



## EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF LEGAL MEDICINE - ECLM

### Minutes

#### 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting – Brügge

**Date:** Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2004: 13:00 hrs - 16:00 hrs

**Place:** Brügge, Belgium  
Hotel Crown Plaza

List of Presence (alphabetical order):

**Delegates:** Brinkmann, Bussutil, Cohen, Corte-Real, Cusack, Frontela Carreras, Guy de Roy, Löwenhielm, Saukko, Wennig,

#### TOPICS

##### TOP 1: Minutes General Assembly Meeting September 9<sup>th</sup> 2002

The minutes of the last General Assembly of Montpellier, September 9<sup>th</sup> 2002 were unanimously accepted.

##### TOP 2: Report of the chairman

The chairman gives an overview of the activities of the ECLM.

- reminding that the whole process was initiated by Prof. Frontela Carreras from Sevilla who founded the Sevilla working party in 1985. This group has then drafted and signed the Sevilla Manifesto which was laying down:
  - - the objectives of legal medicine
  - - principles of the postgraduate specialisation in the European framework
  - - standards for teaching and practice of Legal Medicine
- This Sevilla Manifesto was then forwarded to the important bodies in the respective countries.

In the following years the Sevilla working party has been active by

- publication of newsletters since 1986 (Dr. Barend Cohen)
- writing letters directed to the UEMS and CP
- applying to the UEMS which rejected in 1991 the wish of legal medicine to create a monospecialist section
- it came also to the knowledge of the Sevilla board members that the CP

had major reservations against the creation of European boards.

The Sevilla working party has also been active in a collaboration with the council of Europe to create minimum standards for autopsy protocols (Morris commission).

The SWP was also active by conducting an European wide study of death related to drugs of dependence.

The SWP and its successor organisation, the ECLM, have at least three times applied for recognition of Legal Medicine as an European profession for publications were directed to the ACMT. At least once the ACMT has positively decided on the acceptance of Legal Medicine (see letter of Hinrichsen, enclosed), but these proposals have never been put on the agenda of the Senior Health Official Committee (CSOPH) and have thus not been forwarded to the commission.

The European council of Legal Medicine has been founded in 1992 in Cologne. The official abbreviation is ECLM. The following board members were elected:

Prof. Antony Busuttill as Chairman  
Prof. Bernd Brinkmann, Vice chairman  
Prof. Walter Bär, Secretary  
Prof. Pekka Saukko, Treasurer  
Prof. P.H. Muller, Dr. B.A.J. Cohen, Prof. J. Costa Santos as executive council members and + 15 council members.

ECLM mission:

ECLM undertakes to promote the highest scientific and ethical standards in training of medical doctors in various areas of legal medicine within the European Union.

ECLM guidelines / standards:

The following guidelines and standards have been set up:

Basis for national evaluation of specialist training  
Tool for quality improvement  
CME / CPD  
Recognition / Accreditation / Revalidation

Main areas of activities :

Forensic pathology  
Clinical forensic medicine  
Forensic genetics  
Forensic anthropology  
Forensic odontology  
Forensic psychiatry

ECLM guidelines / standards:

Teaching of Legal Medicine to medical undergraduate students; the „Perugia Document“ as modified in *Cologne in July 1992*  
Harmonization of the Performance of the Medico-Legal Autopsy; *London, Fall/Winter 1994-1995*  
Syllabus of Postgraduate Specialisation in Legal Medicine, *Amendments of May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1999 - Zurich*

### ECLM – goals:

Membership of the UEMS with a monospecialist section of Legal Medicine  
Recognition as a medical specialty within the Doctors' Directives of the EU

Although several attempts have been made to reach a recognition of the discipline on a European level, all attempts were obviously not successful.

In February 2004 the European Parliament has voted on the following:

1. Sectoral Directives  
EP agrees that the original sectoral directives (e.g. for doctors) will be replaced by a general system
2. European representative associations  
EP voted in favour of the possibility for European representative associations to participate in the updating of the minimum conditions.
3. Advisory Committees  
Since 1975 the Commission has set up different Advisory Committees including ACMT, but during last years the Commission has not given ACMT possibilities to function. The EP resolution would propose having two committees of which one would deal with the present sector professions e.g. doctors.

#### 4. Specialities under recognition

Commission's proposal was to include under automatic recognition in the future only those specialities (currently 17) that are common to all EU-member states. This proposal was not accepted by the European Parliament. The amendment that was passed in the Parliament (amendment 16, recital 13a) states:

"In order to take into account the unique characteristic of the medical doctors qualification system – there exist a great number of specialist qualifications – and the corresponding *acquis communautaire* in the field of mutual recognition, it is justified to apply the principle of automatic recognition not only to those medical specialisms which are common to and obligatory for all Member States, but also to those medical specialisms which are common to a limited number of Member States."

Furthermore, in amendment 179, recital 14, is stated:

"The principle of automatic recognition must continue to apply to all medical specialisms that are already included in this system".

### EU matters:

The present situation of Legal Medicine has been extensively discussed. Finally, the proposal has been made that in addition to the health graduate specialisation on a national level, the ECLM should promote a specialisation also on a European level. This would mean that

- teaching courses should be offered
- examinations are performed on a European level
- a special title should be introduced, such as "appointed by the ECLM"

## **TOP 3: EU Matters**

Prof. Brinkmann presents an overview of the postgraduate specialisation in all European countries. This overview is enclosed.

**TOP 4: Report of the Secretary**

Secretary not present.

**TOP 5: Report of the Treasurer**

Treasurer not present.

**TOP 6: Election of a Secretary:**

Dr Saukko tries to find a Secretary.

**TOP 7: Varia/A.O.C.B.**

Nothing of importance.

**TOP 8: Place, Date of next General Assembly**

During the meeting in Sevilla.

For the Minutes:

B. Brinkmann/Nov 10 2004