

E.A.N.A.

EUROPÄISCHE ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DER NIEDERGELASSENEN ÄRZTE
EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP OF PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS IN FREE PRACTICE
GROUPEMENT EUROPÉEN DES MÉDICINS EN PRATIQUE LIBRE

Minutes of the EANA meeting held in Gibraltar from 27-28 May 2011

present:

President Austria	Dr. Jörg Pruckner	Slovakia	Dr. Ladislav Pasztor
Belgium	Dr. Roland Lemye	Slovenia	Dr. Gordana Kalan Zivcec
Germany	Dr. Kerstin Jäger Dr. Regina Biesenecker	Spain	Dr. André Bolliger Dr. Olga Garcia Gómez
France	absent with excuse	Czech Republic	Dr. Pavel Tautermann Dr. Vladimir Dvorak Dr. Ivan Julis
Ireland	absent with excuse		
Luxemburg	Dr. Claude Schummer	Hungary	Dr. Ferenc Hajnal Dr. Béla Szalma Dr. Sandor Balogh Dr. Renata Papp
Portugal	absent with excuse		
Romania	absent with excuse	Guests	Dr. A. Galloway Dr. René Begeluin
Sweden	Dr. Ilona Barnard		
Switzerland	Dr. Christine Romann Dr. Yves Guisan	Reporter	Mag. Nathalie Holzer
Absent with excuse:	Dr. Max Zollner, Dr. Gunnar Welander, Dr. Lohninger		

E.A.N.A. President Dr. Pruckner welcomes all participants and thanks Dr. Yves Guisan for the invitation and the organization. Dr. Guisan welcomes the guests from Gibraltar and gives a short overview on the programme of the two day meeting, respectively on the social programme. The minutes of last meeting held in Dublin are unanimously accepted and the present agenda is discussed. On request of Dr. Tautermann, an additional TOP (i.e. 12a) is included in the agenda.

President's report

In his report, Dr. Pruckner gives a retrospect of developments and objectives regarding the individual international organizations (AEMH, UEMS, FEMS, PWG, EFMA/WHO, WMA). Dr. Gordana Kalan Zivcec, in her capacity of Vice-President, reports on the

activities of the CEOM and the forthcoming meeting in Kos. The revised “Code of Ethics” will be read at the occasion of the forthcoming CEOM meeting.

Dr. Ferenc Hajnal reports on the Hungarian UEMO presidency of the past months. In the beginning, the Hungarian organization had to face great challenges, the first 2-3 months were mainly needed to come to terms with both, financial and administrative issues. In April already, the first Board meeting was called in Szeget. The forthcoming UEMO meeting will be held in Budapest. John Dalli, European Commissioner for health and consumer policy, has granted his support and will hold a speech on the *Cross border healthcare* Directive at the UEMO meeting. E-Health will be another important topic at the forthcoming UEMO meeting.

In his report, Dr. Pruckner also referred to:

- Cross border healthcare Directive – implementation in the individual countries in their national legislations until 2013
- eHealth
- evaluation of Directive 2005/36/EC
- Signature of the “European Declaration: free access to medical care for persons without identification documents” by the E.A.N.A.
- Measles outbreak (up to 800 000 casualties per year)
- Professional ID card (proposal from Germany, see enclosure)

Development of the alliance of EMOs

Dr. Pruckner reports shortly on the EMO meetings held in Amsterdam, Paris and Ljubljana, as well as on the most important topics (EWTD, Directive 2005/36/EC, Cross Border Healthcare, Domus Medica).

The last meeting mainly focused on European Working Time Directive (EWTD), Directive 2005/36/EC, the Cross Border Healthcare Directive and the Domus Medica. The forthcoming meeting will be held in June in Kos, - neither Dr. Pruckner, nor Dr. Schummer will be able to attend it in their capacity of E.A.N.A. representatives.

Being part of an alliance requires regular meetings and exchange. As the travelling costs to Brussels are very high, Paris seems the more sensitive venue for meetings. Dr. Kalan Zivcec proposes the newly inaugurated Domus medica in Ljubljana as venue for

the forthcoming EMO meetings (all necessary infrastructure would be available, including interpreters' booths).

The Czech delegation raises the question if regular EMO meetings have repercussions on the situation of the private, self-employed doctor, bring about achievements at European level, respectively, what could that organization already do for self-employed doctors.

It is stated that there is no common legislation for self-employed doctors at European level and that in every country, the extramural area is covered by a proper organization. Some national reports, however, presented during the meeting or having been transmitted, give an idea of the problems in the individual countries and of what needs to be done.

In principle, a large platform allows only to target general issues. The E.A.N.A., however, supports the countries concerned, in triggering European wide discussions, as it has been the case in the past.

The role of the E.A.N.A. in the alliance

Many issues are being discussed at these EMO meetings which do not necessarily concern self-employed doctors. If the E.A.N.A. wants the interests of self-employed doctors to be represented, it absolutely needs to be part of this alliance.

In any case, the E.A.N.A. would benefit from an alliance, as it lacks the financial means for Brussels based lobbying.

All members share this view in principle, however, a more precise definition of the activity and the role of the E.A.N.A. within the EMOA would be desirable.

Treasurer's report

Only a preliminary statement of revenues and expenditures is presented, as there are still many items outstanding (the costs of the Gibraltar meeting are not considered in the enclosed statement).

Again, it will not be possible to create large surplus of reserves. The financing of the two meetings should be secured, but this year, too, it should be quite close.

Dr. Lemye asks those countries of which the membership dues are outstanding, to comply with this request as soon as possible.

He reports that Romania continues to face financial embarrassments and it is decided unanimously to relieve Romania from its paying duty until the end of 2011 – in 2012 the President will communicate with Dr. Paul Serban in this matter.

The President approves of Slovenia to accede to the E.A.N.A. as full member in 2012.

PR- measures, strategy for attracting new members

It has to be decided whether the number of members should be maintained, or whether it should be increased.

Dr. Lemye names several countries (including non-European countries) where there is a principle interest of becoming members. However, some of them face financial difficulties, also due to constant currency depreciation.

Therefore, it is up to the E.A.N.A. to make a pre-selection and then specifically approach those selected.

Although Sweden has encouraged Norway to participate in one of the forthcoming E.A.N.A. meetings, this has not been the case until now.

The “Nordic meeting” mentioned by Dr. Ilona Barnard had to be cancelled, - which could perhaps take place in autumn 2011.

Dr. Lemye asks every member country to use its contacts, in order to attract new members. For this purpose, the E.A.N.A. will address an official correspondence to other countries inviting them to consider E.A.N.A. membership.

Dr. Kerstin Jäger proposes to invite also other German organizations, such as the German Association of Family Doctors (Hausärzteverband) to the forthcoming autumn meeting in Halle/Saale, having already contacted Dr. Pruckner in the past.

E.A.N.A. homepage

It is suggested to update the homepage, respectively to provide there topical information and issues, which could be useful mainly for the attraction of new members.

The German version, in particular, should be enlarged.

Reduction of membership fees

In principle, there are no reduced membership fees however, there is the possibility of filing a request for reduction during the first years of membership; Romania is the only country having a fee of 500€.

There are two levels, respectively a basic amount: the level of membership fee was assessed according to the size of the country and the individual financial situation. In contrast, there are smaller countries paying a higher fee on a voluntary basis.

It is recommended to maintain this regulation.

Memorandum – self-establishment – Czech Republic

The Czech Association addressed all members in writing and in submitting a number of proposals (see enclosure). These will be dealt with in the course of the E.A.N.A. meeting.

The Czech Delegation proposes to hold the meetings in Brussels or in Strasbourg however, it is generally known that Paris would be an alternative as Brussels is a very expensive destination. Such a meeting could also be organized by the AMMD secretariat. And it has to be considered that in this case, the costs for the meeting would be higher, as the host country would no longer assume the social programme.

In principle, there is no need to hold a meeting in Brussels and to have personal contact with Parliament or European Commission representatives, in order to attract their attention to the problems of self-employed doctors. Each country has its delegates (members of parliament) to whom mailings may be addressed. In addition, the statements, drafted jointly during E.A.N.A. meetings, should be forwarded to the Members of the European Parliament.

The main problem consists in the fact that European legislators strongly lack interest in the field of self-establishment. For this reason, the proposal is made to invite European Commission experts for presentations.

Dr. Pruckner reports that the CPME has already been inviting experts however, the experiences made were not the best, as the presentations never led to valuable discussions the speakers never made clear statements.

A short survey on self-establishment is done among the representatives of present member countries and it is unanimously decided to the E.A.N.A. shall draft a statement including the following items:

- secured insurance benefits for patients – each patient is entitled to be reimbursed a certain amount by insurances
- maintenance the attractiveness of the profession
- the profession of the self-employed doctors shall be compatible with family life and allow female doctors to take up this profession
- the health care system has to remain independent in the financial respect (no private funding, at most, by the state or by insurances)
- each doctor has the fundamental right to open a practice – the E.A.N.A. pleads for the fact that each medical doctor in Europe has the possibility of opening a practice
- bureaucracy shall not exceed a certain limit

A draft will be sent out before the autumn meeting and the members will be asked to take a position and to make suggestions for improvement, if deemed necessary.

The resulting resolution shall be forwarded to all EMOs, the European Commission, as well as to the MEP of the individual member countries.

The President thanks the Czech colleagues for their initiative which has led to a very interesting discussion.

Health reform in Luxembourg

Dr. Schummer reports on the health reform in Luxembourg.

Survey on prevention – Dr. Kerstin Jäger (see enclosure)

At the last meeting already, Dr. Jäger gave a short overview on the situation in the individual countries. At the autumn meeting she will present a very extensive summary of all data and information, which she received from the member countries. The President thanks her for this substantial outcome achieved and asks the member country representatives who have not yet provided information to do this as soon as possible (above all: immunization and vaccination calendars and periods of maternity protection).

It is decided to add the question on who performs health checks (self-employed doctors, institutions or both) in the individual countries.

In order to decide how to further use the findings of the survey, it has to be distinguished first between an individual health check or so-called mass-screening. The presentation is followed by a discussion on how useful it is to effect such a survey, and

whether it is actually necessary to compile information at this scale from the individual countries.

Some country representatives advocate the idea of seeking support at EU level and on focusing main issues; moreover, the E.A.N.A. would have no possibility of influencing national preventive programs – which would rather be the duty of the national professional representative organization.

The President emphasizes the importance of this topic which in his view absolutely concerns self-employed doctors and the E.A.N.A.

It is planned to explore the important elements from all existing programs, responses and information returned by the individual countries; only if detailed information are available from the individual countries it is possible to generate a preventive program which is optimal from the medical perspective; this valuable result may then be forwarded to EU institutions.

The President points out once more that local, country-specific problems cannot be tackled via EU institutions. It is merely possible to engage in lobbying and hope to be heard. This is why a statement shall be drafted on this issue.

Meeting in Halle/Saale – short presentation by Dr. Kerstin Jäger

The forthcoming E.A.N.A. meeting will be held from 18 to 19 November in Halle/Saale. Dr. Jäger gives a power point presentation and regales the participants with local specialties from Germany.

National reports (see enclosures)

E.A.N.A. position paper – drafting of a statement

Dr. Ilona Barnard has drafted a statement which may very well be used as a basic document. It is recommended to adopt this draft as a starting point for elaborating a document and to forward it after the meeting to all per email, with the request for comments before 15 June.

Revision of the statement on the Directive on prescription medicines

It is decided to add this statement to the resolution of Luxembourg and to circulate it among the members with a request for statement.

Revision of the statement on vaccination protection

This topic shall be dealt with in the forthcoming meeting in Halle/Saale.

Statement on the issue of “Task shifting”

It is decided to adopt a statement on this issue at the forthcoming meeting. Dr. Schummer is asked to carry out the necessary preparations.

The CPME has drafted a very good statement on task shifting which will be forwarded to the members with the request for comments, together with a short UEMS statement on the definition of medical practice.

Election of the President

There is the proposal that Dr. Jörg Pruckner and Dr. Claude Schummer share the forthcoming term of President (first half term – Dr. Pruckner – 2nd half term Dr. Schummer).

This proposal is adopted unanimously by all present.

Spring meeting 2012

The next spring meeting will be held in Bratislava.

Autumn meeting 2012

The President asks the members to make suggestions for the venue of the autumn meeting.

Nathalie Holzer reporting for the President