



The Newsletter of European Medical Specialists

UEMS — EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

**The Executive and the Secretariat of UEMS
wish you their best Seasons' Greetings
and a Happy New Year 2012!**



Farewell Thanks from Dr Bernard Maillet

During the lunch break of the meeting of the Advisory Council for CME on November 19th 2011, an extraordinary meeting was organized of the Multidisciplinary Joint Committee in Intensive Care Medicine, as there had been some problems to elect a new Chairman for the MJC in the last regular meeting organized on October 20th 2011 in Brussels.

This reveals the need to clarify some issues about the membership to the UEMS Sections and the UEMS Boards as well as the MJC's.

First of all for the Membership to a UEMS Section, the rules are very clear from the Rules of Procedures (Art VI.3.A) :

“The quality of a medical specialist, independently practising is required in order to represent a full or associate Member within the Sections.

Each Section includes as members two specialist doctors:

- as representatives of each of the member countries of UEMS;
- in active practice in the relevant specialty or involved in negotiating on behalf of medical specialists;
- competent either in French or in English;
- approved by their national professional Organisation, their nominations having been agreed by the national Organisation representing specialist doctors of that country within the UEMS Council. The latter national organisation gives its formal approval and advises the Secretary General of the UEMS by official letter.

Each organisation sends in writing to the Secretary General the name of the doctor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all, members of the UEMS family at large, for the nice and interesting moments I had



Dr Bernard Maillet
UEMS Secretary-General
2003-2011

mandated to participate in the works of committees and working groups set up by the Council according to the way agreed in plenary assembly. Experts can only attend these meetings as a duly mandated accompanying person of the medical specialist.”

So, a very important requirement to participate in full right to the meetings of the UEMS Sections is to have the formal support of the National Medical Association which represents the Country in the UEMS Council.

We are aware in the UEMS Office that in some countries, due to disputes or disagreements at local and national level between the National Medical Association and the Professional Organization of some specialties the latter is not willing to pay its contribution to the parent National Medical Association, and this can create problems for the representativity and the mandate of the delegate of that specialty in the UEMS Section.

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**EUROPEAN UNION OF
MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

Avenue de la Couronne, 20
BE - 1050 Brussels

Phone: +32 2 649 51 64
Fax: +32 2 640 37 30
Web: www.uems.net
E-mail: info@uems.net

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If we read the Rules and interpret them strictly, the delegates from those countries could even not attend the meetings of the UEMS Sections, but a more pragmatic approach would say that they can be present in the meetings but as observers, without voting rights.

Clearly, it is not good if in the UEMS Sections, some countries, big or small it does not matter, are not represented appropriately, as one of the aims of the UEMS for instance is to harmonize the training in the different specialties and this requires the active participation of delegates from ALL the UEMS member countries.

Therefore we would like to ask those Professional organizations to try to find a solution and an agreement with the National Medical Association so that this can be solved.

The Boards are Working Groups of the UEMS Sections (Art. VI.8 of the RoP) and their activities should be centered around educational issues such as the writing of the Curriculum or the work in the field of EACCME and ECAMSQ. Besides the members of the UEMS Section, there can be in the Boards a representation of the most representative scientific society in the field of the specialty of the UEMS Sec-

tion, but those delegates, who do not need to be formally supported by the National Medical Association representing the country, do not enjoy voting right in the meetings and when we look at the rules in a strict way, can even not attend the meetings of the UEMS Sections.

If we read the rules in a more pragmatic way, they can attend the meetings of the UEMS Sections in an observer capacity without voting rights.

Multidisciplinary Joint Committees have a different membership as in contrast to the UEMS Sections, there we do not have a representation of the different UEMS Countries but of the different UEMS Section who are willing to participate in the activities of some of our MJC's.

The Rules of Procedures are not so extensive about the working of MJC's (Art VI.10) :

"The Council can, on the request of a Section or on its own initiative, ask one or more Sections to create a Multidisciplinary Joint Committee (MJC) for competences or spheres of activity belonging to several disciplines.

Such a joint committee must be open to members of any Section wishing to participate.

The daily management will be entrusted either to one of the Sections or to representatives of several Sections working in a collegiate way. Although not a Section in its own right, such MJC must follow the same UEMS rules of procedure as though they were a Section and refer all decisions to the Council."

So the membership in an MJC is a Section and not an individual.

Also, as the different UEMS Sections could feel their interest to participate to an MJC in a different way depending for instance on the Leadership of a Section, a Section can at all times indicate the willingness to participate to an MJC or in the contrary, indicate that it does not want anymore to participate to the activities of an MJC.

Both decisions can be altered at any time.

Therefore, the minutes, invitation to meetings or any other relevant document of the different MJC's should be sent out by the UEMS Central Office to ALL the UEMS Sections so that they can take their decisions in an informed way.

Obviously, this can sometimes create some problems as new members should be informed about the outcomes and actual situation in a certain field but on the other hand, this is the only way to ensure the openness and transparency of the working of the different MJC's.

Similarly to Sections, MJC's can have a Board, if the UEMS Council approves this initiative, where representatives of the Scientific society in the field of the MJC can participate in the activities but again, they are strictly speaking NOT members of the MJC and have therefore no voting rights in the MJC.

This is my last NewsLetter as Secretary-General of the UEMS as from January 1st 2012 the new Executive will be in charge of the organization, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all, members of the UEMS family at large, for the nice and interesting moments I had when I, together with the different Executives I had the honour to serve, shared with you the Leadership of the organization and would like to wish all the best for the new team to continue in the same way or even better in the future.

**Dr. Bernard Maillet
Secretary-General UEMS**