

Dear fellow Presidents

Proposed agenda and structure for the EMO meeting – Brussels, 11 June 2009

As you will recall, at the last meeting of the Presidents' Committee it was agreed that Drs Fras, Lies and Wilks would work on proposals for the June EMO meeting. The following were agreed as principles to guide the event:

- We should build on the existing consensus in favour of the creation of a "Confederation of European Medical Organisations", and create a "road-map" towards achievable initial goals in relation to structure and financing.
- The event should have a clear political theme, ideally focussing on one policy issue of relevance to all European Medical Organisations
- The opportunity should be taken to publicise both the fact that EMOs have come together for a common purpose to create a Confederation, and the outcome of the meeting, expressed with a common voice.

We have considered very carefully how best to approach these principles and use the time available. We believe that we should concentrate first on the establishment of a Confederation, delivering closer collaboration. Its first objective should be policy development. Duplication of work (and duplication of effort by our secretariats) and the lack of consistent co-ordination have reduced our potential in this area.

In order to address this, we propose that our meeting should first identify those areas of policy that are central to our common interest, and, secondly, where within our organisations the appropriate expertise exists to lead on policy development.

It will help to focus this opening discussion if we use as a reference point those issues that will face the new European Parliament and Commission.

Next, we should discuss the implications that new joint and collaborative arrangements on policy may have for structure. A goal supported by many, if not all, EMOs is for a "Confederation in a Domus Medica", in which economies of scale – both in finance and in human resources – may be possible. A practical discussion needs to take place on what first steps we need to take towards this goal, and how National Medical Associations and other stakeholders should be invited to consider their future commitments.

Finally, we should agree a press release, setting out the main outcomes of our meeting.

Raymond Lies
Michael Wilks