



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

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WG of the structure of the UEMS

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Participants: Gunilla Brenning, president; Thomas Holzgruber, rapporteur; Bernard Maillet General Secretary of UEMS; Max Giger; Wolfgang Grisold; Eva Svanborg. Excused Frank Andersen due to the fault of the airline.

Introduction

In order to facilitate the work of the WG on future structure of UEMS an analysis of the current structure of UEMS was performed. UEMS consists of the following bodies: National Medical Associations ; UEMS Council including Working Groups; (Enlarged) Executive; Specialist Sections and Boards(S/B) and the office in Brussels. The analyses revealed a lack of communication and information between the bodies. In order to improve the contact between the bodies two initial steps have been taken in the form of two letters.

The first letter was addressed to **the National Medical Associations with the request of a list of national delegates to the different S/Bs to be sent to the office.**

The second letter contains **the basic information about UEMS and this letter will be sent to all (old and new) delegates to the S/B.**

REPORT

1. Letters to the National Medical Associations (NMAs) and the sections/boards

Gunilla Brenning appoints the letter to the NMA dated from 20.12. 2007 and the prepared letter to the sections. Both letters were approved by the WG (WG). Until now only 10 NMAs answered to the letter from December. **The WG supported a reminding letter, including the publication of the countries who haven't answered.**

2. Communication within the UEMS

The WG stressed the aspect, that the communication between the NMAs, the delegates in the council and the sections representative of each country has to be structured and intensified. To reach this aim the WG suggests, that in **every NMA an “administrative contact person”** has to be addressed to the UEMS, who is in the position to transfer information from and to the UEMS and helps UEMS to get in contact with the delegates in the country; it is expected that this administrative contact person must not be a medical doctor, but a person working in the bureau of the NMA, involved in UEMS issues.

Another suggestion is that on a **national level the national delegates to the council and the national representatives to the sections meet** under the chair of the **head of the delegation at least once a year.**

3. Council

The WG identified the working processes of the council not as optimal. To integrate the S/B better into the council the WG recommends that

- **one delegate of the NMA (head of the delegation) should be linked and have a political function within his/her NMA, and**
- **the other national delegate should be linked to a specialist section** in the represented country.

To prepare work and decisions of the council better and more specific the WG recommends for the future discussion a rethinking of the WGs (appointed by the council) and their topics. In this case it should be discussed, that **some WG could be established without a time limit, and some other working/project groups are installed with limited time** for special topics. With the end of the project the working group would be solved.

4. WGs (appointed by the council)

Looking at the work of the WGs it was stated, that there should be a change of the working process. The suggestion is, that the **WGs should meet between the council meetings**, and issue a paper on their work in progress. This paper of the WG could be provided for a distribution to the secretariat in Brussels three weeks before the council meeting and can be sent to all the delegates of the council. (like it will be with this WG)

It would be also helpful, if an **interim report for discussion** is produced and afterwards a final **report for decision**, so that is clear what the WG expects from the council and vice versa.

The WG of the structure of the UEMS also stressed, that **no paper of a WG for discussion and decision should have more than three pages**, so that every delegate can focus specifically on the topics.

The WGs recommends that there also should be a wide and open participation in the WGs by NMA delegates and stresses the importance of **that S/B are included in the WGs.**

5. Specialist Sections/Boards

The WG recommends to **establish a better structure for the Specialist S/Bs**. This should not hinder the sections and boards, but give them a common path, where they can discuss topics of mutual interest at the same or equal level, so that UEMS in Toto is enabled to fulfil one of their mostly stressed aims of harmonization and coordination the medical profession in Europe on a high level.

This core tasks of S/B could be for example:

- postgraduate training in the speciality
 - Chapter 6 in the speciality
 - CME in the speciality
 - CPD in the speciality
 - visitation in the speciality
 - assessments / examinations in the speciality
 - quality assurance in the speciality
- etc.

Logically there should also be enough time and possibilities for discussion of specific developments of the speciality or concerns of problems in the different national sections.

In order to strengthen the work of the sections and to make it more visible **all sections of the UEMS should be obliged to meet a minimum of once a year** and are obliged to write a **report**. The office in Brussels should support the Specialist S/Bs by doing so. By evaluating the website of the UEMS it should be made possible, that every section could be presented directly on the website of the UEMS or be linked to the UEMS and vice versa, so that it is clear that UEMS and its sections and board “stick together” (corporate identity, corporate design).

6. Further developments

The WG defined that one of the strengths of the UEMS in the last 50 years has been to be able to properly react to developments regarding the interests of the medical specialists in Europe. In this context the WG suggests urgently that the council of the UEMS should consider to find structures within the UEMS for the increasing number of specialist examinations in Europe and recommends the **harmonization and coordination of European examinations by the UEMS and**

its sections and boards. If UEMS doesn't take part of this aspect of the specialist world, there is a danger, that other organisations could overtake this part.

It could be a fruitful task of the UEMS to collect **all data about specialist examinations, give minimum standards and recommendations for examinations** and at the end of the process, state that this is an UEMS approved examination.

There was also stressed, that the opinion, that board examinations have no legal implications is nowadays not true any longer, because some European countries accept a European board examination as equal to the national examination and the candidate, who has passed the European examination has no assessment/ examination on a national level.

Dr. Thomas Holzgruber, 16. Feb. 2008