

Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes

UEMS Section of Psychiatry

Minutes of the seventeenth meeting of the UEMS Section in Psychiatry held in Malta on 8 October 1999

1. Present:

Professor P König – **Austria** – Osterr Gesellschaft fur Neurologie und Psychiatrie (OGNP)
Professor P Lievens – **Belgium** – Association Professioneel Belge des Neurologues et des Psychiatries
Dr V Martin – **Belgium** – Belge Professionelles des Neurologues et Psychiatres
Dr S Iveziæ – **Croatia** – Croatian Medical Association, Society for Clinical Psychiatry
Dr A Argyriou – **Cyprus** – Cyprus Psychiatric Association
Dr I Tuma – **Czech Republic** – Psychiatric Association of the Czech Medical Association
Dr H Aggernaes – **Denmark** – Danish Psychiatric Association
Dr A Lindhardt – **Denmark** – Danish Psychiatric Association
Dr K Pylkkänen – **Finland** – Finnish Psychiatric Association
Dr H Sontag – **France** – Association Francaise de Psychiatries
Dr S Treichel – **Germany** – Berufsverband Deutscher Nervenartzte
Professor J Furedi – **Hungary** – Hungarian Psychiatric Association
Professor P Furlan – **Italy** – Societh Italiana Di Psichiatria
Dr D Cassar – **Malta** – Association of Maltese Psychiatrists
Dr J Saliba – **Malta** – Association of Maltese Psychiatrists
Professor W Schudel – **Netherlands** – Nederlandse Vereniging voor Psychiatrie
Dr R ten Doesschate – **Netherlands** – Nederlandse Vereniging voor Psychiatrie
Dr E Hagemo – **Norway** – Norwegian Medical Association
Professor A Piotrowski – **Poland** – Polish Psychiatric Association
Professor M Gomez-Beneyto – **Spain** – Asociacion Espanola de Neuropsiquiatria
Dr K-O Svård – **Sweden** – Swedish Psychiatric Association
Dr A Kubli – **Switzerland** – Société Suisse de Psychiatrie et Psychothérapie
Dr G Zarotti – **Switzerland** – Swiss Psychiatric Association
Dame Fiona Caldicott – **United Kingdom** – Royal College of Psychiatrists
Professor A Mann – **United Kingdom** – Royal College of Psychiatrists

In attendance:

Dr A Dean – **United Kingdom** – Royal College Psychiatrists

2. Apologies:

Dr J Laboutiere – **France** – Association Francais de Psychiatries
Prof F Hohagen – **Germany** – Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Psychiatrie Psychotherapie and Nervenheilkunde
Professor G Christodoulou – **Greece** – Hellenic Psychiatric Association
Dr A Parashos – **Greece** – Hellenic Psychiatric Association
Dr C Smith – **Ireland** – Irish Medical Association
Professor N Walsh – **Ireland** – Higher Training Committee
Dr A De Albuquerque – **Portugal** – Ordem des Medicos
Dr S ZihelI – **Slovenia** – Slovenia Psychiatric Association
Professor M Musalek – **Vienna** – Association of European Psychiatrists

Dame Fiona Caldicott, President, opened the meeting by welcoming all Members to Malta, and introducing Professor Furlan of Italy and Dr Cassar of Malta who were attending their first UEMS meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 1999

These were confirmed as a correct record.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Public perception of the role of pharmaceuticals in psychiatry and (b) Referral procedures in member countries**

Professor Hohagen had requested that these items be raised but, in his absence, it was agreed that they should not be discussed.

5. **Reports from the Working Groups**

(a) **Biological Psychiatry** – in Professor Hohagen's absence, Dame Fiona Caldicott suggested that she should chair a Working Group which would meet later that day. This was agreed. The Group later reported that a short draft report had been produced which would be circulated to members, and the President requested that any comments on the draft should be sent to her. A report would be produced for the next meeting, with a final version eventually being incorporated into the Charter.

(b) **Psychotherapy** – As only nine responses to her questionnaire had been received, Dr Lindhardt stated that her report on the position of psychotherapy training throughout Europe must be regarded as preliminary. Initial findings had confirmed that more countries now had psychotherapy as part of their basic psychiatric training than when the first survey was carried out in 1972, and that personal therapeutic experience was a common component of psychiatric training.

It was agreed that Dr Lindhardt should produce for the next meeting a document which included information from those countries which had not contributed to the current report. This report would concentrate upon (a) the organisational aspects of psychotherapy and (b) the position of psychotherapy in psychiatric training.

(c) **Mental Health Legislation** – Dr Aggernaes presented her report which had been based upon a questionnaire circulated to the membership. There was considerable variation between countries as to how mental health laws operated, and much discussion ensued including agreement that a definition of 'compulsory admission' should be sought. Professor König suggested that a glossary of terms would be extremely helpful, and it was agreed that a Working Party to develop such a glossary would be established. This Working Group met for the first time later that day, and produced an initial set of suggestions for inclusion in a glossary.

Dr Aggernaes undertook to produce for the next meeting a document which gave an overview of the variation between countries, to exemplify what the Working Group considered to be the aspects which should be given priority, and to state recommendations of what should be achieved in this area within the next five years.

Dr Saliba noted that Dr Aggernaes's report referred to restricted information, and that it would be necessary to liaise closely with the Council of Europe on this issue. He suggested that the UEMS should obtain the Council's permission to utilise their draft recommendation since the work being undertaken by the Mental Health Legislation Working Group and by the Council had common goals. Further discussion of this matter and the way to proceed would take place during the meeting of the Working Group later that day.

(d) **Old Age Psychiatry** – Professor Mann reported that he had conducted a preliminary survey on the position of Old Age Psychiatry throughout Europe, and suggested that a useful way forward would be the establishment of a Working Group. This was agreed. Professor König requested that the findings of Professor Mann's initial report be circulated to the Membership. This was also agreed. During discussion of this report, it was agreed that it was important to define exactly what was meant by Old Age Psychiatry. Other issues which were raised included whether Old Age Psychiatry should be both a compulsory part of psychiatric training and of the syllabus, and the need to produce best practice guidelines. Professor Mann said he would welcome any comments for incorporation into the report in advance of the Strasbourg meeting.

- (e) Quality Assurance - Dr Svärd presented a preliminary report on quality and service provision in psychiatric services throughout Europe. Better quality patient care was the ultimate aim, and Dr Svärd's report included discussion on the assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of patients. It was agreed that following the next meeting of the Working Group, Dr Svärd would circulate the draft report, prior to the meeting in Strasbourg.

6. CME

Professor König had nothing further to report on this matter, since he had been unaware of the recent meeting of the European Accreditation Council for CME, despite the UEMS having contacted Dr Peiffer requesting that Professor König attend as CME representative for the UEMS. It was agreed that the President would again write to Dr Pfeiffer, drawing his attention to this issue. It was further agreed that the Working Group to look at CME should be re-established. Professor König requested that a copy of Dr Peiffer's document circulated to Officers be sent to him, and Dr Dean undertook to arrange for this to be done.

7. UEMS Website

Dr Martin circulated downloaded pages from the UEMS Website for information. These included contact addresses for national associations, etc. Dr Martin undertook to be the contact for all issues relating to the Website. It was agreed that changes in address etc. could be communicated via the website; where members did not have Internet access, the Secretariat would communicate any changes in membership details by post.

It was agreed that any proposed changes to the Website should first be sent to the UEMS Secretary who would, in turn, liaise with Dr Martin to ascertain whether or not such changes should be incorporated.

Dr Martin stated that he would welcome any ideas for additional material to be posted onto the Website. It was agreed that all issues currently being discussed by the UEMS via its Working Groups should be included, along with the name of the Chairperson of the Working Group concerned. Dr Martin undertook to produce a proposal for Website procedures in time for the next meeting.

8. Approval of Final Reports

- (a) Quality Assurance - Dr Lindhardt reported that a preliminary report on this issue had been approved by the Danish Psychiatric Association.
- (b) Social Psychiatry - It was agreed that once this document had been sent to national associations, the item should be closed. Dame Fiona suggested that when reports were sent to national associations, a written report should be requested for presentation to the next available meeting of the UEMS to ascertain the reaction in those countries. If no response were received, the UEMS would assume that the national association concerned concurred with the content of the report it had been sent, and that henceforward such content would be taken as Section policy.

Dame Fiona also recommended that once a document had been agreed by the Section, local representatives should be allowed to have it translated into their national language for local use. This was agreed.

9. Elections

Dame Fiona reported that members had been given three opportunities to put forward names for the election of Officers but that, to date, none had been forthcoming. As a result, it was proposed that the following be elected as Section Officers:

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|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Dr A Lindhardt | - | President/Chairperson |
| Dr K-O Svärd | - | Vice-President |
| Professor M Gómez-Beneyto | - | Vice-President |
| Dr J Saliba | - | Secretary |
| Dr R ten Doesschate | - | Treasurer |

These nominations were seconded, and later confirmed as new UEMS Section Officers. Congratulations were offered to each new Officer.

10. **Treasurer's Report**

Dr ten Doesschate had circulated the 1998 accounts. No invoices for the administrative service provided by the Royal College of Psychiatrists had been received, and Dr Dean undertook to investigate this with the College's Finance Department. The Treasurer also presented the budget for the Financial Year. The Committee thanked Dr ten Doesschate for his continuing hard work in this regard.

11. **Charter on Training of Medical Specialists in the EU**

It was agreed to defer discussion of this item until the Meeting of the European Board the following day.

12. **UEMS Matters**

(a) **UEMS Management Council**

Dr Pylkkänen reported that the Management Council had two meetings each year, and the next would take place in Vienna. At the next meeting both the Secretary General and the President would resign their posts.

(b) **UEMS Section Representatives Meeting**

Dame Fiona reported that the issues raised at this meeting had already been discussed earlier in the day.

(c) **Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Section**

Dr Sontag presented his report which included discussion of concerns expressed by the European Association of Psychotherapists (EAP) Section on the subject of intervention by Scientologists. Dr Sontag undertook to circulate a full report on this issue to all members at the end of October.

Dame Fiona suggested that it would be helpful to produce a list of associations that had the words 'European', 'Association', 'Psychotherapists' and 'Psychiatrists' in their title. She invited members to forward such information to her in the UK.

13. **Feedback from Delegates**

Feedback from delegates had already been given earlier in the meeting.

14. **Any Other Business**

(a) **Psychiatrist's Profile** – Dr ten Doesschate had circulated copies of this document which would be discussed in full at the next meeting of the UEMS Section in Strasbourg.

(b) **American Psychiatric Association** – Dr ten Doesschate reported that he contacted the president of the APA, Professor Allan Tasman about a symposium on training or a workshop at the next meeting of the APA in Chicago. This was agreed.

15. **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 13-15 April 2000 in Strasbourg. The following meeting would take place in Krakow from 5-7 October 2000.