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ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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<b>Author :</b>	<b>WentzMiller Global Services</b>
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## The Global CME Newsletter



A collaborative partnership of European CME providers, the Good CME Practice (gCMEp) Group, has issued a [challenge](#) to the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) and the European Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (EFPIA): Come up with specific and compatible guidelines for funding CME activities *without control over content* by the pharma funder.

*The group noted that the relevant codes of conduct and guidelines from the two organizations were sometimes in direct opposition to one another, "creating a significant conflict for those attempting to deliver CME that meets all relevant requirements". The open letter from the group to the two agencies continued:*

"In the absence of explicit guidance from either the pharmaceutical regulatory bodies or the CME accreditation bodies, pharmaceutical companies often take the position that they are legally required to take formal steps to approve **all** content of CME meetings ... thus controlling content ... speakers, and stipulating how the finances are spent. [This] renders the event outside the ... UEMS requirements that CME events are free from any attempt by the supporter to influence the programme or content."

The group further encouraged clarifying the distinction between education and promotion, as has already been done in the US and Canada, and to ensure that CME is funded by a formal "hands-off" grant. In its appeal to UEMS and EFPIA, the group would like not only clear guidance but also "punitive measures" for cases of non-compliance.

The letter can be read at [www.gcmep.eu/gcmep\\_open\\_letter\\_081211.pdf](http://www.gcmep.eu/gcmep_open_letter_081211.pdf)