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Family practitioners throughout Europe met in Toledo

The Plenary Assembly and the Working Groups of the European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO) were held in Toledo, counting on the presence of the manager of SESCAM (Health Service of the Autonomous Region of Castilla-La Mancha), Alfonso Ruiz Molina, the president of the “Consejo General de Colegios de Médicos de España” (CGCOM-Spanish national medical association), Isacio Siguero, the secretary and vice-secretary of this institution, Juan José Rodríguez Sendín and Francisco Toquero, respectively, and the president of the UEMO, Isabel Caixeiro from Portugal, among others.

Among the principal conclusions drawn by almost a hundred doctors from 24 countries in the European Union was the common existence in all countries of a "high health care pressure on family practitioners, poor economic conditions and lack of uniformity in the training system” according to the representative of the Spanish delegation, Francisco Toquero.

The UEMO Assembly met in the city of Toledo, with the collaboration of the CGCOM, the Autonomous Medical Council of Castilla-La Mancha, and the local medical association of Toledo; and discussed the principal current topics of the collective, that included continuing and specialist medical training, continuing professional development, preventive activities, integration policy among EU member states, particularly those new members; review of UEMO strategies; future of family medicine, equal opportunities and weighted vote inside the UEMO.

Vacuum in continuing training

A vacuum has been detected with regard to continuing training and its organisation and differences between the various EU countries, delegating this training on professional medical associations with an important presence of the pharmaceutical industry for its financing, according to Dr. Toquero. For the Spanish delegation, “the ideal thing would be a uniform training, because there is a real movement of professionals between one country and another in Europe, and it would be desirable to reach a minimum level of competence”.

Another working group studied the UEMO action policy, looking into the need to review and study the health scheme strategies in each country and making a global analysis of them to see the suitability of matching these health schemes in all countries.

Lastly, the members of the UEMO reviewed the possibility of setting up the weighted vote within the organisation when defining their health policies in Europe.