



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

*Association internationale sans but lucratif
EU Transparency Register 219038730914-92*

International non-profit organisation

RUE DE L'INDUSTRIE, 24
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UEMS 2026/04

MEETING OF THE UEMS COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Saturday 25th April 2026

*09:00 – 12:30**

*13:30 – 16:32**

Meeting held live at:

Carthage Thalasso Resort

Tunis Governorate,
Gammarth, PB 270
Tunisia

Tel. : +216 71 910 002

**All times are local – GMT+1 Tunisia*



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UEMS Council meeting, 25th April 2026

Welcome address by the UEMS President

*Prof. Vassilios Papalois
UEMS President*

Prof. Vassilios Papalois opened the meeting by warmly thanking the Tunisian colleagues from CNOM for their outstanding organisation, hospitality and continued collaboration. He emphasised that the meeting provided not only an opportunity to advance the work of UEMS, but also to reaffirm the organisation's solidarity with and full support for its Tunisian colleagues in their important efforts to enhance patient care and advance medical practice. He reiterated UEMS's commitment to maintaining an open and constructive dialogue on matters of shared interest.

He extended particular thanks to Dr Rym Ghachem Attia and Dr Foued Bouzaouache for their valuable contribution and warm hospitality, the selection of the beautiful venue as well as the previous evening's cocktail dinner and cultural programme at the iconic Bardo Museum.

Turning to the main strategic points, the President reported that UEMS remains in a very strong and stable position. He noted that the vision of the National Medical Associations (NMAs) is closely aligned with that of UEMS, while encouraging greater engagement at national level. Referring to discussions within the EEC, he suggested that NMAs consider expanding their internal preparatory meetings ahead of UEMS Council meetings to involve major national scientific societies and other relevant stakeholders. Such engagement, potentially through short webinars prior to Council meetings, would further strengthen cooperation.

Regarding the UEMS Sections, Boards and other Bodies, he welcomed the increasing visibility and impact of their work. He emphasised the importance of maintaining productive, two-way collaboration with European and national scientific societies and acknowledged the substantial contribution of all those involved in UEMS activities.

Prof. Papalois recalled the significant professionalisation of the ETR review process over the past 10–12 years, under the leadership of Prof. Nada Čikeš, with Mr Arthur Felice as Vice-Chair. He underlined that developing an ETR can take up to two years and requires considerable work to achieve European consensus. He also recalled the importance of consistent terminology, with "competence" being the preferred term for areas of practice not recognised as specialties under Annex V.

The President noted the growing uptake of UEMS activities. Applications for accreditation continue to increase, with EACCME recording unprecedented levels of activity, while participation in European examinations and other UEMS initiatives continues to expand. He



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stressed that professionals engage with UEMS not because of a legislative obligation, but because they value the quality mark and trust represented by UEMS.

On finances, Prof. Papalois indicated that the organisation remains in a solid financial position, with Dr Othmar Haas to provide the detailed financial report. He stressed that new initiatives require initial investment and support, while avoiding placing an increasing financial burden on NMAs. Investments should be viewed from a long-term perspective, with the expectation of sustainable returns and benefits for the organisation. Members were encouraged to approach the Executive with new project ideas and aspirations, with the assurance that support would be provided to help promising initiatives develop.

A major strategic priority remains EU funding. Prof. Papalois referred to applications under programmes such as Horizon and KeepCaring. UEMS is progressively strengthening its capacity to participate in European consortia and access significant EU funding opportunities. NMAs and UEMS bodies were encouraged to identify cross-cutting projects, while sister European organisations were invited to explore opportunities for joint applications.

The President also highlighted the developing relationship with WHO Europe. UEMS has been invited to contribute to discussions on future strategies for the medical professions, with the Secretary General and President due to attend a meeting in June. Several preparatory teleconferences have already taken place. WHO Europe recognises that engagement with UEMS provides access to the perspective of millions of medical specialists across Europe and will also have a prominent role at the UEMS Congress.

The UEMS President identified several areas requiring particular attention:

- Disaster Medicine: continued emphasis on this field, including the work of the MJC on Disaster Medicine and the broader package of related initiatives;
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: UEMS should move beyond producing position papers and develop concrete proposals for incorporating AI and ML into medical training, ensuring their constructive use for patients and society;
- Medical workforce: financial resources, hospitals and ETRs have limited value without the professionals who deliver healthcare. Workforce challenges will therefore feature prominently at the UEMS Congress;
- UEMS Congress: the inaugural UEMS Congress, to be held 27-30 May in Leuven, Belgium, should not be regarded merely as a social event, but as a strategic initiative serving the wider European medical community.

Finally, Prof. Papalois acknowledged the UEMS Office team, describing it as a stable and highly professional team, and credited the CEO, Mr Daval, for its effective management. He expressed his gratitude to the staff and reaffirmed the Executive's commitment to supporting their professional development and well-being, stressing that the organisation progresses when its team progresses.

On behalf of the EC and EEC, the UEMS President concluded his opening speech by expressing his sincere gratitude to all members for their continued work and contribution to



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UEMS. He encouraged them to continue sharing their achievements, aspirations and new ideas with the organisation.

Welcome address by President of CNOM

*Dr. Rym Ghachem Attia
President of CNOM
Prof. Foued Bouzaouache
Head of Tunisian Delegation to the UEMS*

Dr Rym Ghachem Attia, President of *Conseil National de l'Ordre des Médecins de Tunisie*, welcomed the UEMS Council members to Tunisia and expressed her appreciation to all those involved in the organisation of the meeting. She conveyed her warm wishes to the participants and underlined the importance of continued cooperation and exchange within the European medical community, saying that hosting the UEMS Council it's an honour for their organisation. The significance of the occasion was further reflected by the presence of Tunisian national television at the opening session, with coverage subsequently featured in the national news.

Her address was followed by Prof. Foued Bouzaouache, who emphasised that hosting the UEMS Council meeting in Tunisia represents both an important recognition and a significant responsibility. Referring to previous informal discussions, he highlighted the shared ambition to promote high standards of quality and to further strengthen cooperation with UEMS.

Prof. Papalois informed the Council that Prof. Thomas Holzgrueber, UEMS Legal Advisor, was attending the meeting. He highlighted Prof. Holzgrueber's expertise in non-profit law and noted that he would be available to provide legal guidance and contribute to any relevant discussions throughout the meeting.

Roll-call of delegations and introduction of new attendees

*Dr João Grenho
UEMS Secretary General*

Dr João Grenho welcomed all delegates and proceeded with the roll-call and introduction of new attendees.

He marked the significance of 25 April, commemorating Portugal's Carnation Revolution, and extended his greetings to the Portuguese delegation. He also acknowledged the Italian delegation on the occasion of Liberation Day (Festa della Liberazione), noting the historical importance of both anniversaries for democracy in their respective countries.

Dr Domingo Sanchez, representing Spain (CGCOM), introduced himself as a new attendee.

A total of 25 of the 31 full-member NMAs were present or represented, establishing the required majority for adoption at 14 votes.

Absent full-member delegations: Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary and The Netherlands.



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1. Approval of the agenda **

Dr João Grenho
UEMS Secretary General

The Agenda was unanimously approved without changes.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last UEMS Council Meeting **

Dr João Grenho
UEMS Secretary General

The Minutes were unanimously approved without changes.

3. Report of the Secretary General

Dr João Grenho
UEMS Secretary General

Dr João Grenho presented the Secretary General's Report, describing 2025 as a year of consolidation, during which the work undertaken in recent years began to deliver tangible results. He thanked CNOM for its warm hospitality and excellent organisation.

He highlighted three main pillars underpinning UEMS's continued development: financial and structural stability, strategic initiatives and partnerships, and the setting of European standards through EACCME and the ETRs. UEMS has developed into a mature and resilient European organisation, with solid financial foundations, strong reserves and assets, and a stable and highly capable Office team. The UEMS House, the DME, generated record revenue in 2025, and UEMS is expected to become debt-free in June 2026.

EACCME also recorded a record number of accredited events in 2025. The new accreditation system is scheduled for launch in July 2026, with both systems initially operating in parallel. Dr Grenho also referred to the ETRs adopted in 2025 and noted that a record number are expected to be considered in 2026.

Looking ahead, he stressed that UEMS should build on these foundations to expand its European influence through projects, partnerships, publications and the UEMS Congress. The first UEMS Congress in Leuven will represent an important milestone, bringing together medical specialists, European Medical Organisations and EU stakeholders to discuss the future of specialist medicine and strengthen existing partnerships.

The main priorities for 2026–2027 include:

- launching Accredited Provider Status;
- expanding ETR coverage;
- further developing the European Medical Specialist Review (EMSR);
- strengthening engagement with EU institutions; and
- successfully delivering the first UEMS Congress.

The Secretary General emphasised that achieving these objectives depends on the active engagement of the entire UEMS community, including NMAs, Sections, Boards and individual members.



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Prof. Papalois thanked the Secretary General and encouraged members to read and circulate the reports widely, highlighting the remarkable scale of UEMS activity and the continued growth in accreditation applications and related activities.

In response to a question regarding the number of countries that have incorporated UEMS ETRs into their national systems, Dr Grenho explained that a study with the NMAs is currently underway. The results will be presented once completed. He stressed that, irrespective of formal adoption rates, UEMS should continue working with NMAs to promote the uptake and influence of ETRs, European examinations and other UEMS standards across Europe.

A brief discussion followed on strengthening the visibility and influence of UEMS ETRs and European examinations across Europe. Prof. Papalois emphasised the highly competitive environment in which UEMS operates and the importance of maintaining the quality and value of its activities. He noted that EACCME would progressively bring the relevant accreditation systems under a common framework.

Mr Arthur Felice (EBSQ, ETR RC) highlighted the importance of encouraging national authorities to recognise and align their examinations with UEMS standards, while acknowledging that exclusivity should not be expected. Recognition of UEMS qualifications for specialist registration would nevertheless represent significant progress.

The discussion also touched upon patient safety and the work undertaken by The Netherlands within the MaMoms project, which could contribute to providing a more comprehensive European overview.

4. Presentation of the accounts and overview of Q1/2026 **

*Dr Othmar Haas
UEMS Treasurer*

Dr Othmar Haas presented the **UEMS accounts and financial overview for Q1/2026**. He recalled that changes to Belgian legislation introduced two years ago had led to adjustments in the governance framework, with the relevant financial decisions now formally taken during this meeting.

Presenting the consolidated **Profit and Loss List**, he reported an approximately 5% increase in profit, while expenses had risen by around 2%. Overall income remained broadly stable. NMA membership fees account for approximately 6% of total income, while EU grants generated approximately €75,000. Membership fees allocated to the Sections also remained stable.

Dr Haas reviewed the **Balance Sheet**, including fixed, tangible and financial assets, current assets and available cash. He highlighted considerable differences in the financial positions



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of individual Sections, with account balances ranging from a few hundred euros to several hundred thousand euros.

UEMS is expected to become debt-free in June 2026, following completion of the repayment of the Brussels Office loan. The UEMS Treasurer also presented the common investment arrangements, whereby funds from several accounts are consolidated into three-month fixed-term deposits to generate interest. Given the current global economic uncertainty, the Executive and the Advisory Committee considered this cautious approach preferable to longer-term investments in shares or property, while the investment strategy may be reviewed in the future.

Regarding the first UEMS Congress, Dr Haas expressed confidence in its scientific success while noting that its financial outcome will depend significantly on participant numbers, particularly as this is the first edition.

Key financial points included:

- all NMAs for which invoices had been received for accreditation have been fully reimbursed by the Brussels Office;
- internal EACCME fee redistribution will continue during 2026. It was temporarily suspended from February due to high operating costs at the Brussels Office and is expected to resume in mid-July 2026 as a priority for the EEC;
- priorities for 2026 include implementation of the PEPPOL platform, examination-related financial activity, common investments and improved budget submissions.

Dr Haas noted that UEMS Bodies had been asked to submit financial plans; however, only four responses from approximately 100 Bodies had been received. Further Treasurer meetings will therefore be organised to strengthen financial planning and coordination. He also referred to the advice of the Internal Auditor, Hannu, concerning the financial proposals submitted to Council.

Prof. Papalois reiterated that UEMS would be mortgage-free by June and emphasised the importance of moving from simply holding reserves towards making prudent investments that support the organisation's long-term development. He also highlighted the increasing complexity of UEMS financial operations, encompassing membership fees, courses, examinations and transactions related to approximately 3,000 EACCME-accredited events, and acknowledged the considerable work required to manage these processes and implement the new financial systems. He then thanked Dr Haas and the team around him for the excellent work and transparency.

The accounts were unanimously approved by the Council.

Council subsequently voted on the formal discharge of the Treasurer and the Executive from liability, which Prof. Papalois explained was a standard governance formality. The proposal was unanimously approved.



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5. European Affairs

5.1. *Report of the European Affairs Department*

*Dr Marc Hermans & Mrs Isabelle Dumaine
UEMS Office for European and International Affairs*

Dr Marc Hermans presented an overview of the recent activities of the European Affairs Department, placing UEMS's European engagement within the broader context of the development of European cooperation over the past 75 years. He referred members to his written report for further details.

Key activities included the follow-up of the PANACEA project, an online meeting with the Bureau of Pain Medicine, participation in a FEMS event and meetings of other European Medical Organisations (EMOs). He also reported on an invitation to co-author a paper addressing working conditions and mental health among doctors and nurses in the EU, as well as ongoing UEMS activities and missions in Ukraine.

Mrs Dumaine reminded members to use the new UEMS logo in all relevant communications and materials.

She also provided an update on KeepCaring, a project funded under Horizon Europe, which aims to reduce workplace stress and prevent burnout among healthcare professionals.

5.2. *First UEMS Congress May 2026*

*Prof. Vassilios Papalois
UEMS President*

Prof. Papalois presented an update on the **first UEMS Congress**, explaining that the initiative responds directly to requests from UEMS Bodies and NMAs for a broader platform to strengthen mutual awareness, showcase UEMS activities and facilitate constructive engagement with stakeholders beyond the organisation.

The UEMS President stressed that the Congress, together with the UEMS eJournal, *The European Medical Specialist Review*, represents a strategic investment in the future of UEMS, aimed at raising its profile and strengthening its impact across Europe. He emphasised that this is a Congress for the entire UEMS community and that its success depends on collective engagement.

The scientific programme comprises **65 sessions, including four plenary sessions**, selected following an open call that generated approximately **140 proposals**. The programme brings together experienced speakers and high-level representatives from European and international institutions. The Congress has been accredited with **20.5 European CME credits (ECMEC®s)**.

The programme will address key themes including **European health, connectivity and interdependence, free movement and quality of care**, with contributions from UEMS



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leadership, WHO Europe, the European Commission and academic partners. A mentorship programme and several parallel meetings will also take place.

Prof. Papalois provided an update on fundraising and promotion. Given the limitations on pharmaceutical industry sponsorship, a targeted fundraising strategy was pursued, generating approximately €80,000 to date. Promotional activities have included advertising through the BMJ, articles in *Artsenkrant*, promotion across Leuven hospital and university networks, and outreach to neighbouring universities and medical schools.

At the time of reporting, the Congress had reached 307 registrations, with 103 registrations for the Gala Dinner. Dedicated UEMS and EACCME booths will be available, alongside Congress materials and audiovisual content presenting UEMS and its history.

Prof. Papalois also highlighted the launch of the UEMS Journal alongside the Congress. Publications are already underway, and Congress participants will be encouraged to contribute reviews, opinions and other relevant submissions.

He concluded by highlighting the strong institutional participation, open plenary sessions and high-level European engagement as important features of the Congress, reiterating its role as a strategic platform for increasing the visibility, influence and impact of UEMS within the European medical community.

5.3. Update on UEMS IT projects

Mrs Ioli Vavetsi
UEMS Project Coordinator

Mrs Ioli Vavetsi, provided an update on the current UEMS IT projects.

The main initiatives include:

- the UEMS Member Zone;
- an open forum for interaction and exchange;
- an open-access space and agenda.

Mrs Vavetsi also provided an overview of the **European Medical Specialist Review**, covering its current status and planned development. The first publication took place on Friday, 17 April. She outlined the anticipated indexation timeline and the immediate next steps, including the creation of a dedicated website, establishment of a peer-review process, implementation of a regular publication schedule, and development of an author fee structure.

The UEMS President commended the work and talent of Mrs Vavetsi and the wider team, stressing that these projects, as well as the continued professionalisation of UEMS, depend on having an appropriate digital platform in place.

6. Specialist Issues



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6.1. Report from the Advisory Board

*Prof. Thomas Griesbacher
Chair AB – Chair of Grouping III*

The Secretary General reminded presenters to respect the allocated speaking time.

Prof. Griesbacher reported productive meetings across all Groupings, with several new ideas emerging. He stressed the need for closer cooperation between Sections to identify opportunities for joint developments.

Discussions focused mainly on ETRs, PDM and the creation of Haematology. Regarding the ETR for Competence in Hand Surgery, the relevant Sections, including O&T and PRAS, discussed and successfully resolved the outstanding issues.

6.2. European Training Requirements

6.2.1. Overview of Submitted ETRs and Introduction of the New ETR RC Team

*Prof. Nada Čikeš
Chair of the UEMS ETR RC*

Prof. Čikeš presented an overview of the submitted ETRs and PDM, noting that the review and approval process commenced on 23 December. NMAs were invited to cast their votes at the meeting.

She recalled the **ETR review timeline**, including the proposed adjustment to a four-month process, and referred to the **Explanatory Notes for Authors**, the composition of the ETR Review Committee, and key challenges encountered. She thanked Amelia for the support provided. The main challenges identified included:

- alignment of ETRs for specialties with Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC;
- the presentation and introduction of ETRs for competences within UEMS;
- alignment with the agreed ETR template structure;
- overlap between competences/competencies in certain ETRs;
- implementation of Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME), including the introduction of CanMEDS, and the selection, development and assessment of EPAs;
- implementation of the ETRs etc.

The Secretary General clarified that only Heads of Delegation would be able to raise questions and vote, and asked presenters to limit their interventions to 10 minutes.

6.2.2. PDM for Disaster Medicine for Anaesthesiologists **

*Prof. Oleg Sabelnikovs
President of EBA*

Prof. Sabelnikovs presented the PDM for Disaster Medicine for Anaesthesiologists, explaining that, while ETRs are primarily aimed at trainees, PDMs are intended for



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established medical specialists. This would be the 4th PDM proposed by EBA after: PDM Pain Medicine, Geriatric Anaesthesiology and Obstetric Anaesthesiology.

The full presentation is available at:

[6.2.2. PDM Disaster Medicine for Anaesthesiologists.pptx - Google Slides](#)

The PDM for Disaster Medicine for Anaesthesiologists was unanimously voted in favour and adopted by the Council.

6.2.3. ETR for Competence in Abdominal Wall Surgery**

*Prof. Ferdinand Köckerling
Chair UEMS Surgical Division for Abdominal Wall Surgery*

Prof. Köckerling presented the item, highlighting a tailored approach requiring competence in multiple surgical techniques and defined minimum case numbers, including at least 100 procedures for robotic surgery.

He recalled the introduction of the Abdominal Wall Surgery Fellowship in 2019, developed in cooperation with the relevant European surgical society. The ETR sets out requirements for both documented and assessed knowledge and surgical skills, classified into categories according to the number and complexity of cases performed.

The full presentation is available at: [6.2.3. Examination presentation.pptx - Google Slides](#)

A discussion followed: Dr Rantanen (FI) asked whether the ETR was also open to specialists in gastroenterological surgery. Prof. Köckerling confirmed that candidates would be eligible following six years of training in general or visceral surgery.

Dr de Deus (PT) asked whether passing the UEMS General Surgery examination was a prerequisite. Prof. Köckerling explained that national training systems vary, while Prof. Papalois clarified that the UEMS examination is strongly recommended but not mandatory across the EU, and that nationally accredited examinations may also apply.

Dr Ramuscello (IT) raised concerns regarding current recommendations on laparoscopic and robotic hernia surgery. Prof. Köckerling agreed that the field, particularly robotic surgery, continues to evolve, with costs and reimbursement remaining key challenges, and noted that the ETR could be adapted accordingly.

[The Secretary General reminded the audience that an ETR is a living document, its permanently adaptable.](#)

ETR for Competence in Abdominal Wall Surgery was unanimously voted in favour and adopted by the Council.



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6.2.4. ETR for the Specialty of Endocrinology **

Prof. Josanne Vassallo

President of the UEMS Section of Endocrinology

Prof. Vassallo presented the item, designed to provide trainees with a clear framework incorporating guidance and quality assurance, while promoting a holistic approach to patient care.

She highlighted the importance of constructive alignment and harmonised training, supported by a defined curriculum, knowledge requirements and competencies. Prof. Vassallo briefly outlined its development from the 2017 curriculum and first ETR in 2018 to the 2023 ESE training recommendations and the submission of the revised ETR in 2025.

The full presentation is available at:

[6.2.4. UEMS SBE ETR Tunis 21.04.2026.pptx - Google Slides](#)

The ETR for Endocrinology was unanimously voted in favour and adopted.

6.2.5. ETR for Competence in Hand Surgery**

Prof. Brigitte van der Heijden

UEMS MJC Hand Surgery

Prof. Brigitte van der Heijden presented the item, highlighting the complexity of the field and the importance of preserving function for patients' personal and professional lives.

Initiated by the EBHS and developed by FESSH, the ETR establishes a harmonised, competence-based training framework applicable across Europe's diverse healthcare systems. It does not create a new EU primary specialty under Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC, nor does it prescribe a specific national organisational model.

The framework covers five competence domains, combining theoretical knowledge with practical and clinical skills, and includes 12 core EPAs, with additional optional EPAs. It defines entry routes, a minimum of two years' exposure, mandatory curriculum requirements, assessment and a summative endpoint, as well as requirements for Training Programme Directors and quality assurance.

Full presentation is available at:

[6.2.5 Hand Surgery UEMS Framework Presentation.pptx - Google Slides](#)

Domingo Sánchez raised several comments on the document. Prof. van der Heijden noted that these appeared to refer to an earlier version, while CGCOM is currently reviewing the latest text. Prof. Papalois clarified that the final version of this ETR had been agreed between PRAS and O&T, following resolution of the outstanding issues.

The ETR for Competence in Hand Surgery was adopted with 18 votes in favour, 3 abstentions and 2 votes against.



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6.2.6. ETR for the Specialty of Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

*Prof. Fionnuala McAuliffe
EBCOG*

Prof. McAuliffe presented the revision of the ETR from 2018.

She noted that the duration of specialist training across Europe currently ranges from 4 to 8 years and emphasised the increasing mobility of obstetricians and gynaecologists, reinforcing the need for greater harmonisation of training standards. The revised ETR was developed using a Delphi methodology and adopts a competency-based approach, complemented by elective training modules. Full presentation is available at:

[6.2.6 EBCOG McAuliffe O+G training UEMS aApril 2026.pptx - Google Slides](#)

Dr Bonnici (MT) noted that definitions of children and adolescents vary across countries and suggested that UEMS adopt a common definition.

The UEMS President welcomed the proposal, noting that a formal review of relevant EU legislation would be required and that the EAP Section would be invited to propose an appropriate definition.

The ETR for the Specialty of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was unanimously voted in favour and adopted.

6.2.7. ETR for the Competence in Paediatric Allergology**

*Prof. Ana Margarida Neves
Liaison Officer UEMS Paediatrics Section/EAP*

Prof. Neves, Liaison Officer of the Paediatrics Section and Secretary of EAACI, presented the update of the 2019 ETR for the Subspecialty of Paediatric Allergology, acknowledging the legacy of Dr Lopes Dos Santos, whose work laid the foundations for the field over two decades ago.

She outlined the scope and structure of the subspecialty, including three years of core paediatric training, a competency-based framework aligned with CanMEDS, and provisions for quality management. Full presentation is available at:

[6.2.7. Ana Neves 15 min 2nd Short Paed Allerg Train Progr 2026 short.ppt - Google Slides](#)

The ETR for the Competence in Paediatric Allergology was unanimously voted in favour and adopted.

6.2.8. ETR for the Competence in Paediatric Emergency Medicine**

*Dr Peter Altorjai
UEMS Paediatrics Section/EAP*

Dr Altorjai presented the item, which represents the revision of the 2018 document, and aligning it with the current UEMS ETR Template. He outlined the main amendments,



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including a preamble, a 24-month training period, clearer entry criteria, core skills, six key capabilities, EPA-based assessment, and strengthened safeguards and quality measures.

He thanked the Working Group and UEMS for their contributions, noting that the revised ETR represents an important step forward for paediatric emergency care in Europe.

Full presentation is available at:

The ETR for Paediatric Emergency Medicine has been unanimously voted in favour and adopted.

6.2.9. ETR for the Competence in Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition**

Prof. Ilse Broekaert

UEMS Paediatrics Section/EAP

Prof. Broekaert presented the ETR for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (PGHN), aimed at improving standards of care and harmonising training across Europe.

The ETR is based on the CanMEDS framework and covers theoretical knowledge, practical and clinical skills, 15 EPAs, emergency management, and formative and summative assessment. It also defines requirements for trainers and training institutions, programme leadership, and quality management.

Prof. Broekaert concluded by thanking her team, the Executive, ETR Review Committee, AD and CESMA for their contributions.

Full presentation is available at: [6.2.9. UEMS ETRs Tunis 2026.pptx - Google Slides](#)

The ETR PGHN was unanimously voted in favour and approved.

Slovenia left the room and assigned its proxy to Spain/CGCOM.

Austria left the room and assigned its proxy to Finland.

6.2.10. ETR for the Specialty of Urology**

Prof. Archil Archil Chkhotua

UEMS Urology Section/EBU

Prof. Chkhotua presented the revised ETR, originally adopted in 2023.

He outlined the key features of the document, including the proposed training duration and the combined surgical and medical scope of urology. The revision aims to further harmonise specialist training standards across Europe. The ETR defines six essential Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) and incorporates the principle of lifelong learning (LLL).

Full presentation is available at:

[6.2.10. ETR for the Specialty of Urology.pptx - Google Slides](#)



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Dr Firth (UK) commended the document and raised a question regarding histopathology and relevant testing requirements for trainees. Prof. Chkhotua confirmed that these aspects were already covered in the ETR under the required core knowledge in urology.

Prof. Papalois then addressed the issue of **duplicate presentations of the ETRs** during the Councils, noting that a formal letter would be sent to the NMAs and that a decision would be taken at the next Council meeting.

As this was Prof. Mauro Zampolini's final Council meeting, the UEMS President thanked him for his longstanding contribution to UEMS. Prof. Zampolini expressed his gratitude for his 16 years with the PRM Section and confirmed that, despite the end of his mandate, he would remain available to UEMS.

6.3. Constitutional Matters

6.3.1. Proposal for the creation of a Specialty Section in Haematology**

Prof. António de Almeida

Portuguese National Medical Organisation/Ordem dos Médicos

The Secretary General introduced Prof. António de Almeida, who presented the proposal to establish a UEMS Specialty Section in General Haematology. He noted that Haematology is recognised as a specialty in most EU countries and is listed in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC, although under different designations. The proposed Section would focus on General Haematology, covering the full scope of clinical care, and support harmonised training across Europe.

Prof. de Almeida confirmed that the proposal meets the four UEMS criteria for establishing a Specialty Section:

- recognition as an independent specialty in at least one third of EU Member States;
- registration in the EU Official Journal (Annex V to Directive 2005/36/EC);
- practice by a significant number of medical doctors;
- practice within recognised training institutions.

Subject to Council approval, the Section would proceed with developing an ETR for Haematology, incorporating the CanMEDS competency framework and EPAs.

The UEMS President supported the initiative and confirmed that the scope of General Haematology had been clarified with the Laboratory Medicine Section and the outstanding issues resolved.

Dr Durkan, CESMA President, congratulated the initiative and encouraged the new Section to develop an examination. Prof. Kusek, representing the Laboratory Medicine Section, expressed her support for the creation of the new Section, noting that existing overlapping competencies could be more effectively addressed through future collaboration. Prof. Čikeš



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on behalf of the ETR Review Committee, welcomed the development of the ETR and encouraged coordination with the parallel work underway on the ETR for Internal Medicine. The creation of the UEMS Section of General Haematology was unanimously supported and approved by the Council.

7. Reports

7.1. European Medical Organisations

*Panel discussion Session on the topic: **How can EMOs promote their work and strengthen their influence at European and international level?***

AEMH – AMSE – CEOM – CPME – EANA – EJD – EMSA – FEMS – UEMO

Marc Hermans invited the EMOs representatives to reply to the questions:

João de Deus - AEMH

Migle Trumpickaitė – EJD

Alessandra Spedicato – FEMS

Catarina Matias – UEMO

The plurality of EMOs could be read externally as a fraternisation.

Two proposals:

1. Operation – to build an EU database about our demography, shared platform, to be updated, collecting all relevant data about our profession. Access on physicians could strengthen our capacities.
2. Second proposal – more plurifuriantide : to define together what it means to be a physician today; what does the act of care consists of?

During the panel discussion, representatives highlighted the importance of strengthening the medical profession's influence at European level through evidence, advocacy, participation in EU initiatives and expert groups, and strategic alliances. Particular emphasis was placed on workforce sustainability, professional standards and safeguarding the physician's role in patient care.

The UEMS President thanked the sister organisations for the fruitful discussion and concluded that cooperation among the EMOs is essential, stressing the need for a coordinated approach towards the European Commission and European Parliament, including joint projects and funding opportunities on cross-cutting priorities such as workforce planning and sustainability.



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7.2. Updates from the UEMS Associate and Observer Members

Dr Chakhava, representing GAMS, thanked the UEMS and the host, CNOM, for the wonderful organisation and the topics of the meetings.

8. Working Groups Reports

8.1. *Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development*

*Dr Hannu Halila
Chair of the CME/CPD WG*

Dr Halila provided an update on the implementation of the CME/CPD Charter adopted in 2025, noting that information from some countries remains incomplete. He also referred to recent developments within EACCME.

The discussion addressed the future organisation of UEMS Working Groups, including clearer mandates, the duration of Chairs' terms, and procedures for appointing Chairs and Rapporteurs.

A CME/CPD questionnaire will be circulated ahead of the Autumn Council meeting.

8.2. *Artificial Intelligence*

*Dr Łukasz Jasek
Head of the Polish Delegation to the UEMS*

Dr Jasek reported on the meeting of the WG for Artificial Intelligence, highlighting the growing and enduring role of AI in healthcare. He proposed developing a UEMS position paper and integrating safe and responsible AI use into medical education and ETRs, covering both general and specialty-specific competencies.

He stressed that AI should support, not replace, physicians, while safeguarding their autonomy, dignity and rights. He also encouraged the WG to maintain momentum through regular discussions and meetings between Council sessions.

8.3. *Postgraduate Medical Specialist Training*

*Dr Marc Hermans on behalf of
Dr Andreas Papandroudakis, Vice-President of the UEMS*

Dr Hermans presented the report on behalf of Dr Papandroudakis, referring to Mr Arthur Felice's work on "Beyond the Glossary – Standardisation of Terminology", which aims to address conceptual and linguistic inconsistencies and establish a clearer common terminology.

He also highlighted the importance of greater involvement of Fellows in UEMS activities and affairs.



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8.4. *Ukraine*

*Dr Clive Kilgallen
WG for Ukraine*

Dr Kilgallen provided an update on the year's activities, including discussions with the Lancet Commission and Adriana Murphy, the work on MJC Disaster Medicine, and an ongoing infectious diseases questionnaire. The WG meets regularly online and has an intense agenda. The Chair of the WG also referred to UEMS outreach to the Ukrainian delegation ahead of the September 2026 meeting of European Health Ministers.

9. AOB

Prof. Papalois closed the session by thanking all participants and apologising that time constraints had not allowed all questions to be addressed. He expressed his particular gratitude to CNOM and its President, the members of the Executive and Foued for their warm hospitality, and looked forward to further developing a common agenda.

Special thanks were extended to Bertrand and Amelia. Prof. Papalois also acknowledged the expertise and commitment of all those involved, noting that the fruits of their collective work had been clearly demonstrated over the past two days. He concluded by emphasising that the work continues and looked forward to reconvening in Leuven.

Dr Foued Bouzaouache, the host, reminded participants of the **socio-cultural programme**, comprising :

an organised trip to the iconic Tunisian village 🏠 **Sidi Bou Saïd**,
followed by an à la carte 🍴 **dinner at Dar Zarrouk Restaurant**.

Next UEMS Autumn Council Meeting – Brussels, Belgium, 16-17 October 2026.

Next UEMS Spring Council Meeting – Haarlem, The Netherlands, 16-17 April 2027.

*Items in italic with ** require a vote or a decision.*