



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Alment Praktiserende Lægers Europæiske Organisation – UEMO
European Union of General Practitioners – UEMO
Europäische Vereinigung der Allgemeinärzte – UEMO
Union Européenne des Médecins Omnipraticiens – UEMO
Unione Europea dei Medici di Medicina Generale – UEMO
Europese Huisartsen Vereniging - UEMO
Unión Europea de Médicos Generalistas – UEMO
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Euroopan Yleislääkärijärjestö – UEMO
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Germany

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1. The most important decision for GPs in 2002 was taken by the Deutscher Ärztetag in Rostock end of May. In the future, the two specialties “General Practice” and “General Medicine” (Internal Medicine) shall be a single discipline, called presumably Facharzt für Innere und Allgemeinmedizin. The field of general medicine (internal medicine) will be divided into several disciplines like cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, haematology, nephrology, rheumatology and pulmology.

For the new specialist in internal and general medicine and the various extra fields of internal medicine, the first three years of post graduate training shall be organized alike. The new general practitioner will then have to complete his training by two further years whereas those doctors who want to work in one of the other disciplines will have to complete their training by three further years.

The structure of the new GPs training is thought to be the following:

- 2 years in hospital departments of general medicine,
- 1 year free for rotation and
- 2 years in general practice including some surgical contents.

The final decision is expected in 2003 when our specialist regulation is remodeled by the Deutscher Ärztetag. After that, the Ärztekammern in the various Länder have to adopt the new regulation and submit it to their corresponding Ministry for confirmation. So it will take some time before the new discipline Facharzt für Innere und Allgemeinmedizin will come into existence.

UEMO – PRESIDENCY

c/o Swedish Medical Association, P.O. Box 5610, Villagatan 5, SE-114 86 Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 790 34 52, Fax 46 8 20 57 18, E-mail: info@uemo.org

2. Infringement procedure against Germany

As answer to the formal request of the Commission, the German Government wrote a letter back to the Commission saying that Germany will change the laws in the Länder in order to be able to convey the specialist title of Arzt für Allgemeinmedizin to migrating doctors having successfully completed the specific training required by directive 93/16/EEC.

3. Equivalence of Medical Diplomas of Third Countries

In January 2002, the Medical Act (Bundesärzteordnung) has been amended in so far as the equivalence of diplomas has to be established before health professionals including doctors can be authorized to work in Germany. In cases where the equivalence can not easily be established, the candidates have to pass an examination. There is unfortunately no unique procedure for the handling of recognition on the basis of equivalence of foreign diplomas or examination of the candidates since “education” lies in the competence of the Länder (see also points 1 and 2).