To The Presidents of European Scientific Societies, UEMS Specialist Sections and European Boards

Dear Colleague,

We would like to thank you for your participation in the meeting on Saturday, 1st March 2014 in Brussels.

We all enjoyed the positive and co-operative spirit of the presentations, discussions and of the meeting overall. It was a very strong confirmation of the need and interest in establishing a constructive dialogue between our organisations. We hope that this meeting was initiate good start to regular exchange of ideas in areas of common interest, paving the way to efficient co-operation.

Many instances of a very good co-operation have already been developed and it became very robust over the years. The meeting shows that there is much more to be done and that new opportunities arise.

The report from the meeting will be available in a few weeks. Here, we would like to highlight what we see as the key outcomes of this meeting.

European Reference Networks

Dr Andrzej Rys and Dr Enrique Terol presented the key concepts for establishing European Reference Networks in accordance with the directive on patient’s rights in cross-border care. In doing so, they requested the UEMS and European Societies to provide their input on:

- Identifying the domains and group of diseases for which Networks could be created.
- Possible ways to establish Networks with a multidisciplinary and multi-speciality approach.
- Criteria that should be used for a centre to be eligible for an European Reference Network.
Memorandum of understanding between UEMS Sections and their relevant Societies

Based on the successful co-operation model presented in the framework of the meeting, participants expressed the wish to establish a template for Memorandum of Understanding that would describe the scope of co-operation between UEMS Sections and European Scientific Societies. Such Memorandum would identify and recognise Sections and Societies respective competence and enable to prevent overlapping and duplicated work.

Co-ordination of Paediatric sub-specialities

Several Societies active in the field of Paediatrics stressed the need to organise a co-ordination meeting of the paediatric sub-specialities in order to prevent the fragmentation of Paediatrics and improve the recognition of each sub-speciality.

European Speciality Examination recognition

The need for clarification and harmonisation of rules applying to non European candidates as well as the legal status European diplomas was stressed. It was also pointed out that the UEMS was advocating for the recognition of these titles of excellence at the European level. Further discussion on this matter was seen to be needed.

Based on these preliminary outcomes, we would like to propose the following action points as the next steps in this co-operation:

1. Establish a network of medical specialist organisations co-ordinated by the UEMS and provide consistent input to European Institutions on medical specialist matters when appropriate.

2. Identify potential issues that would need further discussion and clarification.

3. Organise regular thematic meetings on issues of common interest.

4. Elaborate action plans based on the outcome of thematic meetings

We look forward to receiving your input, suggestions and comment in regard of activities that were discussed during the meeting and also new proposals.

Please, accept our apologies for any inconvenience during the meeting. The number of participants exceeded our expectations but we hope that good, friendly atmosphere of the meeting was a nice compensation for these inconveniences.

Yours sincerely,

Romuald Krajewski
President

Edwin Borman
Secretary General