



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

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UEMS 2012/01

Report of the Secretary General

UEMS COUNCIL MEETING

*Meetings to be held at the **Maison des Associations Internationales***

*Rue Washington 40
1050 Brussels (Belgium)*

Friday 20th April 2012

Saturday 21st April 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UEMS is the largest European Medical Organisation (EMO), with membership comprised of 35 National Medical Associations (NMAs), 39 Specialist Sections and Boards, approximately 1000 medical specialists involved in its activities, and an annual income budget of 1,3 million Euros.

Key activities of the UEMS include:

- political lobbying (Commission, Parliament, support of NMAs);
- standard setting for training and practice in individual medical specialities;
- the accreditation of CME/CPD.

The UEMS is at an important stage of its development, as it makes the transition from a medium-sized to a large organisation, as is reflected in its functions, its finances, its premises, and in its structure.

As is to be expected for a large membership organisation, challenges occur that reflect the diversity of members involved in the UEMS and the range of partners with which the UEMS interacts. To date the UEMS has proven resilient in its handling of these issues, employing, by preference, a consensus-seeking approach.

A common question asked by colleagues of representatives who attend UEMS meetings is “So, what do you do at these European meetings?” When answering, it is worth noting that the “added value” of the UEMS includes:

- greater strength through mutual co-operation;
- a unified voice in the international representation of medical specialists;
- international excellence in key areas of relevance to the medical profession;
- effective interaction and support between NMAs and the UEMS, and between individual specialities and the UEMS;
- addressing interdisciplinary issues in emerging areas of specialist medical practice;
- setting the basis for the robust accreditation of the educational meetings attended by our colleagues;
- the development of new, harmonised models for the training of the next generation of medical specialists, and of high standards of clinical practice, hence improved care for patients throughout Europe.

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The new team leading the UEMS

Following the elections, on 8th October 2011, at the UEMS Council meeting in Naples, the new office-holders of the UEMS began work on 1st January 2012.

Considerable appreciation and recognition must be put on record for the contributions of the members of the preceding Executive and the Vice-Presidents, all of whom helped to bring the UEMS to the stage it is now in.

The new office holders are:

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| President | Professor Romuald Krajewski (Poland, Neurosurgeon) |
| Secretary General | Dr Edwin Borman (United Kingdom, Anaesthesiologist) |
| Treasurer | Dr Giorgio Berchicci (Italy, Oro-Maxillo-Facial Surgeon) |
| Liaison Officer | Professor Zlatko Fras (Slovenia, Cardiologist) |

These members make up the UEMS Executive.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Vice-President | Dr Hans Helmqvist (Sweden, Anaesthesiologist) |
| Vice-President | Dr Salvatore Ramuscello (Spain, General Surgeon) |
| Vice-President | Professor Jan Skrha (Czech Republic, Endocrinologist) |
| Vice-President | Dr Hans-Peter Ulrich (Germany, Oro-Maxillo-Facial Surgeon) |
| Honorary President | Mr Len Harvey (United Kingdom, retired Gynaecologist) |

With the members of the Executive, these members make up the Enlarged Executive.

The UEMS employs the following members of Secretariat:

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| Mr Frederic Destrebecq | Acting CEO, European Affairs, Lobbying |
| Mme Benedicte Reychler | Managing Director, Finances |
| Mme Nathalie Paulus | EACCME Co-ordinator |
| Mme Patricia Demeulemeester | EACCME |
| Mr Jean-Baptiste Rouffet | Sections and Boards, ECAMSQ |

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The members of the Executive have established a working arrangement that includes a weekly tele-conference, with the CEO, (using VOIP technology), regular contact with the UEMS office by email and telephone, and face-to-face meetings only when necessary.

Members of the Enlarged Executive each have a portfolio, which involves them working with the relevant member of Secretariat to develop the UEMS's work in key specific areas. It is anticipated that, in this way, the workload of the UEMS will be shared and addressed more fully.

PRIORITISED ISSUES

Following a review by the UEMS Executive of all aspects of the organisation's function, certain issues have been prioritised for attention. That does not mean that other issues will not be addressed – they will, by individual portfolio holders – however, these priority issues are of “overarching” relevance, hence need to be dealt with by the Executive as a whole.

1) Domus Medica Europea

The UEMS has purchased premises at 24 Rue de l'Industrie, a five floor building with extensive office space. In order to do so, the UEMS drew on reserves that have been built up over the last decade, and long-term loans, analogous to a mortgage. It is intended that this building will provide a home, not only for the UEMS family, but also for other European Medical Organisations, hence the name Domus Medica Europea.

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In order to ensure that the building is suitable for our purposes, extensive renovations have been scheduled, and a city planning permission application has been made. These renovations will include internal alterations to the existing five floors, and the adding of two more floors, creating a modern, fit-for-purpose seven floor building.

The likely opening date for Domus Medica Europea is April 2013.

2) UEMS finances

The UEMS continues to benefit from healthy finances, largely related to the income accrued from the EACCME's accreditation activities. As a result, it has been possible for the UEMS to maintain subscriptions from National Medical Associations at very reasonable levels. Careful management of the UEMS's expenditure has allowed a surplus to be delivered, year after year, hence permitting the purchase of new premises.

As a result of this successful financial growth, the UEMS has made the transition to a “large organisation” under Belgian law. The criteria for this designation, that have now been fulfilled, are that our membership subscriptions are more than 250 000 Euros per annum, and our total budget is more than 1 million Euros per annum. This designation requires considerable additional accountability under Belgian law, a requirement with which, as an organisation registered as an “international non-profit organisation (AISBL)”, the UEMS must comply.

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In effect, this requires:

- considerably more detailed external audit of the UEMS accounts;
- public transparency regarding the UEMS's financial affairs;
- ensuring that all parts of the UEMS family use accounts that have been opened under the name of the UEMS;
- clarity regarding the UEMS's VAT liability.

Following extensive consultation with legal, accounting and VAT specialists, considerable work already has been performed to ensure that the UEMS is compliant with these legal requirements. In accordance with our legal obligations, full implementation of all aspects of these elements is well underway.

3) Communication, co-ordination, more efficient working

The UEMS Executive recognises that it is essential for the healthy development of our organisation that we improve our internal and external communications. That statement is an acknowledgement that our performance in these areas is not as good as we would want it.

An immediate step, already implemented, is that a member of the UEMS office will answer all telephone calls received during working hours. When the member of Secretariat responsible for dealing with a query is available, you will be put through to them; if not, you will be contacted in a timely manner.

The UEMS Executive recognises that our organisation has outgrown the capabilities of our current website. In the past, the UEMS has benefited from the contribution of helpful colleagues who gave of their time to establish the organisation's presence on the web. However, in order to ensure that our future communication needs will be delivered more effectively the UEMS has now appointed an Information Technology company to provide a robust, and user-friendly, interactive website.

Soon Sections and Boards, Multi-disciplinary Joint Committees, and UEMS Working Group will have greater potential to present their work, and co-ordinate their efforts through the new UEMS website. It would help in the implementation of this development for specifications to be provided regarding the IT requirements of these parts of the UEMS family.

SECTIONS AND BOARDS

The UEMS has 39 Sections (most of which have associated Boards), and 10 Multi-disciplinary Joint Committees (MJC's). Most are highly active, with 21 having developed Chapter 6 training charters, 28 are involved in CESMA, 22 organise European examinations, and many having active visitation programmes.

UEMS documents on specialist training programmes very often are used as guidelines for the development of national systems. Accordingly, Sections and Boards will be encouraged to ensure that

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these are kept up to date. A new template is being prepared to assist those Sections and Boards that are still preparing their Chapter 6 curricula, and to provide a reference guide for those wishing to update theirs.

Members of the UEMS Executive are happy to join colleagues at meetings of their Section and Board; please extend such invitations via the UEMS office.

The innovative project that is ECAMSQ is making excellent progress, with successful pilot assessments already having been completed in Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care and Cardiology. It is planned that this project will be expanded to incorporate other specialities that express an interest to be involved.

Further developments in this area include the commencement of work on an e-platform to support this area, and an application for funding by the European Commission, as part of its OLIMPE programme.

COUNCIL

As will be seen at the April meeting, the Executive has given much thought to how the time devoted to meetings of Council, and the meetings that are held related to that, can be optimised.

Key changes that have been made include:

- increased time for meetings of Groupings of UEMS Sections;
- dedicated time, on day 1, for the Board meeting, so that this does not run into time for the Council meeting;
- increased opportunity for meetings such as those for the establishment of MJC's and for the development of new parts of the UEMS structure.

Feedback is invited on the efficacy of these changes.

EACCME

The UEMS held a conference in November 2011, at which, for the first time, organisations that engage in our accreditation activities had the opportunity to meet together, hosted by the UEMS. Feedback, both in terms of the responses provided on the day, emails following, and engagement since, has confirmed how very successful was this initiative.

A key component of this conference, and of the EACCME Advisory Council, was the public presentation of the new criteria for the accreditation of live educational events (LEEs). As a result of developments in this area, and further consultations, amendments will be proposed to this document; these will be prepared by the EACCME Taskforce, prior to presentation for decision by the UEMS Council.

The EACCME continues to increase its activity, which is dependent on the work provided by National Accreditation Authorities, reviewers from UEMS Sections and Boards, and colleagues from European

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Speciality Accreditation Boards. Please volunteer to help with this work if you aren't involved already!

A specific need is for a pool of experienced reviewers who also are willing to receive applications referred for more detailed scrutiny. If you are willing to contribute to this specialist work, please volunteer!

A quick summary of the accreditation activity for 2011 is:

Accreditation of Live Events

- 1761 Events were accredited (some submitted in 2010)
- 1740 applications for accreditation were submitted in 2011
- 40 applications were rejected
- 184 applications were suspended pending further evaluation

Accreditation of e-Learning materials

- 95 applications for accreditation were submitted in 2011
- 50 applications were accredited
- 8 applications were rejected
- 30 applications are ongoing

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LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

The UEMS remains very active in lobbying of the European political decision-makers with a summary of this work, for only the first three months of this year including:

- Meeting with the Director of DG Health and Consumers;
- Meeting with the Head of Unit, DG internal Market;
- Meeting with the Head of Unit, Professional Mobility;
- Meeting with the Past President of the European Parliament;
- Involvement in the Joint Action on Healthcare Workforce;
- Meetings with MEPs.

You can be assured that the policy adopted by our organisation is being presented in an effective and influential manner!

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THE FUTURE

I started by emphasising what the UEMS provides for you, and for our colleagues and patients throughout Europe. I drew attention to the importance of this stage of development of our organisation.

The UEMS is a membership organisation, and as such is as strong as the contributions that its members make. Already, together, we have achieved much, as is evidenced by this report. The more we all contribute, the more we shall all be able to achieve.

Edwin Borman

Secretary General

April 2012