



The Newsletter of European Medical Specialists

GAME – Global Alliance for Medical Education 11th Annual Meeting to be held in Rome, 18-20.06.2006



Summary:

- The European Commission puts forward an amended proposal for a Services Directive
- World Health Day's emphasis on the shortage of health workers
- Sweden to comply with a Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications
- EU Report and Conference on the economic and budgetary impact of ageing on public expenditures
- The Margaret-Island in Budapest

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"Does CME Improve the Quality of Care?"

The Global Alliance for Medical Education (GAME) will organise its Eleventh Annual Meeting in Rome from 18 to 20 June 2006. This Conference will aim to improve the perspective on international CME/CPD and achieve better understanding of the link between continuing quality improvement and CME.

This year's Conference will focus on the relationship between CME, clinical practice and the quality of care. The speakers' list includes experts in this field: Dr. Alfonso Negri (Italian Federation of Medical Societies), Dr. Helios Pardell (Spanish Accreditation Council for CME) and Dr. Ian Starke (Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians). The UEMS is represented on the GAME Board of Directors by Dr. Bernard

Mallet, Secretary-General, and Dr. Edwin Borman, Vice-President. They will also both contribute to the debates with a particular focus on CME at the European and international level.

This Conference is aimed at every professional interested in international CME. For further information or registration, please consult the following website: www.game-cme.org.

European Health Policy Forum

The UEMS attended the meeting of the EU Health Policy Forum held on 5th April 2006. This meeting was the occasion to meet together with many other NGO representatives and the Commission services in order to discuss different key policies currently at stake. A particular focus was made during the parallel sessions both on Patient Safety and on Transparency in the various consultation processes with the European Commission.

The session on patient safety was the opportunity

to empower the Health Policy Forum with this wide and crucial issue. Speakers notably highlighted several good practices at national level while at the same time pointing to remaining gaps. The need to inform, empower and educate patients was particularly emphasised by different panellists during the discussion.

The working party on transparency discussed in detail how to establish the best possible collaboration with the European Commission by establishing transparency guidelines and criteria both for the Commission

and the stakeholders' organisations.

The afternoon session was dedicated to informal exchange of information on different key policies: Social protection; Labelling; and Diet & Physical Activity. Bernard Merkel, Head of the Health Strategy Unit in DG Sanco, also presented the recent developments with regard to the High Level Group on Medical Care and Health Services, the Pharma Forum as well as the Health & Consumer Programme.

For any further information, please contact the Secretariat of UEMS.



Amended proposal for a Services Directive

On the occasion of the recent European Parliament plenary session held in Strasbourg, the European Commissioner for Internal Market & Services, Charlie McCreevy, presented the revised proposal for a Directive on services in the internal market.

The adoption by the Commission of this amended proposal is the next stage

in the legislative process following the European Parliament's vote at its first reading in February 2006. The amended proposal in question builds on the Parliament's work, and on discussions in the Council to date, notably concerning the scope of the Directive. In line with the EP decision, the Commission has decided to exclude healthcare ser-

vices, whether public or private, from the scope of the revised Directive but will come forward with a separate initiative in this area in the near future.

See also UEMS News 2006/03.

For any further information on this issue, please consult the following website:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/services/services-dir/index_en.htm



Charlie McCreevy

Source: www.europa.eu.int

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World Health Day 2006

This year's World Health Day, celebrated on 7 April last, focussed on the shortage of health workforce, especially nurses. This problem will represent a major challenge for the EU Member States' healthcare systems in the coming years. The new Member States are supposed to be the most hit by health professionals mobility in the near future.

The World Health Day 2006 was devoted to the health workforce crisis. The EU Member States are already faced with problems with recruitment and retention of medical personnel, and the shortage of health workers is set to worsen due to the overall trend of ageing and shrinking workforce in this sector. According to the European Commission, the number of doctors aged 45 or more in-

creased by 57% between 1995 and 2000 whereas the number of doctors below 45 increased by only 20%.

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) revealed that the situation in the new Member States may become even more difficult as their health professionals tend to migrate to the other EU countries.

For any further information, please contact the Secretariat of UEMS.

There is a chronic global shortage of health workers, as a result of decades of underinvestment in their education, training, salaries, working environment and management. This has led to a severe lack of key skills, rising levels of career switching and early retirement, as well as national and international migration.

Dr. Tim Evans
World Health Organisation

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Internal Market - Infringement proceedings

Sweden - Professional qualifications

The Commission recently decided to refer to the Court of Justice the matter of Sweden's non-communication of all the requisite measures for the transposition of Directive

2001/19/EC on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications. This Directive was proposed by the Commission in 1997 and is part of the SLIM initiative, the aim of which is to simplify legislation for the internal market. It considerably facilitates the updating of lists

of diplomas, certificates and titles qualifying for automatic recognition. The general system for the recognition of professional qualifications has also been improved. The deadline for the transposition of Directive 2001/19/EC was 1 January 2003.



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Economic and Budgetary Impact of Ageing

Further to a Report, submitted to EU Finance Ministers and prepared jointly by the European Commission and the Economic Policy Committee, on the "Impact of Ageing on Public Expenditure", a Conference on this issue was organised in Brussels on 31st March last. This meeting was the occasion for the authors of this Report to set out their methodology and highlight the main outcomes of their work.

This report emphasises that EU governments need to step up reform efforts in the face of rapidly ageing populations. Indeed the scale of the demographic challenge is immense: the retirement of the baby-boom generation as from 2010 and the continuous increase in life expectancy, means Europe will go from having four to only two people

of working age for every elderly citizen by 2050. According to the Report, with unchanged policies, EU potential growth rates will be almost cut in half by 2030 and public finances will come under severe strain due to increased spending on pensions, health care and long-term care. There are though positive signs that many Member States are facing up to the challenge. Several countries have curtailed access to early retirement schemes and have undertaken reforms of their pension systems. This report also shows that such reforms pay-off, both by raising effective retirement ages and by better controlling future public spending pressures. Nevertheless, there is no room for complacency and clear sustainability risks remain. The report points to the window of opportunity offered in the

next few years to intensify reforms before the full effects take hold. According to the Report's authors, delaying inevitable reforms will only raise the painful and budgetary costs.

The Report is available on the following website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2006/eespeciallyreport0106_en.htm



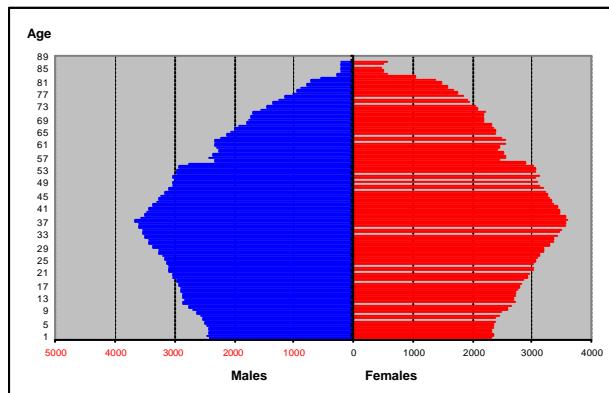
Source: www.mclean.harvard.edu

While the process of an ageing population cannot be turned around, the consequences for prosperity and sustainability lie in the hands of governments. (...) There is no room for complacency. Member States should exploit a fast-closing window of opportunity to intensify reform efforts, especially in those cases where the long-term sustainability of public finances is most at risk. Unless this is done, many EU countries, from the old to the new members, will simply not be able to face the cost (...). Delays will simply increase the cost and pain of adjustment, which is not fair for our children and grandchildren.

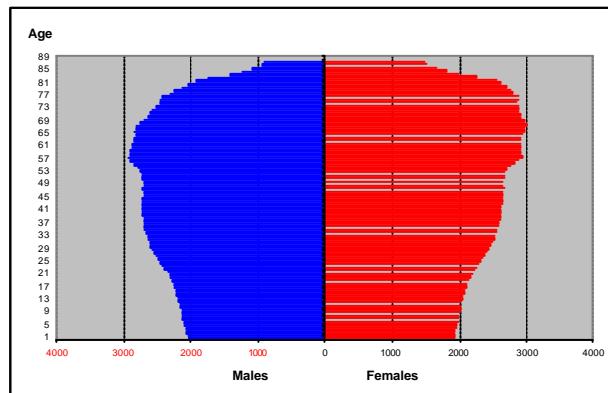
Joaquin Almunia

**European Commissioner
in charge of Economic and
Monetary Affairs**

2004



2050



Source: www.europa.eu.int

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Budapest sightseeing - Margaret-Island

The next UEMS Council Meeting will be held in Budapest on 3-4 November 2006. The venue of the Council Meeting will be the Margaret Island at the centre of the city.

"Now and then even the roman Aquincum soldiers used to row to Margitsziget to rest in the shade of the trees. Later this pearl of the Danube, which consisted of a number of small sandbanks, fell into oblivion for many years. The kings of the House of Árpád took possession and named it Nyúl (Rabbit) Island. In the 12th century monks lived

here and after the Tatar Invasion Margaret, the daughter of Béla IV came to live in the Convent, the island was later named after her.

"The majority of the monastic houses were destroyed by the Turks, and since the end of the 18th century it has been operating as a holiday resort called Palatinus. The union of the sandbanks took place in the middle of the 19th century in the course of the controlling of the

Danube. It has been accessible by foot since 1901, since the approaching road to Margitsziget was finished that year. It was an-



nounced a public park in 1908 and the gardening works began three years later."

www.budapest4you.hu

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If you have any views with regard to the issues covered in this Newsletter, do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat of UEMS.

Events



New life sciences: Changing lives

Alexandria (Egypt), 26-29 April 2006

This event aims to promote the exchange of biotechnology information and innovation between scientists and politicians.

The conference is intended to appeal to those wishing to contribute to or learn from the field of biotechnology.

For further information: www.bibalex.org/bioalex2006conf/About.htm.

eHealth in a Europe of regions

Malaga (Spain), 10-12 May 2006

This high-level conference is organised under the patronage of the European Commission and aims to analyse the role of European regions in eHealth strategies.

For further information: www.ehealthconference2006.org.

Therapies to tackle obesity

Paris (France), 18 May 2006

For further information: www.isanh.com.

Conference on ePrescribing & Medication Management

Ljubljana (Slovenia), 19-20 June 2006

For further information: www.ehtel.org.

Publications

EU-funded research into the impact of electromagnetic fields and mobile telephones on health
http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/environment/EMF/brochure_en.pdf

Implementation report on the Council recommendation limiting the public exposure to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 Ghz)
http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/environment/EMF/implement_rep_en.pdf

Obesity

EESC opinion on "Obesity - Role and Responsibility of Civil Society Partners"
http://www.esc.eu.int/publications/index_en.asp?culture=EN&id=121&details=1