



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 2024/26

MEETING OF THE UEMS COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Saturday 27th April 2024
09:00 – 16:00 CET

Meeting held live at:

Maison des Associations Internationales

Rue Washington, 40
B-1050 Brussels,
Belgium



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UEMS Council meeting, 27th April 2024

Welcome

Prof. Vassilios Papalois
UEMS President

In his presidential address, Prof. Papalois extended a warm welcome to all participants. He acknowledged that the reports from the CEO, Secretary General, and Treasurer had been duly circulated and announced that, moving forward, all financial reports will be shared with all delegates. He encouraged everyone to review these reports thoroughly and to raise any questions, as this will provide a comprehensive understanding of the organization.

- Significant Changes:** Prof. Papalois highlighted the recent changes in the law governing non-profit organizations, emphasizing that compliance is mandatory whenever such changes occur. The first step was the revision of the *UEMS Statutes*, for which he expressed gratitude to all involved for their efforts and approval, noting that this document serves as a foundational principle. The next phase will involve updating the *UEMS Rules of Procedure*—a document that translates these principles into action. A revised version, incorporating suggestions from the legal department and executive proposals, will be circulated, with the aim of finalizing it at the Autumn Council. The UEMS President also noted that an *Explanatory Notes [...]* document will follow consequently.
- Investments in Personnel:** The organization has made significant investments in personnel and new staff, thanks to the leadership of the CEO, Mr. Bertrand Daval, and the support of the Executive Committee. Prof. Papalois commended the staff for their outstanding work and encouraged delegates to engage with them. He expressed sincere thanks to the CEO and the team, inviting the audience to join him in a round of applause.
- Support from the EEC:** The UEMS President reminded the audience that the UEMS Executive remains available to its National Medical Associations (NMAs) and the UEMS bodies, advising them to establish contact.
- Upgraded Liaison Office:** The Liaison Officer function has been upgraded to an entire department, responsible to handle internal and international affairs, with Dr Marc Hermans set to present further details.
- IT Platform Investments:** The organization has heavily invested in a new IT platform to improve reliability, particularly in its accountancy system—a need identified by both internal and external auditors. The EACCME platform has been upgraded, with further expansion of the IT infrastructure underway.
- Real Projects for Real Impact:** Prof. Papalois emphasized the organization's commitment to real projects that have tangible effects on people's lives, highlighting the importance of visibility for the organization.
- Infrastructure Challenges:** He acknowledged recent challenges, including a fire that was managed professionally, ensuring that everything is now in order.
- European Training Requirements (ETRs):** Prof. Papalois described ETRs as a cornerstone of medical specialist practice, noting that they are mandatory and a source of great pride for



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the organization. The rigorous, scientifically driven process can span over two years. He paid tribute to the ETR Review Committee, which began its work 12 years ago in the same room, and to all its members, with special recognition for Prof. Čikeš and Mr. Artur Felice for their contributions.

Prof. Papalois emphasized the importance of incorporating Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) into ETRs and expressed full support for its gradual inclusion. Prof. Čikeš will provide an update on publications reflecting the outcomes of the UEMS ETR Conference.

The appraisal of examinations process, CESMA, remains the leading authority in this field, with special thanks to Dr Durkan. Accreditation of centers is another critical initiative, and thanks to the Working Group on Postgraduate Training, efforts to map this across Europe are underway—a project of significant importance for the UEMS.EACCME 3.0 has been a great success, and the upcoming CME-CPD Conference in March will be detailed by Dr. Grenho.

9. **Inactive Thematic Federations and Multidisciplinary Joint Committees:** The organization has identified several TFs and MJC's that are not sufficiently active or entirely inactive. A clear plan is in place to revitalize them, with the TF for Legal and Forensic Medicine and the MJC for Pain Medicine serving as examples.

10. **Other matters:**

- ❖ Prof. Papalois mentioned the organization's financial asset, which originally involved a loan of approximately 5 million euros, now reduced to just 350,000 euros, demonstrating effective financial management.
- ❖ The work of the Working Groups has been relaunched under the leadership of Dr Papandroudis, focusing on more niche projects that operate at a higher level.
- ❖ The UEMS President further highlighted the importance of receiving new proposals from the Advisory Board, particularly those like the recent submission from the Allergology colleagues regarding post-specialization. The mapping of all sections and specialists across Europe and beyond is an ongoing project, with Prof. Girbes leading a significant initiative (*MaMoms Project*).
- ❖ There is also a specific plan to engage more deeply with colleagues, including the idea of creating an alumni community for those whose mandates have ended.

Prof. Papalois proposed establishing a UEMS Congress as a vehicle for communication within the organization and, more importantly, with external stakeholders. The UEMS President also supported the idea of starting up grants and infrastructure support, a suggestion from the President of the Psychiatry Section.

Three new Thematic Federations have been launched, and Prof. Papalois expressed high expectations for their progressive agendas, which will help set the path forward. These include credible proposals on diversity, equality, and inclusion (TF EDI), the promotion of greener practices in medical specialist fields (TF GSMP), and the tackling the invasion of technology in medical practice (TF ME - Medical Ethics).

Prof. Papalois announced the reopening of the Awards Section and encouraged members to submit nominations, with further communication on this matter to follow.

The President highlighted that the October Council meeting will be held in conjunction with our sister organization, UEMO. Prof. Papalois emphasized that the organization's most valuable resource is not the DME or its assets, but the people present in the room and those outside who passionately serve the UEMS.



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In concluding his presidential address, Prof. Papalois emphasized that all our efforts—whether in ETRs, examinations, or accreditation—are aimed at a higher goal: advancing medical specialist practice to benefit patients. He warned that these fundamental European values are at risk, possibly even from within. Freedom, like health, is often only fully valued once it is lost. Prof. Papalois reflected on the ethos of the organization and expressed optimism that the UEMS's most successful days are still to come.

Roll-call of delegations and introduction of new attendees

Dr João Grenho
UEMS Secretary General

30 NMAs were present. Majority set to 16.

The Secretary General invited the new Heads of Delegations to introduce themselves.

1. Approval of the agenda **

Dr João Grenho
UEMS Secretary General

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

Dr João Grenho
UEMS Secretary General

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the accounts **

Dr Othmar Haas
UEMS Treasurer

The UEMS President noted that this approach marks a departure from our previous practices. Under the new legislation, decision-making authority now resides with the NMAs. However, financial decisions will be voted on today as part of the transition process.

Dr Othmar Haas, UEMS Treasurer, emphasized the non-profit nature of our organization, reporting an income of €3.2 million and expenses of €3.4 million, resulting in a year-end balance of -€218,198. Regarding EACCME revenues, 14.03% came from external partners, with the remainder divided between the Office and Sections. Last year's challenges included investments in EACCME, the indexation of remuneration, and increased costs related to accommodation, airfare, and meeting organization. The key point is that while revenue is stabilizing, expenses continue to rise.

The decisions we are voting on today will not immediately change this situation. The three financial priorities are:

- Priority 1: Repayment of DME by 2027: €652,121.48 + 2% non-compound interest.



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- Priority 2: Internal EACCME Dues 2021 (€192,150), 2022 (€221,100), 2023 (mid-year €154,200).
- Priority 3: Internal fund linked to DME purchase (dues for 2014-2016): €779,753 including interest.

The management fees from the Sections to the Office for 2022 and 2023 have not yet been collected, but doing so will generate cash flow for the Office, and collections will begin in the coming weeks.

The President of the UEMS expressed gratitude to Dr Haas, and the UEMS Accountant, Mr. Marco Sartori, for their entire job. He clarified that only Heads of Delegations (HoDs) have voting rights. He also reminded everyone that we are not a profit-driven business; our goal is to maintain a balanced financial position at year-end. In 2023:

1. We have invested in people.
2. We have invested in the new platform.
3. The costs of organizing meetings have increased.

Dr Firth (UK) noted that contributions to Sections have dropped by 20%. The Treasurer responded that this fluctuation is normal, with no significant changes expected, as payment periods can vary.

The accounts were unanimously approved by vote.

4. Report of the Secretary General

Dr João Grenho
UEMS Secretary General

In his Secretary General's report, Dr Grenho announced the results of the UEMS Enlarged Executive elections: Prof. Papalois, Dr Haas and himself were re-elected for another mandate, while Dr Hermans was elected as the Officer for European and International Affairs, along with the four Vice Presidents.

The Secretary General highlighted that the UEMS Office currently supports 18 UEMS bodies (Surgery Section and its Divisions, CESMA, NASCE, Medical Microbiology, Rheumatology) and has recently expanded, particularly with the addition of two new team members in EACCME.

Domus Medica Europaea: situation of rental spaces and current staff numbers were offered.

Finances: Dr Grenho reported that the Domus saw a 7% increase in income in 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. He confirmed that the UEMS continues to honor all external financial commitments, with significant investments made in the EACCME platform and team strengthening. Dr Grenho pointed out that UEMS bodies have spent over 600,000 euros on external administrative services. He urged the bodies to consider utilizing UEMS services instead, as this significant amount could be retained internally.

EACCME: The Secretary General updated on EACCME, noting that EACCME 2.1 was managed by Dr. Cees Leibbrandt Conference in 2022, and EACCME 3.0 was successfully implemented on June 19, 2023. He expressed gratitude to Dr Magennis for proposing changes aimed at simplifying processes. Thanks to the new platform, the application submission deadline has been reduced from 12 weeks to 6-4 weeks.

- ❖ An agreement was signed with UEMO during the EACCME 3.0 – The Next Frontier: A Pan-European CME-CPD Partnership Conference, scheduled for March 2024. Dr Grenho also



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provided an overview of the two-day CME-CPD Conference, covering topics such as CanMEDS, CBME, and EPAs. He mentioned ongoing efforts to replicate this agreement to expand accreditation further.

- ❖ Dr Grenho emphasized the importance of promoting EACCME through social media platforms, including LinkedIn, X, and Facebook. He shared EACCME's performance metrics, noting a steady increase in ELM and a 7.1% decrease in LEE (Live Educational Events), with 2023 income remaining similar to 2022.
- ❖ Dr Grenho called for collective support, emphasizing that EACCME is not solely the responsibility of the Secretary General but a shared effort. He encouraged everyone to advocate for EACCME within their Specialist Sections and workplaces, as his reach is limited.

Internal matters: in 2023, the UEMS has adopted 7 ETR's:

- ETR in Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- ETR in Medical Oncology
- ETR for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine
- ETR Urology
- ETR for the Specialty of Medical Genetics
- ETR in Nuclear Medicine
- ETR in Psychiatry

Constitutional matters:

- The MJC in Balneology was created during the April Council meeting 2023.
- The TF CESMA duration was extended for a further 3 years. During this period CESMA will come up with a proposal to evolve to a permanent body of the UEMS.

Dr Sigurdsson (IC) suggested increasing the representation of women on the executive boards. The Secretary General agreed with the suggestion. Prof. Papalois added that the gender balance in the room has improved compared to previous Council meetings and that further progress is anticipated with credible proposals from the TF EDI.

5. Constitutional matters

5.1. Specialist issues

5.1.1. Report from the Advisory Board

*Dr Patrick Magennis
Chair AB – Chair of Grouping II*

Dr Magennis presented the report from the Advisory Board meeting, providing a summary of the discussions. A total of 30 Sections were represented.

Key highlights from the UEMS Groupings included:

1. The election of Prof. Lampros Michalis as the new chair of Grouping I.
2. A presentation on the SEVE Project.



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3. The election of Prof. Thomas Griesbacher as the new chair and Prof. Vesna Kusec as the new Secretary of Grouping III.

The ETR in Emergency Medicine was endorsed by the Advisory Board with 24 votes in favor, 2 against, and 3 abstentions.

The Curriculum & Syllabus for the Specialty of Endocrinology received a unanimous round of applause.

Prof. Papalois reminded everyone that the Advisory Board was established in 2017 and continues to fulfill its intended purpose effectively.

5.1.2. Update of the UEMS Statutes and RoPs

*Dr Romuald Krajewski
UEMS Past President*

Prof. Papalois introduced the item during his presidential address.

5.2. European Training Requirements

5.2.1. Conclusions and next steps following First UEMS-ETR Conference

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

Prof. Čikeš presented the *Study on the Implementation of the ETR in the UEMS Member Countries* (2023) and outlined the conclusions and future steps stemming from the *First UEMS - ETR Conference*.

Basis for future work:

- Study on the implementation of ETRs in UEMS member countries - Qualitative analysis with AI summaries.
- Results of the Panel discussions at the 1st ETR conference – CHAT GPT analysis.
- Lancet Commission document: Health professionals for a new century: transforming education to strengthen health systems in an interdependent world - [https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(10\)61854-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(10)61854-5/fulltext).
- UEMS S&B published experience of writing, adopting and implementing ETRs (example: Brittlebank, A., Hermans, M., Bhugra, D. *et al.* Training in psychiatry throughout Europe. *Eur Arch Psychiatry Clin Neurosci* **266**, 155–164, 2016)
- Principles of modern Competence based medical education etc.

Prof. Čikeš spoke about the roles and responsibilities of the ETR Review Committee, highlighting the crucial task of modernising the ETR Template, creating guidelines aligned with CBME principles, introducing the new ETR RC composition, and outlining future steps for UEMS Bodies and NMAs.

The article "Train the Trainers" was discussed, emphasizing the importance of encouraging countries to adhere to a structured curriculum and produce ETRs. Recommendations for the "Train the Trainers" initiative were also presented.



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Prof. Čikeš concluded her presentation by outlining the future steps, emphasizing the need to enhance collaboration between UEMS Sections, ESS, and national societies. She urged UEMS Sections to involve ESS in the development of new ETRs and advised NMAs to acknowledge UEMS's commitment to ETR implementation within member countries.

Dr Firth (UK) requested evidence to report back to his NMA. Prof. Čikeš welcomed the request and the UEMS President confirmed that the action log will be available soon.

Dr Dor (TF EDI) suggested prioritizing the TF EDI and sexual misconduct on the agenda of the new ETRs. Prof. Čikeš thanked the chair of the TF for his input, noting that TF EDI will provide educational content, and emphasized the need for clear regulations for other bodies.

5.2.2. Training Requirements for the Specialty of Emergency Medicine **

*Dr. Ruth Brown
President of the UEMS EMS*

Dr Brown presented the revised ETR for Emergency Medicine, which has become a European curriculum since 2002 and was updated in 2009. Recognized as a specialty in 33 countries, the curriculum underwent an 18-month review involving the Education Committee, Exam Committee, Sections, Boards, and EM trainees.

Feedback from 22 national EM associations was overall positive, praising the revised ETR as a valuable 'gold standard.' The update includes new definitions, recognition of EU variations, and revised training stages. The syllabus has been broadened and enhanced to include concepts of independence and applied clinical knowledge. Modifications include changes to competence level 4 in imaging, updated recommendations for assessment and evaluation, and clearly defined requirements for trainers and institutions. The clinical content has also been revised.

Prof. Papalois praised the work of the Emergency Medicine Section, highlighting the importance of their evidence-based report and the excellent collaboration between the EM Section and the ETR Review Committee.

Dr M. Brodmann-Maeder (SW) noted that Emergency Medicine is not yet recognized as a specialty in Switzerland. She expressed hope that the new ETR for EM will aid in this regard, benefiting the field as a whole.

The ETR for EM was voted and adopted by the UEMS Council, with 30 votes in favor.

5.2.3. Curriculum and Syllabus for the Specialty of Endocrinology

*Dr. Maeve Durkan
UEMS Vice-President*

Dr Durkan presented the *Curriculum and Syllabus for the Specialty of Endocrinology*.

The first iteration, developed around 6 years ago, was approved in Marrakesh and created in close collaboration with the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE). This joint Curriculum and ETR document, with significant input from Prof. Anton Luger, former President of the Endocrinology



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Section, covers various areas including diabetes, nutrition and obesity, hormonal disorders, endocrine diseases, and sexual disorders. Diabetes remains a key component of the endocrinology curriculum.

As the development of specialist training is ongoing, the curriculum undergoes periodic reviews to stay aligned with current practices. Delegates from the Section and Board contributed to the drafting, and the document has been accepted for publication in the European Journal of Endocrinology. It also incorporates EPAs.

Prof. Turnpenny (SMG) praised the Section's work and suggested that the document should acknowledge rare diseases and include predictive genetic testing. He also recommended adding information on monogenic diseases and the implications of a positive genetic test.

6. European Affairs

6.1. European Affairs Portfolio and 6.2 European Affairs Agenda

Dr Marc Hermans

UEMS Officer for European and International Affairs

Dr Hermans presented the European Affairs Portfolio (6.1) and European Affairs items (6.2), outlining the department's past, present, and future. He announced upcoming key meetings and provided a detailed agenda.

The focus was on integrating UEMS into EU plans, addressing challenges such as an aging population, digitalization trends, and rare diseases. He also discussed the European Observatory's webinar, highlighting Mrs. Stordeur's strategy on supporting national health workforce strategies and assessing the legal framework in depth.

Regarding mental health and job retention for healthcare workers, Dr Hermans emphasized the importance of professional and personal support, education, financial incentives, and regulation. He provided an overview of the portfolio and outlined the planned steps forward, including regular consultations and collaborations on communication activities, seeking expert advice, and forming a task force.

After the European Elections, he advised collecting detailed information on MEPs and national projects in public health.

Dr Hermans concluded his presentation by thanking his office collaborator, Ms. Isabelle Dumaine.

6.3. Presentation of the new UEMS website platform

Mr. Bertrand Daval

UEMS CEO

Mr Daval presented the new UEMS website platform, highlighting areas for improvement, such as enhancing the attractiveness of tools, improving access to data, and strengthening resources for interaction between NMAs and Bodies, as well as external communication.

He proposed a solution in the form of a UEMS Platform, a three-phase project scheduled for 2024. The platform, initially implemented for EACCME, will encompass:

1. The UEMS website.
2. Sections' websites.



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3. A Members Zone.

He introduced the platform's new features, which will enable the Office to conduct online meetings, electronic elections, and more. Phase 3 will focus on implementing the Members Zone, which will include a directory, private forums, shared calendars, documents, and signed documents. Additional licensed modules will cover Helpdesk, Marketing, Surveys, Social Media Marketing, Email Marketing, Project Management, and Events.

Prof. Papalois expressed his thanks to the UEMS CEO and the project coordinator, Mrs Aela Treguier.

7. Reports

7.1. Reports from representatives of European Medical Organisations

The floor is open to:

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

AEMH – Dr Merholz presented the AEMH report along with updates on EACL, announcing that applications for 2024 are now open. He also mentioned that, following Dr Koumakis' proposal, a new Working Group on Medical Education (ME) will be established during the AEMH-DEMS General Assembly in Berlin on May 10-11. During the grouping discussion, the Vice President, Michalis, suggested organizing a Train the Trainer (TTT) course in collaboration with AEMH and EACL, a proposal that Dr Merholz welcomed.

CEOM - Dr José Santos presented the CEOM report, focusing on the issue of violence against doctors. Dr Santos highlighted 12 key measures aimed at preventing and mitigating the harmful effects of violence and burnout. Dr Santos reminded that 12 March was the European Day of Awareness on Violence Against Doctors and Other Healthcare Professionals. Additionally, he discussed the development of a unified European form to collect data on violence against medical professionals and a protocol designed to prevent violence and burnout among doctors in their work environment.

EJD - the report was presented by Alvaro Cerame, President, and Valentina Pugelj, Chair of the PGT Committee. The European Junior Doctors (EJD), founded in 1976, represents 300,000 junior doctors across Europe and currently includes 26 member organizations. They emphasized the importance of collaboration among European Medical Organizations (EMOs) and expressed appreciation for UEMS's efforts in areas like ETRs, CESMA, and accreditation. They believe one of UEMS's core strengths is addressing critical cross-sectional issues and enhancing visibility. The EJD's ongoing projects include upgrading last year's "From Tradition to Transition" with a more systematic approach, focusing on the European Time Directive and mapping the PGT system by collecting relevant information.



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EMSA – Dr Luka Delak presented the EMSA report, highlighting the Spring Assembly in Tübingen, Germany, and ongoing Erasmus projects. He emphasized collaboration with AMSE and provided an overview of the CALOHEX project, which focuses on the EU Qualifications Reference Framework for Medicine. Based on CanMEDS, CALOHEX, and National Guidelines, they defined nine key roles for physicians: scholar, professional, communicator, health advocate, lifelong learner, leader, innovator, collaborator etc. As this was his final attendance, he expressed his sincere gratitude to the UEMS.

UEMO – Dr Peter Holden, head of the UK Delegation for UEMO, provided an overview of the general practice landscape in Europe. He noted that UEMO has recently reworked its Constitution, now representing 23 member states, with Bulgaria joining just last week and ongoing discussions with Poland. The primary goal is to defend the role of GPs, who conduct 1.3 million general consultations daily in the UK alone. He outlined the common challenges faced by GPs across Europe and emphasized the critical role of general practitioners as risk managers, contrasting them with specialists. Generalists manage complex and multiple clinical risks, working to exclude the presence of serious disease, while specialists confirm it. He stressed that family medicine and general practice form the foundation of all cost-effective national healthcare services. Dr Holden also mentioned the UEMS-UEMO agreement.

7.2. Updates from the UEMS Associate and Observer Members

UEMS Associate Member: GEORGIA

An invitation was extended to host the UEMS Council, and Dr. G. Chakhava delivered a captivating presentation *Why Georgia?*. The Georgian Medical Association (GAMS) provided a historical overview of its organization, and the proposal was made to hold the UEMS Autumn Council in Tbilisi in October 2025.

Observer to the UEMS: TUNISIA.

Dr Foued Bouzaouache from CNOM Tunisia presented on behalf of Tunisia. He reiterated his invitation to host the UEMS Council and discussed the internal challenges faced by the Tunisian medical system, including the French-based format of medical schools and training, emigration issues, and complex political concerns. He also mentioned that the CNOM Tunisia would be delighted to host the UEMS Spring Council in 2025.

8. Internal Reports from Sections, MJCs and TFs

8.1. PDM for Pain Medicine for Anaesthesiologists

Prof. Oleg Sabelnikovs
President of EBA

Prof. Sabelnikovs introduced the Professional Development Module (PDM) for Pain Medicine tailored for anaesthesiologists, which extends the ETR for Anaesthesiology. The EBA President outlined the



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educational continuum from undergraduate medical education (UGE) to postgraduate training (PGT) and continuing professional development (CPD). The PDM consists of two main sections:

1. General information about the European PDM for anaesthesiologists.
2. Domains and competencies within the PDM for Pain Medicine, covering specific pain states such as acute, chronic, and neuropathic pain, as well as targeted patient groups including cancer patients, those requiring palliative and end-of-life care, infants, children, adolescents, and intensive care patients.

8.2. Report from MJC Adolescent Medicine

Prof. Lina Zabuliene

President of the MJC Adolescent Medicine and Health

Prof. Lina Zabuliene introduced the newly elected board of the MJC Adolescent Medicine and Health (AMH) and refrained from repeating her previous day's presentation. She highlighted the critical need to understand adolescent medicine, given that 1.8 billion adolescents (aged 10-24) constitute 26.3% of the global population—a particularly vulnerable group.

She acknowledged the legacy of the MJC, noting the contributions of Prof. P.A. Michaud, and expressed gratitude to the Psychiatry Section for their ideas on integrating adolescent medicine. Prof. Zabuliene also discussed the EuTeach initiative, which Prof. Michaud had presented last year, and detailed its importance alongside other forthcoming MJC AMH events.

The focus of her discussion was on the unique health needs of adolescents and young adults, driven by their biological, psychological, and social development. She emphasized the significance of understanding their behaviors and the role of parental involvement, alongside social factors like media, peer influence, employment, and education. Prof. Zabuliene clarified the difference between healthcare transition and transfer, explaining that transition involves shifting from a child-centered model to an adult-centered approach. She concluded by inviting the audience to participate in the MJC Adolescent Medicine and Health's activities.

The President of UEMS praised Prof. Zabuliene for the excellent presentation and noted that the NMAs are requesting a detailed agenda. The Chair of the MJC AMH responded by assuring that they are working on it and will publish the agenda soon.

8.3. Report from MJC Breast Care

Prof. Florentia Peintinger

President of the MJC Breast Care

Prof. Peintinger, a gynecologist and breast cancer specialist, presented the latest work of the MJC Breast Cancer (BC). The focus of the Breast Cancer Specialist Training initiative is to evaluate the current standards for breast cancer assessment in Europe, with the primary aim of identifying the professionals involved in diagnosis and treatment.



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The chair of the MJC BC provided an overview of the evaluation process, which involved an online questionnaire with 20 questions, conducted in collaboration with EUBreast. The results underscored the significant role of gynecology in breast cancer care and revealed that 39.3% of respondents reported treating a maximum of 150 cases annually, which falls short of EUSOMA's caseload criteria. Additionally, 32% of respondents had not contributed to any peer-reviewed publications in the past three years, while 37.6% had participated in training or continuing medical education (CME) and professional development (CPD).

In conclusion, Prof. Peintinger recommended enhancing CME and CPD efforts and suggested publishing these findings to highlight disparities in breast cancer care among specialists. She requested the support of the UEMS Section to address these issues.

8.4. Report from TF Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

*Dr Frank Dor
President of TF EDI*

Dr Dor presented the report from the TF for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity (TF EDI) and expressed gratitude to Prof. Čikeš. The UEMS response to Sexual Misconduct in Surgery has been sent. A call was made for broader implementation of EDI principles and a cultural shift towards a zero-tolerance policy. Attendees were invited to disseminate the document further.

The ideal composition of the UEMS Council (inclusive) and the action plan were outlined, including the TF EDI survey. The plan involves: conducting the survey, using the EDI best practice document for EACCME accreditation of educational activities, and integrating EDI into the ETRs. The goal is to foster cultural change across Europe.

Prof. Girbes (NL) emphasized the importance of enforcement, asking for ideas on how to ensure compliance. Dr Dor suggested that change should originate from within the organization, as internal commitment is more effective than external mandates. Prof. Girbes questioned whether this should be an institutional task, and Dr Dor responded that EDI elements should be incorporated and enforced within the organization.

The UEMS President requested proposals for a set of principles and flagship projects to ensure EDI considerations are addressed, noting that issues such as English-only exams are relevant.

A discussion followed: Dr Brodmann-Maeder (SW) suggested that integrating CanMEDS into ETRs could drive change, even if NMAs cannot be altered. Dr Hermans highlighted that prohibiting negative behaviors is challenging, but positive reinforcement and acknowledgment of excellent behavior are effective. Dr Dias (Psychiatry) noted that events not meeting EDI criteria may not be accredited.

8.5. Report from TF Medical Ethics

*Dr Jose Maria Domínguez Roldán
President of TF ME*

Dr Domínguez Roldán and Dr Koumakis introduced the *Mission Statement* of the TF for Medical Ethics (TF ME) and outlined its composition and objectives. The primary aim of the TF ME is to uphold



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the highest standards in medical ethics. The presenters delivered a comprehensive overview of the evolution of the TF ME.

They also provided an analysis of the reasons behind this initiative and detailed the next steps, including the drafting of a syllabus. The Mission Statement was approved the previous day.

The Task Force's mission encompasses collaboration with all UEMS Sections and aims to integrate ethical guidelines and recommendations from EMOs into the ETR and other guidelines.

Important dates were highlighted for future reference.

The UEMS President remarked that the approach strikes a balance between having practical guidelines and avoiding excessive philosophical analysis. The focus should be on achieving a logical consensus on principles. He expressed deep gratitude for leading this initiative.

8.6. Report from TF Green and Sustainable Medical Practice

*Dr Carlos Cabrera
President of TF GSMP*

Prof. Peintinger presented on behalf of Dr. Carlos Cabrera. The group's mission is to disseminate information to its stakeholders, with the next step being publication in a medical journal. Emphasis was placed on advancing the TF GSMP's influence among policymakers.

Alvaro Cerame congratulated the TF GSMP for their efforts and inquired about the adoption of the *Position Paper on Planetary Health*. Prof. Papalois responded that a final review is needed within the next week or two and commended the group for laying the groundwork effectively.

Additionally, Prof. Papalois highlighted two key areas for a greener practice:

- How the organization can enhance its sustainability, starting with internal practices. For example, the DME is already moving towards greener practices.
- Recommendations are needed on how to make medical specialist practices more environmentally friendly, focusing on where improvements should be made.

8.7. Report from Private Practice

*Dr Andreas Papandroudīs
UEMS Vice-President*

Dr Hermans presented on behalf of Dr. Papandroudīs.

Regarding private practice: the initiative is still active.

Current Status: A survey investigating issues faced by doctors in private practice was distributed to NMAs and Sections three years ago.

The input was analyzed, and the results, conclusions, and suggestions were presented at the Limassol (2021) and Brussels (2022) Councils.

General Suggestions received include:

- Private practice should be regarded as a respected method of care delivery.
- Private practitioners should be acknowledged as competent in their specific approach to care delivery.
- There is a need for improved epidemiological data on doctors in private practice.



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9. Working Groups Reports

9.1. Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development

Dr Hannu Halila
Chair of the CME-CPD WG

The Chair of the CME/CPD Working Group, Dr Halila, presented the CME/CPD report at the meeting, which was attended by 30 participants.

The meeting hosted the presentation by Dr Monika Brodmann-Maeder which focused on Competence-Based Medical Education (CBME) and its integration with CME/CPD.

Dr Halila also highlighted the agreement between UEMS and UEMO, our sister organization representing the voice of the general practitioners.

Key takeaways of the meeting included:

- The necessity to update the UEMS CPD Policy
- Revision of The Basel Declaration (2001), as it has become increasingly outdated.

9.2. E-Health

Dr Alexandre Bisdorff
Chair of the E-Health WG

Dr Bisdorff presented the report on E-Health, following a meeting with modest but active attendance.

The meeting generated numerous ideas, particularly regarding the impact of AI on medical practice. It is evident that digitization is already transforming, and will continue to shape, medical practice.

Next steps include developing constructive proposals to influence the ongoing regulatory process at the EU level. This involves identifying and collaborating with external experts from digital companies, academia, EU Parliament members interested in the topic, and other stakeholders. Suggestions from the Council are welcome.

Additionally, building connections with the upcoming EU Commission is a priority.

9.3. Postgraduate Medical Specialist Training

Prof. Umut Akyol
Chair of the PGT WG

Prof. Umut Akyol presented the report from the Working Group on Postgraduate Training (Wg PGT). The participant pool is notably large, with half of them rotating, which has led us to adjust our approach.

The group is organized into three sub-groups:

1. **ETRs:** Facilitated by Prof. Nada Cikes and Vesna, this sub-group focuses on specific aspects related to ETRs.



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2. **Training Centers:** Facilitated by Papandroudakis and Patil, this sub-group is tasked with coordinating with CESMA and other UEMS bodies to prevent overlap.
3. **Standardization of Terminology:** Facilitated by Felice and Akyol, this group is working on standardizing terminology, including and extending beyond a glossary.

Another key focus is the involvement of fellows in UEMS procedures, with monthly sub-group meetings and bi-monthly meetings of the working groups.

A question was raised about whether the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) standards are being considered. Prof. Akyol responded that while solutions are being developed, the scope of the work is somewhat beyond the specific areas of interest.

10. AOB

Next UEMS Autumn Council Meeting – 18-19 October 2024, Brussels, onsite.

Next UEMS Spring Council Meeting 2025 – dates to be announced, Brussels, onsite.

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