

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 Madrid, Spain from 27-28 April 2009

present:

President	Dr. Jörg Pruckner		
Vice- President	Dr. Maximilian Zollner	Switzerland	Dr. Yves Guisan
Belgium	Dr. Roland Lemye	Slovakia	absent with excuse
Germany	Dr. Maximilian Zollner Ute Leutloff-Simons Dr. Regina Biesenecker Dr. Kerstin Jäger	Spain	Dr. André Bolliger Dr. Olga Garcia Gómez Dr. Nelly Albesa Caro Dr. José Briz Manzanares Dr. Patricio J. Martinez Dr. Aranzazu Albesa Perez Dr. Gemma Albesa Perez
Luxembourg	Dr. Claude Schummer		
Ireland	Dr. William J. Lynch Claire Camilleri	Czech Republic	Dr. Pavel Tautermann
Austria	Mag. Nathalie Holzer	Hungary	Prof. Dr. Ferenc Hajnal Dr. Renáta Papp
Portugal	absent with excuse	CPME	Dr. Michael Wilks
Romania	absent with excuse	Reporter	Mag. Nathalie Holzer
Sweden	Dr. Ilona Barnard		

EANA President Dr. Jörg Pruckner welcomes all participants. The minutes of last meeting held in Brussels are unanimously accepted, the present agenda is discussed and it is decided that a letter from Dr. Pavel Tautermann is added as TOP 12a to the agenda. Dr. Claude Schummer has prepared a presentation relating to this topic, which will be presented in the course of the meeting.

Topic 13 (Experiences with EPA – the current situation in Romania) will be taken off the agenda, as Dr. Paul Serban was prevented at short notice from participating in the meeting. His presentation is scheduled for the meeting to be held in Luxembourg in Mai 2010.

1. President's report

In his report, Dr. Pruckner gives a review of the events and objectives of the past months in the individual international organizations (CEOM, AEMH, UEMS, FEMS, PWG, EFMA/WHO, WMA).

In his report, Dr. Pruckner also addresses the planned UEMO/UEMS cooperation agreement, as well as the intention of the UEMS to acquire a “domus medica” in Brussels. Dr. Pruckner was asked if the EANA was interested in participating in this project.

Additional issues were: H1N1 virus, the report about a conference about Bosnia and Herzegovina held in Munich upon invitation of the Bundesärztekammer (German Medical Association), as well as a meeting between the Czech colleague Dr. Pavel Tautermann and Dr. Jörg Pruckner in Vienna.

There is general agreement that a cooperation makes sense in principle, as long as the partners are on a par with each other and the EANA is considered a partner in its own rights.

2. Treasurer's report

According to a resolution taken at the Budapest meeting, the travelling expenses of the president will be assumed. As this time too, the Austrian Medical Chamber has assumed the travelling expenses, Dr. Pruckner asks for the costs relating to his and Schummers participation (as president and secretary general) in the Presidents' Committee (to be held in Porto on 6 December within the CEOM framework) to be incurred.

Ms Leutloff-Simons points out that the costs for this meeting are not yet included in the revenue and expense statement, and that Dr. Paul Serban has paid the membership fee in cash at the meeting held in Budapest.

As the Romanian colleagues are facing enormous financial difficulties and Dr. Paul Serban attaches great importance in the EANA membership, it is decided to hold a meeting in Romania in 2011, in order to facilitate the settlement of dues.

The treasurer's report on revenues and expenditures is accepted, and it is unanimously decided that the membership dues will be slightly increased by 10%. In addition, it is agreed that Spain will be able to maintain a reduced membership due of 1100€ in 2010.

3. The Forum of the medical profession – presentation by Dr. Patricio Jimenez Martinez (see also enclosure)

Dr. Jimenez Martinez has initiated the Forum of the medical profession and is secretary general of the medical syndicates, the participants of which can be considered an expert group as to their knowledge and skills.

The Forum of the medical profession is a round table with representatives of 6 different institutions which have legal personality and are independent and as such can be contacted by authorities.

The objectives of the Forum:

- restore the repute of the medical profession
- improve the quality of medical care
- center the doctor-patient relationship within medical care

It is planned to rename the Forum into “Round Table of Knowledge and Skills” and to look for an adequate legal personality (in this respect, there will be a talk with the Minister of Health).

4. Telemedicine – experiences made in the Spanish army – presentation by Dr. José Briz Manzanares (see also enclosure)

The technology of telemedicine was originally developed in the army and was then transferred to civil society. The presentation deals with the key elements which have to be overtaken to make telemedicine work in civil life.

The presentation is followed by an intensive discussion about data protection and the transferral of patient records.

The questions of liability and reimbursement of costs remain to be solved, in particular in case of trans-border telemedicine (the diagnosis and the therapy take place in two different countries).

5. PR- measures, strategy for attracting new members

Serbia and Croatia

Dr. Renata Papp reports on a meeting held at regional level in which the contacts with Serbia were of use. As the association in question was founded only recently, it is planned to enter into contact as soon as it is well-established.

As for Croatia, the best strategy was already discussed with Dr. Pruckner.

Slovenia and Malta

Dr. Pruckner reports on a Slovenian association which represents self-employed practitioners. He already had a telephone conversation with the concerned colleague, a meeting is scheduled for spring 2010 (presumably to be held in Slovenia).

Dr. Pruckner established contact with Dr. Martin Balzan (Medical Association of Malta) and informed him via email about the tasks and objectives of EANA.

France

The President of the Confederation of French Doctors is highly interested in France becoming a member of the EANA and will seek to participate in the spring meeting in Luxembourg.

Dr. Lynch proposes that in the future, each EANA member country shall use its contacts, in order to approach those countries, which are not or no longer EANA members. He specifically

expresses this request with regard to the Hungarian delegation, in order to attract neighbouring countries as new members.

Furthermore, a common initiative should be considered for the re-attraction of former members. Dr. Pruckner thanks everyone for having taken measures and proposes to overtake this issue in cooperation with Dr. Lynch.

6. CPME report by Dr. Michael Wilks

- European Parliament election, new commissioner for health and consumer policy
- Cross-border healthcare directive; the compromise proposal made by the Swedish Presidency is not suited at all to address this issue. The Swedish proposal leads to limiting trans-border provision of medical services (some standard questions are no longer included)
- European working time directive: at present, there is a period of stagnation, therefore, it remains to be seen how the new proposals are formulated
- E-health: the most important project deals with a system named EPSOS (pilot studies on trans-border exchange of information between 12 Member States), the direction of which was assumed by the CPME
- Questions on health education and information (nutrition and alcohol abuse)
- Climate change: ministers of health should give more attention to health issues
- Green book. The Commission has terminated the consultation process. In January 2010, there will be a working group meeting in this respect, in addition, there will be a directive on professional qualifications (the validity of the present directive will expire)
- Future of medical associations: the CPME has lost the members: France, Italy and Spain, a fact, which has greatly weakened the political force of the CPME and which, of course, has had a sensitive impact on the budget (as those three countries accounted for 1/3 of the membership fees).

The CPME has been restructured, the number of meetings has been reduced and there is an emphasis on central issues.

7. Cooperation with other EMOs

The cooperation in the President's Committee will be continued and efforts are made to create a structure allowing cooperation. It was decided that in the future, two persons will attend the PC. It is true, interest was expressed with regard to the UEMO and the UEMS to jointly use this common house, however, the EANA is not in the position to assume costs. The EANA will jointly use these structures and make virtual contributions.

The PWG (Permanent Working Group) has also launched an initiative (e-domus medica) and set up a "google group".

It is decided that the EANA will contribute in both initiatives.

8. Cooperation agreement with the UEMO and the UEMS

The EANA represents not only the interests of self-employed doctors, but also those of general practitioners and specialists. For this reason, it would make sense to settle a body of rules and to act in common.

It is proposed to draft a cooperation agreement before the spring meeting.

9. Discussion: Relationship between medicine and pharmaceutical industry and the problem of autonomy of European doctors (see also enclosure)

There is a discussion on the influence of pharmaceutical companies and the industry on the medical profession.

The following points are retained during the discussion:

There shall be cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry based on mutual respect and evidence-based medicine, the absolute condition for adequate patient care.

Adequate patient care including adequate medication shall be the determining factor, rather than economies.

Even established pharmaceutical compositions should be subject to pharmaceutical tests, in order to make medication risk free and increase patient safety.

10. Presentation by Dr. Claude Schummer: “Generics of innovation” (see also enclosure)

OECD health policy studies (explanation of how the pharmaceutical market works), used for this presentation, are enclosed.

It is decided to conduct a survey on the situation of the physicians in free practice among the members, which is why a short questionnaire has been drafted which shall be extended continuously.

Each EANA member shall forward this questionnaire to 10 colleagues, the answers received shall constitute the basis for a so-called “national response” which shall be sent to the EANA secretariat. This will provide us information on how colleagues see their individual position and the one of the medical profession in general.

11. Cross-border healthcare directive

There is a discussion about the present proposal for a directive made by the Swedish presidency, in particular with regard to Chapter 3 “general principles for reimbursement of costs”, according to which member states shall examine the quality of health care providers in the member state where the treatment takes place.

As the document has been subject to numerous amendments, the text focuses on technical parameters. There is general agreement that no country is in the position to judge on the quality of the other, which is why the wording of this text cannot be accepted. The underlying aim is cost containment and control of patient movement. On the other hand, it is not considered sensible to eliminate the paragraph, as it assures quality. A statement will be drafted which, if adopted unanimously, will be submitted by the CPME secretariat to the Council (statement see enclosure).

12. Short national reports

Please request national report directly from the member countries, unless enclosed.

Hungary (see enclosure)	Luxembourg (see enclosure)
Austria (see enclosure)	Germany
Ireland (see enclosure)	Czech Republic (see enclosure)
Belgium	Sweden (see enclosure)
Switzerland (see enclosure)	Spain

13. Assignment of tasks for the forthcoming meeting

• Serbia and Croatia	Dr. Papp/Dr. Hajnal
• Age, shortage and surplus of doctors in Europe	Dr. Josef Lohninger
• Contacts with future members	Dr. Liam Lynch
• Modernization of the code of conduct drafted by the CPME	Dr. Roland Lemye
• Cross border healthcare directive: observe developments	Dr. Schummer/Dr. Pruckner
• Health care activities of Span. government and reporting	Dr. André Bollinger
• Overall view: countries with medical recertification / re-licensing	Dr. Barnard/Dr. Welander
• European survey on prevention	Dr. Kerstin Jäger

14. Miscellaneous

Dr. Regina Biesenecker proposes that the national reports for the meeting to be held in Luxembourg shall include also the state of the debate on priority-setting and rationing in health policies. It is decided that this shall be notified to the Secretariat before the drafting of the agenda.

Dr. Lynch receives information and documentation from the EANA secretariat regarding EANA principles for his „advertising measures“.

Members whose email address has changed are kindly asked to provide the EANA secretariat with the new one, together with other relevant updates.

The forthcoming meeting will be held in Luxembourg from 28 to 29 May (see presentation Dr. Schummer). The autumn meeting will be held in Killarney, the date and further information will be notified in May.

Dr. Pruckner expresses his thanks to all participants for their good cooperation and to the Spanish delegation in particular for their hospitality.

Meeting closed at 12.50 p.m.

28 November 2009

Reporter: Nathalie Holzer