



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
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PROPOSALS FROM THE SWEDISH PRESIDENCY ON FUTURE UEMO PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS

Background

For many years now the UEMO has discussed the possibility of having a permanent representation in Brussels. When the Swedish Presidency presented its goals with a UEMO Presidency in Naples in October 2001, one of the key goals was to have a permanent office in Brussels at the end of its term, at the latest. We believe that this goal was decisive for the General Assembly in order to elect the Swedish Presidency.

With this in mind, things have developed in a positive way recently. Discussions have started and progressed on the possibility to use CPME as an umbrella organisation for the medical profession as a whole. Within this organisation the identity and independence of the different organisations must be maintained. The UEMO is always the expert in matters on general practice. The discussions are still at an early stage and still need to be defined before a final proposal can be presented and commented within the different European medical organisations. The cooperation is important in order to reach the common goal of one voice for doctors in Europe as often as possible. It is also important to avoid duplication of work and to streamline common positions. Another goal is to have one single office for the medical profession in Europe. A single office will improve cooperation and enables the use of the collected competence existing within the European Medical Organisations.

UEMO Activities in Brussels

This year the Presidency has focused on lobbying on the Direct-to-Consumer advertising (Pharmaceutical Directive) and the proposal for a directive on recognition of professional qualifications. For the future other important issues are tobacco, health of elderly, preventive

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activities etc. Another goal of the Swedish Presidency is to be a permanent stake-holder in the European Health Forum. At the focus are always the improvement and maintenance of high quality in health care for patients and the strengthening of general practice in Europe. The voice of the general practitioner must be heard.

The latter points are of course extremely relevant also in the upcoming discussion and lobbying regarding general practice/family medicine as a medical specialty. Cooperation and discussions are already taking place between the UEMO and the European Commission. Additional lobbying is necessary also with the other European institutions and not the least nationally. Lobbying should always be done in close cooperation with the UEMO Presidency and national delegates.

Suggestion to have permanent staff and office in Brussels

The CPME has currently decided to hire (50%) a research assistant in Brussels. The research assistant is a graduate in European Public Policy. Her tasks are to monitor, inform and lobby in matters relevant to the medical profession. The UEMO has now the possibility to hire additional 25 % of her time to do work similar to that she is doing for the CPME but that is relevant to our activities. The total cost for this research assistant, should the UEMO decide to hire her, would be €10,000 per year. In addition to this the cost for renting space at the CPME office would cost us €3,000 per year. There are means allocated for such a cost in the draft UEMO budget for 2003 provided that the General Assembly approves the proposal from the Swedish Presidency.

In consequence with the above the UEMO Presidency wishes to propose the following to the General Assembly:

Proposals:

1. To have the mandate to hire for a trial period of one year the research assistant to do work for the UEMO in Brussels. In addition to that we wish to hire space in the CPME office.
2. To have a mandate to continue the discussion with the CPME and the other associated organisations regarding the creation of a common structure of the medical profession in Europe. The General Assembly will have the final say on the proposal, which will be provided in written. Member delegations will be continuously updated on new information that occurs before the final decision is taken.

UEMO Presidency
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