



The Newsletter of European Medical Specialists

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Summary:

- UEMS to take over the work of ACMT
- EU Council adopted the Directive on the recognition of qualifications
- Progress on the "Services Directive"
- Debate on the organisation of working time transferred to Coreper
- eHealth Conference

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"Recognition Directive" adopted by EU Council

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"Services Directive" discussed in EP and Council

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Working Time examined in EU Council

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European Conference on eHealth

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Update to European medical specialties

As the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications is now adopted by the European Parliament and EU Council (See p.2), the Executive of UEMS considered appropriate to take over the work laid down by the Advisory Committee on Medical Training (ACMT) and update the list of recognised medical specialties throughout Europe.

In N-0507 (26 May 2005), the intention of UEMS Executive to start updating the list of European specialties was unveiled. This project is justified by the further involvement of UEMS in the consultation process to be set up in the framework of the future Recognition Directive being implemented. For this purpose, the Commission would call on European professional organisations to provide their expert-knowledge with regard to the harmonisation and equivalence of training conditions.

UEMS already advised the Commission after the entry into force of the first "Medical Directive" in 1975 in the framework of the ACMT. This committee gathered national representa-

tives from the medical profession, universities and governments and was chaired by the President of UEMS. The Presidencies of **Dr. Leonard Harvey** and **Dr. Cilian Twomey** led to the Third and Fourth Reports on medical training, which notably updated specialty designations and suggested changes in minimum duration of specialist training. **Dr. Hannu Halila**, current President of UEMS, also took part in drafting ACMT Fifth Report from 1996 to 2000.

The Executive of UEMS thought it would be suitable to pursue this work as ten new Member States recently joined the EU and the last update to the list of specialties was carried out in 2001. Therefore, the Executive would soon call on all Member Associations and Specialist Sections to provide the Secretariat of UEMS with extensive details with respect to the recognition of medical specialties at national and European levels. The Executive is also currently liaising with the European Commission (DG Markt) in order to set up an efficient collaboration and examine which proceedings would be the most appropriate.



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« *step towards achieving that.*” Ms. Reding also stated that eHealth would help doctors practice more efficiently and accurately and would thus reduce medical errors.

According to the Commission, eHealth would empower patients and give them easy access to quality health information. In the framework of its action plan, the European Commission will launch an EU Health Portal later this year. This Portal would provide a “one stop shop” for health information issued by the EU and a gateway to the websites of national and regional health authorities and civil society.

The Conference and exhibition in Tromsø were opportunities to showcase eHealth success stories from across Europe, which included several projects fostering eHealth applications and which have been co-financed by the EU Public Health Programme and Information Society Technologies Research.

Current projects funded by these programmes notably include the creation of electronic patient records and the elaboration of e Health guidelines for Member States.

Further to contacts with the European Commission, the Executive of UEMS is currently examining the opportunity to raise this issue to the next Council and Sections meetings in order to provide the Commission with extensive expert input on this area.

For any further information on the Conference: www.ehealth2005.no.

EU policies and actions on eHealth: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/qualif/health/index_en.htm

Success stories:

- Clothing actively monitoring your health: http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&CALLER=PROJ_IST&QM_EP_RCN_A=63342
- Ensuring better quality information on health websites: http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&CALLER=PROJ_IST&QM_EP_RCN_A=58116
- A more accurate instrument for “keyhole surgery”: http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&CALLER=PROJ_IST&QM_EP_RCN_A=58082
- Capturing and processing information for chronically ill patients: http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&CALLER=PROJ_IST&QM_EP_RCN_A=53659

Future meetings

UEMS Council

Munich, 20-21 October 2005
Brussels, 11 March 2006

EACCME Advisory Council

Brussels, 26 November 2005

The voice of practising medical specialists in Europe