



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
 Uniao Europeia de Clinicos Gerais – UEMO
 Euroopan Yleislääkärjärjestö – UEMO
 Europeiska Allmänläkarorganisationen – UEMO



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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The European Union of General Practitioners, UEMO, was created in 1967, and is one of the medico-political organisations of Europe. 23 countries are members and we have unanimously adopted a policy to have general practice/family medicine recognized as a specialty in Title III of the directive 2005/36/EC, on equal footing with all other medical specialties.

This policy is also supported by the Standing Committee of European Doctors – the CPME. The reason for this policy is the growing importance of general practice in most European countries. Research has shown that it is cost-effective to have a well developed primary health care to take care of the basic medical problems of patients, and to be a navigator to the patient in a society characterized by more and more specialized treatment. The unique relation between a general practitioner and his/her patient is especially important for patients with chronic diseases and for the increasing number of elderly patients with many diseases and poly pharmacy.

The demands on general practitioners have grown, depending on patients wanting to be treated as close to their homes as possible, and because of the change in health care structures, where more treatment is being performed outside hospitals with a diminishing number of hospital beds.

With an enlarged European Union and with the right to migrate for doctors and patients alike it is evident that we need a high quality of doctors all over Europe to give the patients an equal care in every country.

UEMO – PRESIDENCY

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Many countries in Europe recognize today a specialty in general practice family medicine. UEMO has adopted a policy to have a specialty in general practice/family medicine in all member states with a specialist training period of five years.

In the future we want to delete Title IV in the directive 2005/36/EC, to avoid having two levels of general practitioners

Several countries have already realized the importance of specialised general practitioners/family physicians to meet the future demands of health care in our countries. It is therefore with great surprise we now hear from our Swiss colleagues about the ongoing discussion of having a new syllabus expected to attain its objectives with “fewer human, financial and time resources than the current training”. This is quite contrary to the direction of the discussion in the rest of Europe and also contrary to the UEMO policy, where it is obvious to have competent, highly skilled general practitioners in order to live up to the demands from the patients.

General practice/family medicine is the broadest and biggest specialty in medicine. The patient's entrance to health care services is often here, and every referral and prescription gives rise to costs. The specialist training period, the possibility to regulate continuing medical education and personal development are guarantees for a highly skilled doctor and a cost-effective health care.

The UEMO fully supports the Swiss Society of General Medicine and the Swiss Society of doctors (Foederatio Medicorum Helveticorum, FMH) to maintain the general practitioner as a recognised specialist with a 5-year training period in the speciality. To return to training requirements in accordance with Title IV, would set an infelicitous precedent for the established UEMO policy and also for the ongoing development in most countries of Europe where the goal is to have general practice/family medicine recognised as a specialty with a 5 year training period.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Christina Fabian
UEMO President