

## **What was achieved at the UEMO General Assembly in Murcia?**

Over 27 and 28 October, the UEMO held its Autumn General Assembly in the city of Murcia, Spain, with the presence of delegations from 20 countries. The UEMO also held a joint session with European Junior Doctors (EJD) to approve the Murcia Declaration on the future of general practice and family medicine in European healthcare.

The UEMO approved new statutes in accordance with Belgian law and Dr Hermenegildo Marcos was elected for a four-year term as Vice-President of UEMO.

The winter shortages of medicines was discussed, and as a result of that discussion UEMO adopted a statement calling on EMA, HERA and responsible national agencies to urgently resolve this issue in the interests of patient safety and wellbeing. UEMO also discussed the recent events in Israel and Gaza and the need to protect and respect access to healthcare and, ensure the safety of civilians and healthcare workers. Finally, UEMO also agreed a statement of support for colleagues in the United Kingdom over their concern and opposition to the trend of physician substitution by 'Physician Assistants'.

The Plenary voted in favour of allowing the admission of the Association of General Practice - Family Medicine of North Macedonia (ZLOM-SM) as a full member of UEMO starting in 2024. The Plenary also voted in favour of trialling the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) system of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) while continuing to pursue efforts to develop UEMO's own system (EABCPD). Dr João Grenho, Secretary-General of UEMS, gave an overview of the EACCME system by videoconference.

Dr Sara Calderon, a Spanish GP based in the UK, gave a keynote speech on what makes GP's move abroad in Europe, and provided concrete policy recommendations.

Furthermore, on 26 October, UEMO President Tiago Villanueva participated in a round table on healthcare demography and the need for joint action, at the conference "Current challenges for the health of the future". This conference was attended by both board members and delegates from UEMO and European Junior Doctors (EJD), representatives from other European Medical Organizations as well as members of the Spanish General Medical Council and other Spanish healthcare authorities. The UEMO Board was also received at City Hall by the Mayor of Murcia, Dr José Ballesta.