



The Newsletter of European Medical Specialists

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Summary:

- Survey on medical specialties in Europe
- Outcomes of the EP September plenary session
- Free movement of workers: Meeting of the High Level Group
- Official text of the new Recognition Directive
- Future Conference on CPD

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Update of European medical specialties

Following the adoption of the new Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (2005/36/EC) by the EU Council in June, UEMS announced its intention to continue the work carried out by ACMT with regard to the harmonisation of medical specialties at the European level (See N-0508 of 8 June 2005).

According to information from the European Commission, the final text was signed several days ago by the EP Chair and the British Presidency. Member States would now have two years (starting from its official entry into force, 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the EU) to transpose the Directive into National Law. Until full application (Autumn 2007), the services in charge in the Commission have to comply with both the old and new systems for the recognition of medical specialties.

As already announced, the Executive of UEMS has agreed to review the nomenclature and lengths of training for all medical specialties in Europe. This is justified by the fact that much of the data in the Directive is totally outdated (origin 1975) and is not compatible with modern medicine anymore.

For this purpose, the Executive of UEMS would like to ask that:

- * **all member associations** send a list of all the medical specialties recognised at the national level;
- * **all Sections & Boards** send the list of EU and EFTA countries where the specialty is officially recognised.

Together with this list, the following information would also be needed:

- **What is the status of the specialty?**
 - Full independent recognition
 - Competent within another specialty
 - Shared competency
 - Other
- **How long is the specialist training programme? (in years)**
- **Is there a common trunk?**
- **What kind of training is it?**
 - Academic (total or what %)
 - Practical training (total or what %)
 - Other
- **Please give details of current developments within the specialties and of any proposed new specialties**

UEMS Executive would be grateful to receive your responses by 1st November at the latest. This will contribute to improving the way medical specialists are valued at EU level.

European Parliament - September plenary session

Special medicines for children

On the occasion of its September plenary session, the European Parliament adopted the report drafted by Ms. Françoise Grossetête proposing a Regulation on medicinal products for paediatric use. At this point, the text needs EU Council approval to be adopted.

See N-0510 of 29 July 2005.

Gender discrimination and health systems

The own-initiative report on gender discrimination in health systems drafted by Ms. Eva-Britt Svensson was rejected by 244 votes to 173 with 149 abstentions.

See N-0510 of 29 July 2005.

High Level Group on the free movement of workers

The High Level Group on the free movement of workers recently met in Brussels to discuss statistics and experiences of labour flows across the EU since enlargement in 2004. This meeting also launched the process of deciding whether to maintain restrictions on the free movement of workers in the EU for a further three years. This meeting's outcomes will provide input for the Commission's report on the restrictions' efficacy, which will be presented to EU Council in January.

EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Vladimir Špidla, repeated the European Commission's commitment to free movement of labour throughout the EU: "Free movement of workers is one of the four freedoms of the EU and should be enjoyed by all. I urge all Member States to seriously examine whether transitional periods cannot be dropped."

According to Mr. Špidla, many initial statistics from the three countries without restrictions to new Member States' nationals show that labour flows and its effect have not been dramatic. Indeed expected labour flows were lower than expected: in Sweden for instance, workers from the new Member States increased the active work population by just 0.07% between May and December 2004. Mr. Špidla also allayed fears of workers from the new Member States proving a drain on the welfare benefits systems.

The Secretariat of UEMS holds the following speech at your disposal: Vladimir Špidla, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities: "Meeting of the High Level Group with regard to transitional arrangements on the free movement of workers", Brussels, 16/09/2005.

See also N-0509 of 27 June 2005

Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications

The Secretariat of UEMS holds the official text of the newly adopted Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (2005/36/EC) at your disposal.

Future Conference of all European Medical Organisations on Continuing Professional Development

In collaboration with the other European Medical Organisations, UEMS was invited to take part in the organisation of a major conference on continuing professional development of doctors to be held at the end of 2007. This conference will aim to provide EU and national health officials with extensive information on European doctors' commitment to CPD. For this purpose, the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) convened representatives from all associated organisations to share their experience and expertise on this issue within one single working group chaired by Dr. Wolfgang Routil.

At its last meeting on 23rd September last, the working group mandated UEMS, represented by its Secretary

General Dr. Bernard Maillet, to organise and chair a specific working session during the conference which will focus on **"Ethical obligation vs. Formal regulation of CPD"**. This particular working group would present the different ways CPD is dealt with by national health authorities across the EU.

UEMS also intends to give a thorough presentation of the practical operation of EACCME, possibly in the framework of another working session on quality management.

*In the meantime, UEMS Executive would like to ask every member association and Section & Board to contribute their comments with regard to the specific issue of **"Ethical obligation vs. Formal regulation of CPD"** to the Secretariat.*



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UEMS offices renovated

The Board of UEMS agreed in Lisbon on 15 October 2004 to include in the budget for 2005 the renovation and refurbishment of UEMS premises, located 20 Avenue de la Couronne in Brussels. On the occasion of the Enlarged Executive Committee Meeting on 1st September last, Dr. Hannu Halila, President of UEMS, officially inaugurated the 'new' Secretariat .



UEMS ON THE WEB:

WWW.UEMS.NET

Future meetings

UEMS Council

Munich, 20-22 Oct. 2005

Brussels, 11 March 2006

EACCME Adv. Council

Brussels, 26 Nov. 2005

UEMS Sections & Boards

Brussels, 20 May 2006

Conferences - Seminars

Workshop on eHealth

Brussels, 11 October 2005

European Parliament,

under the auspices of

Vice-President of the European Parliament Miroslav Ouzky, M.D.
and Member of the European Parliament Milan Cabrnoch M.D

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