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Written Declaration on EU Workforce for Health

A written declaration on European workforce for Health was proposed by five MEPs Ms Oana Elena Antonescu MEP (Romania, EPP), Ms Jean Lambert MEP (UK, Greens/EFA), Dr Antonia Parvanova MEP (Bulgaria, ALDE), Mr Marc Tarabella MEP (Belgium, S&D) and Dr Thomas Ulmer MEP (Germany, EPP).

This important document aims at raising the awareness of the European Commission and the EU Member States about this issue and invites them to take measures to:

- ensure that there are sufficient comparable data for EU-wide health workforce planning,
- establish effective and sustainable recruitment and retention strategies in the health sector,
- ensure that all health professionals have access to continuing professional development and that professional qualifications meet agreed criteria,
- promote the role of health professionals in identifying and implementing strategies that facilitate professional and knowledge mobility while recognising health professionals' contribution to achieving optimal health outcomes.

The UEMS is convinced that a clear strategy on the healthcare workforce needs to be defined at European Level so as to ensure high standards of quality of care within the European Union. The UEMS strongly supports this declaration and is committed to addressing this issue in the future.

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4th European Patients' Rights Day Brussels, 6th May 2010

On 6th May, the European Patients' Rights Day was organised in the European Parliament under the aegis of Dr Antonia Parvanova MEP (Bulgaria, ALDE). This event gathered representatives from patients' and citizens' organisations as well as other healthcare stakeholders from across Europe committed to promoting a day dedicated to patients' rights at the EU level.



The UEMS welcomed this initiative which aims to promote the recognition of patients' rights within the EU. In this respect, stakeholders, MEPs as well as the European Commission insisted on the fact that patients' rights affected everyone and needed to be reinforced. Mr John Dalli the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy notably pointed to several measures related to this issue that the EU already endorsed such as the EU Health Strategy "Together for Health" or the Council of Ministers' declaration on common values and principles in EU healthcare systems. The Commissioner also mentioned the Commission's work on implementing the EU recommendation on patient safety. He was also determined to demonstrate its strong commitment to tackle this issue and reinforce patients' rights notably through the directive on cross-border care.

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Primary Immunodeficiencies

- *UEMS joins a call to action to raise awareness on PID in Europe*

On 28th April, a debate on the Primary Immunodeficiencies (PID) was organised within the European Parliament in Brussels. This event aimed to raise awareness of the EU Member States as regards PID. Dr Miroslav Mikolasik MEP (Slovakia, EPP) backed calls for increased efforts to tackle the issue of PID. This call to action summarised the steps that national governments should take to understand, appropriately diagnose and manage PID.

The UEMS attended this meeting and welcomed the acknowledgement by the EU Institutions of the importance of this

issue for European Health in general. As a signatory of this project, the UEMS on behalf of European medical specialists

committed itself to the achievement of this call for action and addressing PID.

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Mr Frédéric Destrebecq (UEMS)

Mrs Jose Drabwell (IPOPI)

Dr Miroslav Mikolasik (MEP)

Prof. Reinhold E. Schmidt
(Hannover Medical School)



Organ Transplantation

- *MEPs adopts a draft directive on human organs in first reading*

The European Parliament adopted in first reading a European Directive on the quality and safety of human organs. The aims of this directive intended for transplantation is to double the number of donations and to ensure that all transplants carried out in the EU are done to the same quality and safety standards. According to this new directive, to ensure organs quality and safety, organ transplantation programmes should be founded on the principles of voluntary and unpaid donation. Many related issues are in the scope of this new legislation such as namely data protection, professional qualifications and patient safety.

A key step is to designate the competent authority in each country responsible for quality and safety standards for human organs intended for transplantation. These authorities will



have to establish rules for all stages from donation to transplantation or disposal, based on the quality and safety standards laid down in the directive. Member States may keep or introduce more stringent rules if they wish. The compromise text stipulates minimum data which as a rule needs to be collected for each organ dona-

tion. It also asks Member States to ensure that healthcare staffs involved are suitably qualified or trained.

Several provisions are directly addressing medical specialists field of competence:

- Healthcare professionals involved in the transplantation process must be well trained and receive specific training programs (article 4. 3)
- Transplantation should only be done by medical specialists as defined in Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications (art 6.1)
- Health professionals should also play a crucial role in providing information to donors or their family (art 7)
- When dealing with living donors, the selection should be done by “qualified or trained and competent” professionals (art 15.2)

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Counterfeit medicine — PGEU credibility abused

A website selling counterfeit medicine has abused of the PGEU logo claiming that all medicines sold were supported by the PGEU. This website

even produced a fake certificate issued by PGEU but also a fake signature of PGEU’s president Mr Philip Babylon.

The UEMS is very concerned

about this problem and strongly support the PGEU in its action against the authors of such an outrageous use of PGEU’s credibility.

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Prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector

- *An agreement between employers and trade unions becomes EU legislation*

The Council of the European Union adopted a directive aimed at achieving the safest possible working environment for healthcare workers through prevention from sharp injuries. The aim of the directive is to protect workers at risk from injuries from all medical “sharps” (including needle-sticks). It provides for an integrated approach to risk assessment, risk prevention, training, information, awareness-raising and monitoring and for response and follow-up procedures.

The new directive gives legal effect to a framework agreement concluded by the employers and the trade unions of the hospital and healthcare sector.



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Medicinal Products in the European Union

- *Commission opens new consultation on manufacturing practice for medicines*

The European Commission is restructuring the Good Manufacturing Practice for Medicines for Human and Veterinary Use. The manufacture of biological medicinal products involves certain specific considerations arising from the nature of the products and the processes. The ways in which bio-

logical medicinal products are manufactured, controlled and administered make some particular precautions necessary. For this purpose, it is conducting a second public consultation which will be examined by the GMP/GDP Inspectors Working Group. The deadline for submitting comments is

15th July 2010.

Further information is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/pharmaceuticals/documents/latest_news/gmp_annex2_03-2010.pdf

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4th European Patients' Rights Day

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The Commissioner also pointed to other issues directly or indirectly related to patients' rights ranging from data protection or ageing demography, to the use of drugs and tele-medicine.

The UEMS supported this initiative as any other aiming at securing clarity and transparency for patients as regards their rights when receiving healthcare. The UEMS also demands the adoption and the implementation of a directive on patients' rights in cross-border care which would complete the legal instruments already existing and offer patients as well as all other interested parties in the healthcare delivery sufficient guarantees as

regards the quality, safety and continuity of healthcare provided within the EU.

In the framework of this event, a written declaration was initiated by the Members of European Parliament Dr Antonia Parvanova (Bulgaria, ALDE), Ms Françoise Grossetête (France, PPE) and Dr Gianni Pittella (Italy, S&D) to support the establishment of an annual European Patients' Rights Day backed by the EU institutions.

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Transatlantic Dialogue



“We have achieved a lot, but big challenges are still lying ahead.”
J.Dalli

The European Union and the United States of America have developed since several years cooperation in certain fields. In this framework, a conference on Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) was held in Washington on 27th April, where the EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy Mr John Dalli pointed out that this transatlantic cooperation should also expand to five health-related areas, namely health security, nutrition, pharmaceuticals, risk assessment and food safety.

In the Commissioner's point of view, these five key areas are only the starting point of EU-US collaboration and more should be done to collaborate in other areas such as e-Health or global health.

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MESSAGE TO THE UEMS MEMBERS

Further to the cancellation of the meeting of UEMS Council which was scheduled to be held on 16th and 17th April 2010.

Seeing the UEMS obligations under Belgian Law to endorse its annual accounts before the end of June, an extraordinary meeting of the Board restricted to the Heads of national delegations was convened in Munich airport on 2nd June 2010.

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Global Health, Together we can make it happen

Brussels, Belgium — 10th-11th June 2010

The objectives of this conference are sets as follows: (i) to present the European Commission Communication on Global Health and (ii) to discuss key challenges, goals, policy instruments and partnerships with stakeholders and global partners to see how the EU can most effectively engage with all actors to improve health at global level.

For more information, please visit the following website: http://onetec.be/global_health/programme.html

Launch of the Committee of the Regions' Technical Platform for co-operation on Health Structural Funds and Health: Learning lessons and next steps

Brussels, Belgium — 11th June 2010

Within the European Union there has been growing recognition of the important contribution of health in achieving sustainable regional development. It has been acknowledged that health is a key factor for economical development and social cohesion as it contributes to EU citizens well being, economic wealth and prosperity.

For more information, please visit the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/health_structural_funds/docs/ev_20100611_ag_en.pdf

EU Open Health Forum: Together for Health – A strategy for EU 2020

Brussels, Belgium — 29th-30th June 2010

This conference aims to contribute and increase the profile of health in all policies through discussion between EU policy makers and stakeholders on pressing public health issues and their impacts on the Community. The EU Open Health Forum is a mechanism for the European Commission to get feedback from stakeholders on the implementation of the EU Health Policy and to identify the need for new policy initiatives at EU level. It also facilitates networking and exchange of best practice in the implementation of public health policies at EU, national, regional and local level.

For more information, please visit the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/interest_groups/eu_health_forum/open_forum/2010/programme_en.htm#fullwidth

20th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion

Geneva, Switzerland — 11th-15th July 2010

Switzerland is hosting the 20th World Conference of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), one of the most important triennial events of the world's leading organisations in the field of health promotion. Attendees will discuss the state-of-the-art of knowledge and cross-cutting issues in health promotion in health and sustainable development, showcase best practice in health promotion, and initiate strong health alliances and partnerships.

For more information, please visit the following website: www.iuhpeconference.net