.

The different panels pointed to 3 main areas where the UEMS and EU Institutions were likely to further collaborate to ensure better and safer healthcare for European citizens.

### European issues

In their welcome speeches, the two keynote speakers Ms Isabel de la Mata (*Principal Adviser for Public Health and Risk Assessment - European Commission - DG Health & Consumer Protection*) and Prof. Georg Andrejevs (*Member of the European Parliament*) pointed to one of the main challenges lying ahead for

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Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends,

It has been a pleasure to welcome you all at the celebratory events held on the occasion of the UEMS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



**Dr Zlatko Fras**  
UEMS President

I, together with the members of the UEMS Enlarged Executive, would like to hereby acknowledge your commitment to our organisation and thank you for the work carried out for the purpose of achieving our common goals. This is also the occasion for us all to learn from the years elapsed and concentrate now on our future.

The newly adopted Strategy for the UEMS will help us in this analysis. Now that this document has been adopted by the Members of UEMS Council, it will be our first priority to take advantage of this momentum and translate these priorities into concrete actions.

I am glad we can rely on an unanimous support from the UEMS constituent bodies for this purpose and very much look forward to pursuing the work initiated and experiencing the first concrete results in the near future.

**Further information on the UEMS Meetings and Conference are available on the following websites:**

**[www.uems.net](http://www.uems.net) – [www.uems2008.eu](http://www.uems2008.eu)**

Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends,

The Celebration Meeting we had in April in Brussels was a real success with three very constructive events. The meeting of the Sections and Boards showed the strong involvement of the representatives of the different specialties towards harmonization of Training and improvement of quality in healthcare for the patient and European citizen.

At the Celebration itself, we had presentations given by European Commission and European Parliament representatives as well as an overview of the past, present but more importantly future activities of the UEMS-EACCME. We were very happy and proud that Dr Alejandro Aparicio from the American Medical Association could attend the event and gave us an overview of the common issues on CME-CPD on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

The Council meeting on Saturday also revealed the strong commitment of the National Medical Associations in the objectives of the UEMS. The progress achieved in many issues is proof of this. Concerning CME-CPD, the position of the EACCME is continuously strengthened and confirms its coordinating and leading role in Europe for the benefit of knowledge and skills of the European Specialist.



Dr Bernard Maillet  
UEMS Secretary-General

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## UEMS 1958-2008 – A celebratory Anniversary

health professionals, i.e. the medical brain drain channelling medical specialists as well as other healthcare professionals from Central and Eastern European Countries to Western Europe and the United States. Both Ms de la Mata and Prof. Andrejevs demonstrated that Central and Eastern European countries were dramatically losing their medical workforce with detrimental consequences on the quality of patient care in these countries. In spite of a lack of concrete data on the importance of this brain drain, both speakers emphasised the overall complexity of its consequences. Potential answers were also suggested to genuinely address this issue and to ensure that neither free movement nor the quality of the medical specialist training would be affected.

### **The role of the UEMS in ensuring the quality of care**

In addition to this burning issue, other speakers addressed subjects related

to the quality of care and acknowledged the positive role played by the UEMS in this field.

For 50 years, the UEMS has promoted harmonised training standards and built up structures for this purpose. Concerns were voiced as regards the accuracy of standards currently set out in the EU legislation, particularly the EC Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (2005/36/EC and 2006/100/EC). A presentation also explored potential problems arising from the implementation of the European Working Time Directive in the medical sector, which may threaten the quality of junior doctors training. Panellists also underlined the crucial role played by Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in ensuring and promoting better and safer healthcare in Europe. These priorities were pursued by the UEMS notably through establishing the European Accreditation Council for Continuing

Medical Education (EACCME) in order to facilitate the free movement of doctors across Europe and beyond for educational and training purposes.

The UEMS initiatives to guarantee Quality Assurance in medical specialist practice were also presented. A particular focus was provided on the development and use of clinical guidelines.

### **The UEMS adopts its first mid-term strategy**

An essential milestone during these celebrations was the adoption by the UEMS Council of its Strategy for the future. This document broadens the scope of activities where the UEMS intends to play a role and provide its expert knowledge in the future and paves the way to the organisational reforms necessary to achieve this goal. With time, the UEMS hopes to become a crucial interlocutor and partner of the EU Institutions and Agencies to address health related issues at the European level.

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*Panellists underlined the crucial role played by Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in ensuring and promoting better and safer healthcare in Europe.*

*An essential milestone during these celebrations was the adoption by the UEMS Council of its first Strategy for the future.*

## UEMS Strategy 2008

*On the occasion of their Council Meeting held in Brussels on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in the framework of the UEMS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, members of the UEMS unanimously adopted the UEMS Strategy 2008 (UEMS 2008/05) which sets out the priorities and key areas where the UEMS intends to play a role in the future.*

### Introduction

For the past five decades the European Union of Medical Specialists / Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) has developed into the most comprehensive and representative European Medical Organisation (EMO) of medical specialists. The continuing success of the UEMS is vital for our patients, for our profession and for Europe as a whole. Since its establishment only a year after the Treaty of Rome was signed, the UEMS has emerged as the undisputed leader of the European specialist medical profession. It is now appropriate that the UEMS leadership maps out a strategy for the coming years that reflects its central role in contributing to optimal European healthcare.

The operational and devel-

opment strategy of a large, non-profit organisation like the UEMS is an extremely complex challenge. There is a clear need for the activities of the UEMS to be based on a well organised and coherent strategy linked with a transparent implementation/operational policy.

During the period 1958-2008 the Mission and Purpose of the UEMS have not substantially changed. UEMS activities to date have largely focused on improving the organisation in a more general sense, by finding the best possible ways of addressing the issues related to its mission and generic purpose. In this Strategy paper the UEMS clearly identifies and highlights its particular areas of knowledge and expertise.

During the immediate past, fewer efforts were devoted to improving our

facilities, while the strategic plan being suggested for the forthcoming years is built on acquiring the appropriate infrastructure to provide necessary modern technology tools so as to achieve any set objectives.

The UEMS Strategic Plan will be the "road map" to realising its new Vision. For this Strategy and its associated action plans to be put into practice, we should recall the quotation: *"Teamwork is the fuel that allows ordinary people to attain extraordinary results."*

*Teamwork is the fuel that allows ordinary people to attain extraordinary results.*

*Anonymous*

### Members of UEMS Strategy Working Group

Dr Zlatko Fras (President - SI)  
 Dr Edwin Borman (Vice-President - UK)  
 Prof. Jacques Gruwez (BE)  
 Dr Hans Hjelmqvist (SE)  
 Dr Gerd Hofmann (Liaison Officer - DE)  
 Dr Bernard Maillet (Secretary-General - BE)  
 Dr Jörg Rüggeberg (DE)  
 Dr Harald Sonntag (FR)  
 Prof. Cillian Twomey (IE)

## Outcomes of the UEMS Council Meeting - Brussels, 19.04.2008

*On 19<sup>th</sup> April last, the Board and Council of UEMS convened in Brussels in the framework of the UEMS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The main issues dealt with at the UEMS Council notably included:*

### The UEMS Strategy

The Council unanimously adopted the Strategy for its future.

### The EACCME

The Meeting of the UEMS Advisory Council on CME held in November was an opportunity for participants to discuss further

issues relating to the EAC-CME practical process. For this purpose, a Taskforce had been created and reported on the outcome of its first meeting.

On the occasion of this meeting as well, the new online application form was presented to the Council.

### Specialist issues

Medical Microbiology: A new section of microbiology was created.

Intensive Care Medicine: the Road Map on intensive care was endorsed. Representatives of the MJC were congratulated by Council for their work.

### Memorandum between the UEMS & PWG

A memorandum was signed between the UEMS and the PWG. This memorandum seals the intense relations between the two organisations and defines the links between UEMS and the PWG.



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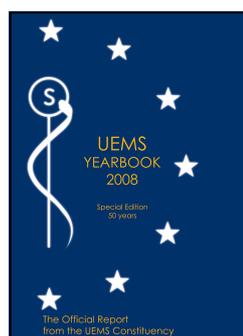
## PICTURES

Pictures of the celebratory events are available on the UEMS website.

*Pictures taken by participants can be sent to the UEMS Secretariat for display.*

## PUBLICATIONS

On the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the UEMS issue the following publications:



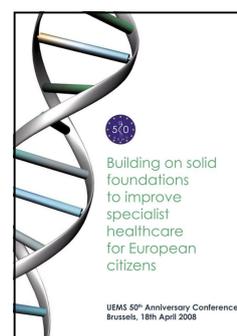
### UEMS Yearbook

This publication presents the annual report of activities from the UEMS constituent bodies, i.e. national medical associations and specialist sections & boards, with a particular emphasis on the history of the organisation.



### CME-CPD in Europe

This document gives an overview of the structure and development of continuing medical education and professional development (CME-CPD) in each European country as well as in associated countries, particularly the United States.



### Conference Book

For the purpose of the Conference held in the framework of the UEMS 50th Anniversary, a Conference Book setting out articles elaborated by the speakers was released in order to expand further on the topic of their talk.

*Copies of these publications are available upon request at the UEMS Secretariat.*

**For any further information on the UEMS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,  
do not hesitate to contact the UEMS Secretariat.**