



UEMS Electronic Network

(Arial 12) The present status of the UEMS electronic network follows earlier decisions of the UEMS Management Council. An important part of this network is the UEMS website. Apart from the software technology, the most important aspect of the website has always been the European and international presentation of the UEMS. Both to physicians and any other interested third party. For that reason anyone, visiting our website for the first time has to be able to retrieve information easily. It has to be an adequate way for anyone to get to know the UEMS. This puts forward requirements to the layout of the website and the positioning of the relevant information. The function of the website has been improved. A search engine was introduced, UEMS mailbox and a secured part of the Website.

The English part is to a great extent finished, we are now working on the the French part. An electronic network is a modern way of communication with all its pro's and contra's. The most important aspect is however the message. All information on the website, as the policy making in relation to the website, has to be a shared responsibility. For that reason a sort of Editorial Board of the UEMS is needed. The website should not be personal effort and responsibility only.

The following aspects of the UEMS website will be discussed:

- a) UEMS logo
 - house style: redesign of all documents in PDF file
- b) Homepage:
 - homepage
 - buttons
 - search engine
 - UEMS mailboxes
 - Secured part
- c) Technical data of the website
- d) Cooperation with the UEMS bureau
- e) Maintenance of the website
- f) National Organizations page
- g) Cooperation with Sections
- h) European communication with Tiscali
- i) Financial aspects
- j) Future plans and strategy

ad a) **UEMS logo (Arial 12 bold)**

The new logo was presented in the Management Council meeting in Brussels and accepted. Basically it is a digitally remastered version of the "old" UEMS logo. Based upon the new logo is the new letterhead. This was used consistently also on the pages of the website. As soon as we have completed all details for the letterhead it will be used as the official part of UEMS documents.

The letterhead was also used in all UEMS official documents like the ones under Policy and Publications. In agreement and cooperation with the UEMS Secretariat we have tried to make a UEMS house style for documentation.

That is:

- one uniform letter type, as agreed earlier Arial
- standard letter size for all documents
- one uniform lay-out for all documents: items, sub items etc.
- all documents will be presented as PDF files, also on the website.

ad b) Homepage (Arial 14)

To that purpose, the UEMS Homepage shows on the left hand side several buttons. The homepage can be seen as the title page of a book. The buttons are the "chapters", each chapter presents a category of information. Additional information will be presented in the following paragraphs.

For the Executive, in cooperation with the Tiscali representation in Belgium, different mailboxes were introduced. This will facilitate uploading information (e.g. letters or documents) to the different members of the Executive and the Bureau of the UEMS. The different mailboxes on one hand facilitate communication to the "right person" on one hand, it also puts extra work on the individuals concerned to report back the received information.

The homepage has an English and a French part. In reviewing the former website and after categorizing all information it was noticed that most of the information is in English. Some documents are not available in French.

The search engine is operational; the format in which information is presented was discussed with Qball. Qball is the Tiscali based company that took care of the development of the UEMS website after instructions from the UEMS. They support our views and wishes.

The secured part is partially operational. It will be made available to all Heads of Delegation, the UEMS officials and the Workinggroup members. Any further requirements can be discussed and put forward to the UEMS.

ad c) Technical data of the UEMS website.

Although the format that will be presented now is basically present, it may not show on your own PC. That has to do with settings of both Windows (and its versions) and the web browser that is used.

We have developed the website with the following technical data:

- Windows: of course all Windows versions can be used. During installation of your Windows version you have probably chosen in Bureau settings how to present information. That also influences the way our website will appear.
- Internet Explorer: we have based our work on version 5 and higher.
- basic format: **1024 x 768, true colours 32 bits.**
- on Internet Explorer, in the taskbar there is Extra. After clicking you are able to choose letter type and size in Internet Options.
- On the same page at the bottom you are also able to choose colours. We have used Windows default settings.

ad d) Cooperation with the UEMS bureau

At the moment in close cooperation with the UEMS bureau the French version of our available documents are reorganised and information is translated for the website.

Three individuals will cooperate closely for uploading information, the Secretary General, Nathalie Paulsen and myself.

As soon as we have determined the basic functions of our website, a manual will be translated into English so that the UEMS is able to upload information all the time from Brussels.

ad e) Maintenance of the website

As follows from (d) the information to be uploaded is the responsibility of the UEMS. Further: Qball is a Tiscali based company that was financed by The Netherlands Foundation Intranet Medical Specialists. All costs so far were (around 5500 Euro) paid by this (non-commercial) Netherlands Foundation.

Qball hosts together with Tiscali our website, it will continue to support future software developments. It guarantees a back-up function of the website, will support any demand that the UEMS finds necessary to develop. Our website is database based enabling us to have a search module. Admin is the software tool that enables the UEMS to maintain at the earlier mentioned level information.

All our activities were directed to the issue that this is the part of the website that is primarily the responsibility of the UEMS. All other wishes or issues raised by any third party have to be evaluated upon costs and efforts.

Our website was presented to a host of nearly 30 international web browsers. It was based upon a number of keywords. It will make the UEMS more known in Europe and outside.

ad f) National Organizations page

The proposal is to start here our secured UEMS part. Most of the information on the UEMS website has to be public. Once logging into the Members login you will enter the part that is only accessible by authorised people.

Here still a lot of decision-making has to be done.

ad h) European communication with Tiscali

As soon as we have completed the work on the website so far, discussion with Tiscali may take place to further develop the European Network.

We will explore any possibility to facilitate communication and reduce costs. A tool for the UEMS Extended Executive Committee to "meet" by teleconferencing is possible. That will save time and money. Regular meetings of course remain a necessity.

ad i) Financial aspects

As indicated earlier, all costs were paid by the Netherlands Foundation. All future plans have to be evaluated by the UEMS. Any support from the UEMS to e.g. the Sections has to be discussed in an earlier stage. The UEMS agreed to host and help develop a "portal" to any Section, that is an opening page. Any further support will require funds.

Fund raising because of our website is perhaps another possibility.

ad j) Recommendations: Future plans and strategy

- 1) Our first responsibility is to develop a portal for all European Medical Specialists. That requires a high quality content **in both English and French**.
- 2) The French part has, in all basic information, to be equal to the English part. That requires translation work.
- 3) The content of the UEMS website has to be a shared responsibility. The Communication Committee has to monitor the content of the website.
- 4) Strategies on what to upload and present on the website is finally also a responsibility of the Executive.
- 5) Writing documents for the UEMS may only follow from the work of the UEMS itself. We need a standard set of high quality information that will attract European Specialists to read and download. The task or request to produce papers and documents can be discussed in a Management Council meeting. Hopefully members of the UEMS, with a longstanding tradition in the UEMS, are willing to keep on supporting our website.
- 6) During the Slovenia meeting I will try to have available two examples of how any individual country may present itself. A proposal will be presented in Slovenia.
- 7) The UEMS has to be financial independent in maintaining its website. The present website can be maintained by the UEMS in its basic functions. Any other improvement or support to the UEMS members has to be discussed.
- 8) Once this has been effectuated improving the quality of the European Network to all UEMS members can be evaluated. This also depends on the wishes and demands of our members. Teleconferencing is a technicality that may improve our work.
- 9) Part of our Yearbook, relevant to the UEMS, can be published on the website.

4 August 2003
Peter J. Theuvenet
The Netherlands

(see second document below !)

Position UEMS in relation to Tiscali

The Extended Executive Committee of the UEMS
The Management Council of the UEMS
c/o Dr. B. Maillet, Secretary General
20, Avenue de la Couronne
Brussels

Dear all;

22 September 2003

I have received an e-mail regarding the UEMS website and the relation with Tiscali. Notwithstanding all earlier communication, both at level of the EEC and the Management Council on the matter there still seem to be the same misunderstanding. Therefore I would also very much like to present this letter as an extension to the policy paper that I have sent recently to the UEMS. It hopefully clarifies our position.

For that reason I will try to summarize the facts.

Who has facilitated the present UEMS website?

The UEMS website is the interest and property of the UEMS. Nothing has changed that. As was communicated in a Management Council Meeting, the Foundation Intranet Netherlands Medical Specialists (**SIMSN**) gave all the financial support sofar. This foundation is non-commercial and independent of any third commercial party and is supported by medical specialists in The Netherlands. In the Readme of the website that was sent to the UEMS relations involved in producing the website were mentioned.

The SIMSN only works on an idealistic basis in the interest of medical specialists where the foundation only wishes to promote electronic communication between medical specialists. To start with in The Netherlands, I am member of the board of the foundation and responsible for the editing process, website development and maintenance. The amount of money-spent sofar is around Euro 6000,-. As promised in the Management Council meeting in Stockholm last year, initial costs that will not be charged to the UEMS. The greater part of future costs can be overseen since both the UEMS Secretary and I will support the maintenance.

Who is in charge now on the UEMS website?

The answer follows earlier statements. One financed by the SIMSN, development of the UEMS website was done by a company that works together with Tiscali but is fully independent: Q-ball in The Netherlands. For that reason all links in the UEMS website, all e-mail addresses, all e-mail boxes, all information of organisations within and outside the UEMS are the property of the UEMS alone. At home I am able to host our own e-mail boxes on our own part (domain) of the Tiscali-Qball server. That is a totally protected and independent part of the server where nobody has access. This server hosts also information of electronic networks of medical specialists in The Netherlands. These databases are the property of our own medical specialist and no one can retrieve our upload information without the permission of ourselves. This is also the case for the UEMS website.

Is Tiscali able to interfere in anyway on the UEMS website?

No ! That is no advertisement, no unwanted information, just nothing of the kind. Nor is it the intention of Tiscali to do so. Unauthorized access to a website is not the kind of working relation we have had with Tiscali so far.

What was the philosophy to ask Tiscali to cooperate with the UEMS?

Tiscali, as communicated earlier is one of the largest European Internet providers, nowadays present in nearly all EEG countries. Our members too! Tiscali hosts free-accounts, like most Internet providers. Free accounts mean that there are no annual dues. In the never-ending war (for the interest and benefit of clients) between Internet providers, it was their necessity to survive. Having a large group of accounts is a sort of guarantee that in the end one may survive. So of every telephone click during Internet traffic, a part is dedicated to the Internet provider. This is common in the Internet world. When you have a large group of accounts, you may be able to offer them all technical innovation first. So the addresses alone are already important.

We have asked Tiscali to help us in The Netherlands to develop a cooperation that would support the statutory obligations of the SIMSN and facilitate electronic communication in every possible way. We will receive for that reason an offer on ADSL at the end of October that will be very sharp. Routers, as part of the modem, that in a wireless way enable communication between all computers at home or in a hospital are on their way. The SIMSN will promote best prices for its members here.

There is no hidden agenda in the relation with Tiscali or hidden line of income by Tiscali. But remember: the cooperation with Tiscali at this moment is limited and the development, maintenance of our website is solely in our hands. Tiscali has very strongly supported the development of the basic needs of our website (technical support). There is no contract with Tiscali, only the strong intention to support us. Once we have defined (we are at the moment talking only about the UEMS website) what exactly our needs are, we have agreed to come as UEMS and discuss the possibilities.

Conclusions:

- a) The cooperation with Tiscali is still at the level of a preferred provider in Europe and only at the level of our website now. Once we have learned at the level of the UEMS and the SIMSN in The Netherlands, needs and demands by medical specialists will be discussed with Tiscali. The present try-out is a learning school for all of us.
- b) At the level of Delegations, we have asked Tiscali to help us to establish an open line of communication between the UEMS members.
- c) Once we have established that, the availability of ADSL and ADSL related hardware is discussed.
- d) Once we have completed the UEMS website to the extent that the UEMS finds this sufficient, next steps will be discussed. For the time being, having a major European Association of Medical Specialists on board is a credit enough to Tiscali. It can be the start of a good cooperation. There is no problem now for the return of an investment, just also to us a big potential.
- e) The next step might be a solid electronic network between all UEMS delegations.
- f) Finally: video-conferencing between members of the EEC and e.g. between Sections and other UEMS bodies like Working Groups can be facilitated.

Sofar I have been responsible for the advice to the UEMS. As promised there were no costs to the UEMS. Nor will there be major costs in the future if we keep our decisions to maintain the UEMS website as a portal (see also my Policy paper). The Secretariat has already started its support to the publication of documents and policy papers.

A future talk with the Management of Tiscali and the UEMS was already communicated two years ago. At that time we had, part from intentions, little to discuss. Now that we are gradually improving our technical capabilities and have a more clear view on what we would like to establish, such a talk can be organized. This was from the start the idea and communicated with the past President, C. Twomey. A meeting on the matter has been discussed recently and will be prepared.

If the UEMS would like to start to make money out of the UEMS website, than that is something that has to be discussed first because the goal has always been to keep an independent position.

I hope this clarification will take away the misunderstanding on the relation with Tiscali.

Peter J. Theuvenet
The Netherlands