



ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN
DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING
ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES
EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN
EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVINIKOV
EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV
EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIH LIJEČNIKA
ЕВРОПЕЙСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ НА СТАРШИТЕ БОЛНИЧНИ ЛЕКАРИ

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CPME Liaison officer's Report Dr Raymond Lies

Since my last report presented in Ljubljana the CPME held three meetings: one in June 2006 in Brussels, one in November 2006 in Luxembourg and in March 2007 in Warsaw. The increasing involvement of the CPME in EU health policies is difficult to resume shortly. This report is therefore far from exhaustive but just a highlight of some of the important ongoing subjects, in some of which the AEMH is not directly involved. The President's Committee, which takes place on a regular base before each CPME meeting, is an important forum for updates on individual and joint activities of the different EMO's, and fine-tune common positions. Here attached are the minutes of the last Presidents' Committee.

The EU Commission's Public Consultation regarding EU action on health services

The CPME's answer on the health services consultation in which all AOs participated was delivered with the mention of the names of all EMO's involved in due course to the commission. CPME received an invitation for a round table discussion on the outcome of the consultation, which will take place in autumn with MEPs and DG Sanco after 260 replies have been analysed.

The IMI Project (Information exchange about professional qualifications)

The implementation of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications

The IMI project aims at facilitating exchange of information between competent national authorities on different Directives concerning the internal market. Three of them were mentioned: the Directive on electronic commerce (EC/2002/31/EC), Directive on professional qualifications (2005/36/EC) and the future Directive on services. Both of these legislations impose administrative cooperation between Member States. Thus, Directive 2005/036 imposes, enhanced cooperation between the national competent authorities.

The field of the recognition of professional qualifications has been chosen to develop a demonstration project of the IMI during the period 2006/2007. 4 professions (doctors (CPME), pharmacists for the sectoral professions and physiotherapists and accountants for the general system) have been selected by the European Commission for the pilot phase of the IMI project who all welcomed the IMI initiative and pleaded for an easy and user-friendly system.

The CPME underlined two concerns of the profession that would require further work: the issue of data protection and the exchange of information on sanctions.

e-health

CPME was present as one of the supporting associations at the 3rd World Health Care Congress in Barcelona 26-28 March 2007 which brought together over 500 health leaders (Health Ministers, government officials, Hospital Directors etc.)

CPME's e-health rapporteur Dr Pruckner participated in the roundtable on patient safety.

Next on the e-health agenda is a EHTEL (European Health Telematics Association) meeting in Rome in May as well as the World of Health IT 2007 conference in October in Vienna where CPME is an active partner.

EWTD (working time directive)

As you all know, the legislative process of the revision of the current Working Time Directive is stuck in the Council. Nevertheless, the EU Commission included working time in a Green Paper on labour law in which it invited reflections on how labour law might be modernised.

The public consultation entitled “Modernising Labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century” tackles the “flexicurity”, i.e. flexibility for the labour market and security for the workers.

In its answer to the consultation the CPME stressed that CPME policy laid down in document 2004/155Final stipulates the following:

- the time doctors spend on-call at the working place should be counted working time;
- a unilateral extension of the reference period from 6 months to 12 months should not be possible. The provisions of the European Working Time Directive should therefore not be changed into a more liberal direction. However, CPME welcomes the Commission proposal that the length of the reference period should not be longer than the length of the work contract;
- the possibility for individual opt-out for doctors in training should be abolished from the Directive;
- compensatory rest needs to be taken at times immediately following the corresponding periods worked unless otherwise decided by collective agreement.

No distinction between active and inactive working time should be made.

CPME furthermore adopted the joint PWG/EMSA contribution on the consultation.

Pharma Forum

The Pharma-Forum is a joint venture between two Commissioners, Kyprianou (Health and Consumer Affairs) and Verheugen (vice-President and responsible for Enterprise), the Council of Ministers and several stakeholders. The working group was set up in 2006 with representatives from all Member States and stakeholder organisations, among them CPME, to establish a collaborative public-private partnership on information to patients. In particular, it was tasked to consider a practical and realistic improvement of the information available to patients on health and treatment-related issues. Moreover, it handles major concerns of EU pharmaceutical policies, related public health issues and ways to promote the competitiveness of the EU pharmaceutical industry.

The Commissioner Verheugen wants to increase the effectiveness of the pharmaceutical sector. CPME guards in order to cross the pharmaceutical industry's influence.

The working group on information to patients of the Pharmaceutical Forum launched a public consultation, concerning two main areas of work:

1. A diabetes model information package (case study on information to patients)
2. A set of quality principles on proper information to patients

This public consultation will last until 4 May 2007.

CPD conference in Luxembourg

The conference was very successful thanks to the good preparation by the working group in which AEMH-Vice-President Dr Thomas Zilling was active. Furthermore he was the rapporteur of one of the working sessions. The participants reached an agreement on the final CPD declaration which can now be added to the list of very strong signals of the medical profession's dedication towards quality assurance.

Prevention

CPME plans a conference on this issue, but could not get the necessary support from the present and upcoming EU-presidencies. Therefore CPME will try to integrate the issue in the programme of the Health Forum Gastein (October 2007) and get the European Commission as a co-organisier.

EU platform for "Action on Diet Physical Activity and Health"

Prompted by the alarming rise in health the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection Markos Kyprianou launched an EU Platform for "Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health", in which the CPME is a founding member. The Commission also launched a Green paper how to reduce obesity levels and the prevalence of associated chronic diseases in the EU.

Internal topics:**Enlargement**

The CPME integrated Bulgaria as a new member and held negotiations with both the Romanian Medical Collegium and the Romanian Medical Association which will most probably agree on a joint membership.

Voting procedures

Some of the big members of the CPME requested the establishment of a reflection group on the issue of weighted votes. The group shall make proposals within the framework of the current statutes.

Elections

The CPME General Assembly in Warsaw elected its Executive Committee for the period 2008-2009.

President : Dr. WILKS of the British Medical Association (U.K.)

The 4 elected Vice-Presidents are:

Dr. MONTGOMERY (Germany),

Dr. FJELSTEDT (Iceland),

Dr. RADZIWILL (Poland)

Dr. CALLOC' H (France)

Dr LEMYE (Belgium) re-elected Treasurer.

All Policy documents of the CPME, from which the last are listed here below, can be found on the CPME website <http://www.cpme.be/policy.php>

2006

At its Executive Committee in Brussels, 15th of June 2006, CPME adopted the following contribution:

CPME contribution to the Transparency Initiative

CPME reaction to the DRAFT eHealth Interoperability Staff Working Paper "Connected Health: Quality and Safety for European Citizens" of 2 May 2006

At its Board meeting, Brussels, 17 June 2006, CPME adopted the following resolutions

Deterioration of health care in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (referring to CPME 2006/103 EN/Fr)

CPME resolution on Safeguarding Professional Autonomy of Doctors (CPME 2006/101 EN/Fr)

Labelling: competitiveness, consumer information and better regulation for the EU – Response to a DG Sanco Consultative Document, February 2006

At its Board meeting, Luxembourg, 27 October 2006, CPME adopted following resolutions:

CPME Statement on Reducing the Global Impact of Alcohol on Health and Society –

Suggestions to improve and strengthen the Community pharmacovigilance system

2007

At its Executive Committee, Brussels, 26 January 2007, CPME adopted the following documents:

CPME's Answers to the health services consultation

CPME answer to the Health Policy Forum questionnaire on the EU health strategy, 12/02/07

At its Board meeting, Warsaw, 17 March 2007, CPME adopted following resolutions:

Access to care and treatment for asylum seekers (CPME 2007/025 Final EN/FR)

Resolution on Counterfeit Medicines (CPME 2007/052 final EN/FR)

CPME / EMSA / PWG joint contribution to the consultation on “Modernising labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century”-Contribution commune CPME / EMSA / PWG à la consultation« Moderniser le droit du t(referring to CPME 2007/054 Final EN)

Statement of CPME concerning the Work of the WG „Relative Effectiveness” of the Pharma Forum - ” (referring to CPME 2007/021 Final EN/FR)

The medical profession and armed conflict (referring to CPME 2007/026 Final EN/FR)

Mental Health: Statement - La Santé Mentale: Déclaration (referring to CPME 2007/032 Final EN/FR)

Resolution on tobacco - Résolution sur le tabac (se référant au document CPME 2007/023 Final EN/FR)

At its board meeting, Warsaw, 17 March 2007, CPME endorsed the following document:

Draft guidelines for the ethical recruitment of internationally trained healthcare professionals (CPME 2007/027 Final EN)

European Core Curriculum: The Students' Perspective

Albufeira Resolution on Medical Students' Rights in Europe



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS



CPME 2007/055 EN

TITLE / TITRE

Minutes Presidents' Committee, Warsaw, 15 March 2007

AUTHOR / AUTEUR

Dr Wetzel - FEMS

CONCERNING / CONCERNE

Presidents' Committee

PURPOSE / OBJET

DECISION

DATE

17/03/07

KEYWORDS / MOTS CLEFS

Minutes

Minutes of the Presidents' Committee
March 15, 2007, 5pm – 7pm
hotel Sofitel Victoria, Warsaw (PL)

1. OPENING, ROLL CALL

- AEMH Dr. Raymond LIES
- CPME Dr. Daniel MART
- CPME SG Lisette TIDDENS-ENGWIRDA
- EANA Dr. Jörg PRUCKNER
- EMSA Dr. Daniel KESZTHELYI
- FEMS Dr. Claude WETZEL
- PWG Dr. Rui GUIMARAES
- UEMO Dr. Isabel CAIXEIRO
- UEMS Dr. Zlatko FRAS

2. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- Election chairperson: Dr. PRUCKNER
- Election rapporteur: Dr. WETZEL

Jörg PRUCKNER welcomes the new President of the UEMO, Isabel CAIXEIRO.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

CPME 2007/011

The agenda is approved.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2006 IN LUXEMBOURG

CPME 2006/155

The minutes are approved without comments nor modifications.

5. POLITICAL ISSUES

5.1. Green Paper "Modernizing labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century"

This consultation was launched by the Commission in a blocked political context of the revision. process of ED 2003/88 on certain aspects of the organisation of working time (EWTD) This consultation, first phase of a longer process, will be closed on March 31, 2007.

Lisette TIDDENS-ENGWIRDA and Rui GUIMARAES consider necessary to prepare a common document from **CPME 2007/031 EN/FR** and the document drafted by PWG & EMSA (**CPME 2007/015 IN**), mentioned hereafter. Once again it is necessary that the medical profession expresses with one voice, by taking into account the specific interests of all its components.

Zlatko FRAS announces a strong opposition of the Surgery Sections of the UEMS to the weekly limit of 48h working time applicable to the doctors in training in 2009. Many senior surgeons, but also some young English surgeons in training, consider that the available medical time will not allow a satisfactory surgical hands-on training. After intensive discussions searching for a consensus, it was decided that the UEMS would stick to the policy statement of 2005 (**D 05/15**), without modifications. A solution for the concerned disciplines would be perhaps to prolong the duration of training.

Rui GUIMARAES points out the position of its organization (PWG): to put an end to the possibility of individual renouncement ("opt-out"), to limit the weekly working time to 48h, including for doctors in training.

Claude WETZEL reports the request of certain FEMS delegations for the maintenance of the possibility of individual renouncement ("opt-out") for a few years, time to improve the basic medical incomes and to recruit doctors. Indeed, in certain countries, overtime is currently the only mean to obtain decent incomes, justified by a high level of qualification.

Lisette TIDDENS-ENGWIRDA proposes that each EMO draws up a list of the divergent points, which are necessary to discuss "internally". Dr. HUERTA, who ensures the coordination of this file, will collect the various remarks which have to be addressed to him by email for the end of March 2007. In the final document the list of EMOs which took part in its development will be mentioned in the preamble.

Daniel MART considers essential that the document is sent within the deadlines, maybe with footnotes quoting the points to be specified, in order to be reference as partner in the process, which is just beginning.

5.2. Health Services Directive

Daniel MART presents the point. It is important that the synthesis document of the CPME (**CPME 2007/010 FR/EN**) is approved and transmitted to the Commission so that the CPME and the AOs which took part in its drafting are referenced as partners in the future work in this matter.

Approximately 260 organizations already answered the consultation. Daniel MART and Lisette TIDDENS-ENGWIRDA expressed their surprise to see a contribution addressed by the UEMS to the Commission. Zlatko FRAS comments that the conclusions of the UEMS document are not different from those of the CPME document but some specialists wished to express specific aspects, in complement to the work of the CPME and the other EMOs.

Lisette TIDDENS-ENGWIRDA wishes the UEMS document to be modified, mentioning the above phrasing in its introduction. This would make it possible to keep a coherence between the documents of the EMOs.

Raymond LIES and Jörg PRUCKNER point out that it is necessary that the doctors speak with one voice, in the current political context and because of the great number of contributions.

Daniel MART proposes to draft common documents in the future, mentioning in the introduction the EMOs which took part in the drafting of the document, with maybe footnotes quoting the specific points arisen by the specific needs of some EMOs.

Rui GUIMARAES and Claude WETZEL recall that the AOs have specific requests of their members, which they must defend. The goal of the common WG and of the Presidents' Committee is to ensure as much cohesion as possible. If the members of the AOs see that this method works and that each opinion is heard and respected, the expression with one medical voice will be possible.

Lisette TIDDENS-ENGWIRDA declares that at any opportunity she takes the time to explain to the European politicians that the voice of the doctors is plural, the one of the CPME and the one of the independent AOs, which have specific requirements.

6. POLITICAL WORK OF CPME AND AOs IN 2007

6.1 The European Prevention program Conference (information only)

The CPME SG Lisette TIDDENS-ENGWIRDA and Dr. BRETTENTHALER have contacted the European Health Forum Gastein in Bad Gastein/ Austria in (October 2007) to see if it would be possible to organise the conference in the context of the Gastein meeting.

7. DOCUMENTS FROM THE AOs

7.1 Proposed Format for a Meeting in October 2008 between CPME and its AOs by UEMO

CPME 2006/127 EN

This proposal made during the last meeting by Christina FABIAN, then President of the UEMO, reaches unanimity.

A common meeting of the CPME and AOs will have a strong symbolic value as well internally for the members of our EMO, as externally: Commission, Parliament and the Council of Ministers of the Union.

But this meeting should not be an additional meeting in the calendar. Each EMO would hold its meetings and the program could include half a day in common (subject: "future of the EMO"), a common dinner and a common press conference.

It seems however difficult for Isabel CAIXEIRO, to organize this meeting for autumn 2008. Some EMOs have already planned their meetings for this period. The agreed period is **spring 2009 and the place is Brussels.**

The project will be discussed again and specified during the next meeting of the President's Committee, June 14, 2007 in Luxembourg.

7.2. For information

7.2.1. Modernizing labour law to meet the challenges of 21st century – PWG & EMSA

CPME 2007/015 EN

Daniel Mart considers that this document is a reference document of great quality, which will be discussed during the meeting of the Subcommittee "Organization of health care, social security and health economics" and will surely be used as background document for future work on this matter.

7.2.2. EMSA Response to "Health Strategy 2007-2013"

CPME 2007/035 EN

The Commission launched this program. Daniel KESZTHELYI reminds that EMSA has drafted the document to specify some requirements for a harmonious evolution as well in the Eastern as the West European countries.

Raymond LIES comments that the 1st § of the conclusion on last page of the document summarizes everything:

"The economic and cultural pressure on healthcare caused by an ageing population and higher expectations of the quality and accessibility of care can only increase. The healthcare sector in particular has to deal with the rising demand for services in addition to limited budgetary conditions."

7.3 For endorsement

7.3.1. European Core Curriculum: the Students' Perspective

CPME 2006/144 EN

7.3.2. Albufeira Resolution on Medical Students' Rights in Europe

CPME 2006/145 EN

The 2 documents have already been discussed during the CPME meeting of Luxembourg last October and seem ready to be proposed to the CPME Board for endorsement.

8. INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

CPME 2007/041

6 events need to be added to the calendar:

- 10th European Health Forum Gastein, (A), Tuesday 2 - Friday October 5, 2007 (at the same time as the GA of the WMA in Copenhagen which will be held from October 3 to 5, 2007)
- The meeting of the UEMO in Toledo (E) October 26 & 27, 2007 (at the same time as the PWG autumn meeting? which will be held in Ljubljana)
- 50th anniversary of the UEMS in Brussels from the April 17-19, 2008.
Dr. FRAS invites the participants to this anniversary
- The UEMS autumn meeting October 9-11, 2008 in Copenhagen
- The CPME meetings of October 2008 are rescheduled to October 23, 24 & 25 in London (UK) in order not to collide with the WMA meeting in Seoul, October 15-18, 2008.
- The common meeting of the EMOs, in Brussels in Spring 2009.

9. ANY OTHERS BUSINESS

9.1. "Charta of E-health and patient safety " (Jörg PRUCKNER for information)

The EANA wishes to specify that 2 conditions must be absolutely guaranteed and guaranteed in the development of E-Health: the safety of the medical data and the special relationship between the doctor and his patient.

10. NEXT MEETING

In Mondorf-les-Bains (Luxembourg), June 14, 2007

11. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

Nobody asking the floor and the agenda being exhausted, Dr. PRUCKNER declares the meeting closed at 7 pm.