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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
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DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΔΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
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ЕВРОПЕЙСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ НА СТАРШИТЕ БОЛНИЧНИ ЛЕКАРИ**

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PERMANENT WORKING GROUP OF
EUROPEAN JUNIOR DOCTORS

Letter to Presidents' Committee Members

27th June 2008

From

PWG Presidency

To

All Presidents' Committee Members

Note

To the President of AEMH
To the President of CEOM
To the President of the CPME
To the President of EANA
To the President of EMSA
To the President of FEMS
To the President of UEMO
To the President of UEMS

Dear Presidents, Dear Colleagues members of the Presidents' Committee,

Undoubtedly the latest update on the revision of the European Working Time Directive urges the European Doctors Community to express itself with a common and unique voice in order to force the European Parliament to take into account our common position on the EWTD. Although such an attitude seems to be more than obvious and relevant, unity is a particular challenge to take up, especially for doctors. This very fragile consideration forces us, i.e. the European Doctors Community, to respect, as much as we can, every little detail that could endanger this required unity.

The PWG does strongly support the common paper idea, as it strongly supports its content as well. However, the PWG would like to underline that it is a common paper in which every organization counts as much as the other ones, as it is in the European Doctors Community representation. Therefore, the PWG would like to express its real dissatisfaction against the expression "The CPME and the other European Medical Organizations". Besides disrespecting the agreed text, such an attitude seems to be particularly useless in terms of lobbying strength, but worst than that, it seems to be really endangering the doctor's unity. Indeed, if on the first hand it does not look as a "colleague" attitude, it also shows clearly on the other hand the division that unfortunately exists among the European Doctors.

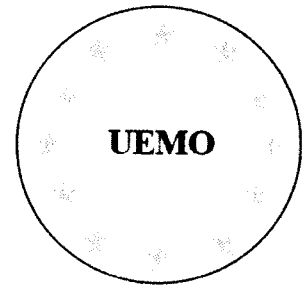
In conclusion, PWG strongly supports the common paper in the current situation, but denounces the CPME attitude, for it is not respectful to the other organizations, useless and endangering the lobbying strength of the European Doctors Community and threatening *Domus Medica* project.


Rui Guimarães
PWG President



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS / FAMILY PHYSICIANS
UNION EUROPEENNE DES MEDECINS OMNIPRATICIENS / MEDECINS DE FAMILLE

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Dear Colleagues,
Presidents of European Medical Organisations,
AEMH, CEOM, CPME, FEMS, PWG, EANA, EMSA, UEMS

UEMO always believed that European doctors are stronger when they work together to convey their common goals both to society and to European decision-bodies, even if we feel that different EMOs have their own specific area of intervention that should be respected.

As you all remember, it was the UEMO who came up with the suggestion of setting-up a common EMOs' meeting. At that time, we already knew this would not be an easy task. However, we went on working along a constructive perspective in every Presidents' Committee Meetings, in order to clarify each organisations' role and to achieve proposals that can be accepted by all EMOs.

Although at first glance the EWTD may seem to have no impact on General Practitioners / Family Physicians daily work, we consider it an important matter to all European doctors as well as to patient's safety.

During the last CPME meeting, our decision to support a document that was jointly agreed and signed by all the EMOs' - based on PWG's excellent work - was on line with that position.

We are solidary with PWG's position, as far as it concerns the use of the expression "CPME and other medical organisations" used in our common paper, and we think that all efforts should be developed to prevent similar situations in the future.

At the last UEMO's Board Meeting, which took place in September 19, we approved the idea of creating an *e-Domus Medica*, a website where doctors may find information from all the EMOs. We will continue developing this idea and working towards a respectful cooperation between all of us, in order to provide European doctors with a stronger voice.

Yours sincerely,

Isabel Caixeiro, M.D.
President

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Brussels, 1st September 2008

To the Presidents of the European Medical Organisations

Dear Presidents,

Dear Colleagues,

We have read with great concern the letter by our colleague Dr Rui Guimaraes dated 27th June 2008 where he, on behalf of the PWG, denounces the CPME's attitude to other European Medical Organisations.

While we entirely share and support the view of PWG as expressed by its President, we would also like to express sincere reservations as regards the procedure that led to what should have been a common position for all the European Medical Organisations.

The UEMS, through its Executive, decided that it could not abide by the terms of the paper, adopted and proposed for endorsement by the CPME, since important concerns for medical specialists had not been reflected in that proposal.

We remain convinced that, had the ambition been to develop a genuinely common position incorporating the concerns of all the European Medical Organisations, its adoption would not have been a positive one, rather than what we now find, a disrespecting by an organisation of "the others". Together with the PWG, we denounce that attitude, which is also mirrored in the wording of the paper in question. As a matter of principle, the UEMS believes that any concern legitimately held by one of our organisations should be considered with care by colleague organisations and the opportunity to express differences in views should always be left open.

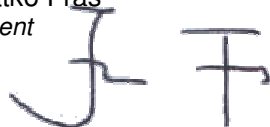
This episode clearly demonstrates the flaws in the attempts to date to develop a unity of views between our organisations. New ways of dealing with such matters have repeatedly been put forward, notably on the occasion of the Conference on the future of European Medical Organisations held in 2005, and we regret to note that few – if any – steps have been taken thus far.

For the sake of our future collaboration, we would like to invite you to discuss this matter at the next Presidents' Committee Meeting. We sincerely feel that, should this issue remain unresolved, it is likely to create a precedent that would jeopardise our cooperation in the future.

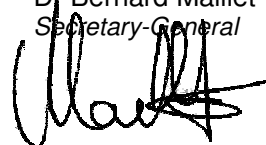
We sincerely look forward to a constructive discussion of this problem.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Zlatko Fras
President

Handwritten signature of Dr Zlatko Fras, consisting of stylized initials 'Z' and 'F'.

Dr Bernard Maillet
Secretary-General

Handwritten signature of Dr Bernard Maillet, a cursive signature.