

The UEMS was founded in 1958, one year after the Treaty of Rome. The UEMS is the first European Association of Medical Specialists to be founded.

Objectives: “to defend at the international level, the title of the medical specialist and his professional status in society (Statutes of the UEMS, Art. 2 – 1)

Composition: The UEMS includes full members and associated members. Full members at the rate of one organisation per country belonging to the European Union and the EFTA (**since 1992**), the national professional organisation representing the medical specialists.
Associated members are those European medical specialist organisations not belonging to the European Union and the EFTA.

Management Council:

each UEMS Delegation consists of two delegates per country, who do not represent their specialty, but their country, plus eventually one or two experts.

Voting is based upon the principle “one vote per full member”. Finally: at least one plenary session and one meeting of the Management Council per year.

Associated members follow these lines but are observers and are not allowed to vote. A Delegation of the UEMS Sections are also represented in the Management Council.

Specialist Sections:

Founded in 1962, at present numbering .., they are the UEMS “commonwealth” and force. The intimate UEMS cooperation with the Sections is part of the UEMS stronghold in Europe. When the delegates of a Specialist Section speak with one voice, they have an authorized opinion. The UEMS Sections are represented in the Management Council.

The subject of their task is:

- professional defence of their specialty
- harmonization of the profession at the European level

For some time now, they may be assisted by experts from the scientific world, for the creation of their own working group, their European Board. This Board has to take charge of the medical specialist training. This aim will be achieved by the working out of optimal training standards and of continuing medical education, in opposition with the minimal definitions contained in the Doctor’s Directives. The true aim of the creation of the European Boards is thus the defence and maintenance of the patients interest and high quality of care.

European cooperation:

By means of the UEMS, the medical specialists themselves, who through their representative professional and scientific organisations, are entrusted with the interests of their patients and the defence of their profession. The UEMS has an expert role for all problems of specialized medicine. This is executed in relation with the Advisory Committee on Medical training (A.C.M.T.) and the E.U. Commission. Finally in relation with the Standing Committee of European Doctors (C.P.)