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Professional Qualifications

The European Commission recently launched an evaluation process of the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (2005/36/EC and 2006/100/EC) in view of its revision by 2012. To this end, it initiated dialogue with European professional organisations on the practical implementation of the Directive.

The Commission essentially aims to appraise free movement in the context of the Directive in concrete terms.

The UEMS was invited to contribute to this exercise and in doing so pointed to a certain number of key issues, and particularly the need to ensure the level of doctors' competence and good standing in order to preserve quality of care and patient safety for all EU citizens. In this respect, the UEMS called once again for the revision of training provisions in the Directive and the necessity for them to comply with modern standards of care.

The Commission now intends to involve national competent authorities and further consult citizens. Further meetings and exchanges of information with and between European professional organisations will also be organised.

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Working Time

Further to the failure of negotiations in the revision process of the European Working Time Directive in April 2009, the European Commission issued a consultation paper to the social partners on the possible direction of EU action. This document has leaked to the UEMS Brussels Office and was circulated for discussion among the UEMS Members.

It is expected that further action will be initiated by the Commission. Items currently under scrutiny notably encompass issues such as the individual opt-out, periods of on-call, the length of reference periods and compensatory rest.

For the moment, the Commission is only enquiring about the opportunity for EU action and withheld any legal proposal.

This is why European Medical Organisations will proactively discuss a possible common position in order to defend European doctors' position once the legal process will be officially started.

To this end, the UEMS invites its constituent bodies and member organisations to contribute their comments should they have any to the UEMS Brussels Office in order to determine the UEMS objectives in this discussion.

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Former UEMS Treasurer Jean-Paul Schaack passed away

It is with deep regret that the UEMS has to announce that Dr Jean-Paul Schaack, who was Treasurer of UEMS from 1990 to 2002, died on 11th April 2010.

Dr Schaack was a paediatrician from Luxembourg and largely instrumental in establishing the Section of Paediatrics and CESP. In 1990, he became the Treasurer at a time of austerity for UEMS and managed our finances to lay the foundation for UEMS to expand and develop to the successful organisation it is today.

The UEMS Executive and the UEMS Secretariat would like to contribute their sincere condolences to Dr Schaack's widow and relatives. The UEMS will remember him as a distinguished doctor and colleague and will remain ever-grateful to him.

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Europe 2020: Commission proposes new strategy for the EU

- *Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as key drivers as key drivers for Europe*
- *Stakeholders' considerations mildly taken into account by the Commission*

The European Commission recently launched the Europe 2020 Strategy as a plan to go out of the current economic crisis and prepare EU economy for the next decade. In doing so, the Commission identified three key drivers for growth: smart growth through fostering knowledge, innovation, education and digital society; sustainable growth by making our production more resource efficient while boosting our competitiveness; and inclusive growth in raising participation in the labour market, the acquisition of skills and the fight against poverty. Five targets were also set which define where the EU should be by 2020 and against which progress can be tracked.

Through its participation to the EU Health Policy Forum, the

UEMS was able to contribute to the consultation phase which preceded the release of this document. An Open Letter from the EUHPF was addressed to the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, which clearly stated concerns and priorities from EU stakeholders.

Although there have been signs of unhappiness from a certain number of organisations, there are demonstrations of change throughout the Commission. What can be interpreted as a new wind of green development and a social Europe is blowing in the corridors of power.

There is a need for all those in Brussels who favour the more responsible and carefully thought through approach to put their differences aside and



http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index_en.htm

vocally stand behind the move towards a Europe that delivers better outcomes for all its citizens, including its most vulnerable.

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The Barroso II Team takes office

- *The Maltese candidate John Dalli made a strong impression in front of MEPs*

On 14th January 2010, John Dalli, Designate Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, was heard by the European Parliament. "Patients first. Consumers first" was the motto Dalli used as a key heading during the hearing.

John Dalli's appointment was confirmed with the election of the European Commission by Members of the European Par-

liament with 488 in favour to 137 opposed and 72 abstentions. This brought to an end almost 5 months of delay due to wrangles in the ratification of the Lisbon treaty.



John Dalli

European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy

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New Director-General for DG Health and Consumers (SANCO)

- *Paola Testori Coggi to replace Robert Madelin who left for DG INFOS*

On 31st March 2010 the College of Commissioners confirmed the appointment of Robert Madelin, the Director-General for Health and Consumers, as Director-General for Information Society and Media. Mr Madelin will replace Fabio Colasanti, the current Director-General for Information Society and Media, who will retire on 1st April 2010.



Robert Madelin

Director-General for Information Society and Media

and Paola Testori Coggi

Director-General for Health and Consumers

Robert Madelin's successor was also confirmed by the College of Commissioners, at their weekly meeting in Brussels. Paola Testori Coggi, who joined DG SANCO in 2007 as Deputy Director-General, will now take on the position of Director-General. 1st April 2010 will be the official starting date of Ms Testori-Coggi.

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My vision would be that European Citizens live a longer and healthier life

J. Dalli

Eurobarometer on Patient Safety

- *Almost 50% of all Europeans responding fear they could be harmed by healthcare*
- *Over 25% claimed that they or a member of their family had experienced harm*

The European Commission recently released a Eurobarometer on patient safety. According to this survey, almost 50% of all Europeans responding fear they could be harmed by healthcare and over 25% of those surveyed claimed that they or a member of their family had experienced harm (an adverse event) in a health-care setting. Many of these events allegedly go unreported and one third of respondents did not know which organisation was responsible for patient safety in their country.

The Commission stepped up action last year to improve patient safety at European level through better EU coordination, more reporting of incidents, increased patient involvement and training of staff.



The publication of the survey coincides with European Patients Rights Day which on 18th April each year.

Full Report and Summary are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm

Information on the European Commission's work on Patient Safety and the Council Recommendation can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/policy/index_en.htm

Eurobarometer on Oral Health

- *Commission unveiled first survey on EU citizens' self perceived oral health*

The Commission recently published the results of another study, i.e. the first Eurobarometer on the self perceived oral health of European citizens.

While the vast majority of Europeans say that they do not have any difficulties caused by their teeth, only 41% say that

they have all their natural teeth. Approximately 15% have experienced difficulties, over the last twelve months, in chewing, biting or eating food because of mouth or teeth problems. 57% of those surveyed last consulted a dentist less than one year ago and only 2% never did. The three top reasons given for not having consulted

a dentist during the last two years are: dental problem not serious enough (33%), no teeth or false teeth (16%) and the high cost of check-ups and treatment (15%).

The report is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_330_en.pdf

EGOHID (European Global Oral Health Indicators Development) project released findings of survey on EU citizens' oral health

European Immunization Week 2010

- *The ECHI list of indicators recently updated*

The European Immunization Week (EIW) is a regional initiative, led and coordinated by WHO/Europe (EURO) and implemented by Member States addressing their particular immunization related issues. Partner organizations, including UNICEF and the European Center for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC), contribute at regional and national levels. EIW aims to help Member States advance plans to ensure

universal immunization by using the power of advocacy and targeted communication to boost awareness and increase the success of immunization programmes in reaching individuals who have not been immunized or who did not receive all needed vaccinations.

In 2010, the fifth EIW will take place between 24 April and 1 May. EIW will emphasize national immunization efforts towards meeting the regional

goal to eliminate measles and rubella by the end of 2010. Furthermore, WHO/EURO will join with the WHO Pan American Regional Office (PAHO) Vaccine Week in the America's and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) Vaccine Week in the Eastern Mediterranean in the same week to simultaneously implement these regional immunization efforts.



European Immunization Week

Prevent Protect Immunize



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MESSAGE TO THE UEMS MEMBERS

Due to the widespread disruption of flights across Europe by volcanic ash, it has been decided with great regret to cancel the meeting of UEMS Council which was scheduled to be held on 16th and 17th April 2010.

As already explained, we simply preferred to cancel the meeting rather than to hold it with a small number of delegations present. Looking

now backwards at the evolution of facts, it seems that the decision we took was the right one, as those who would have managed to come to Brussels would have experienced major problems going back home.

The organisation of another meeting was scrutinised by the UEMS Executive. According to the UEMS Bylaws and its obligations under Belgian Law, annual accounts need to be voted and approved before 30th June of the next year. It was felt that this voting procedure could hardly be made by electronic means. A Board Meeting restricted to the Heads of national delegations therefore needs to be convened within the next 65 days.

A formal invitation and draft agenda to the Heads of national delegations will follow in the coming days as soon as these suggestions are confirmed and a date settled.



P u b l i c a t i o n s



Journal of the European Medical Students' Association

The Journal of the European Medical Students Association on Medical and Scientific Affairs (JEMSA) is an opportunity for young medical students and health professionals to publish their work and research. JEMSA is distributed to every European medical school, free of charge, in order to spread information and opportunities to all corners. All articles are reviewed by a board of professionals and students, and serious feedback is provided to the authors of the articles.

More information on <http://www.jemsa.eu>



Journal of CME for health professionals

The Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions is the official journal of The Alliance for Continuing Medical Education, the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education, and the Council on CME, the Association for Hospital Medical Education. It is a quarterly journal publishing articles relevant to theory, practice, and policy development for continuing education in the health sciences.

More information on <http://www.jcehp.com>



Ethically Speaking

The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies is a neutral, independent, pluralist and multidisciplinary body, composed of fifteen experts appointed by the Commission for their expertise and personal qualities. Its task is to examine ethical questions arising from science and new technologies and on this basis to issue Opinions to the European Commission in connection with the preparation and implementation of Community legislation or policies.

More information on

http://ec.europa.eu/european_group_ethics/publications/index_en.htm