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### INTERBOR in Leipzig, a successful symposium



At the invitation of the most important meeting of our industry, INTERBOR organized a symposium on May the 18th during which new contacts were established with national associations in Europe (Italy, Germany...) interested in possible membership. A unique opportunity to develop to a delegation of German national association and ISPO International - all represented by their two presidents - several characteristic points of positioning INTERBOR:

- The progress of the nomenclature and our website up to date;
- The testimony of the Slovak experience in which appears clearly that lawmakers and national association were inspired by the paramedical status, made by INTERBOR, to integrate it into national legislation;
- The concept of medical device with a low prevalence, developed by France and now integrated into the strategy INTERBOR and must use the current revision of the European directive on medical devices;
- The Spanish experience of *Cruces Amarillas*, real success of communication and identity. INTERBOR encourages its members to do the same.



Soon, president Edmond Deschoolmeester is going to meet Klaus Jurgen Lotz, president of BUBA, and Bengt Soderberg, president of ISPO International, again.



### Mobility aids in Belgium

By UPBtB (Belgium)

To introduce to you the part of mobility aids in Belgium, you first have to know there is a specific certification needed to be able to deliver mobility aids under the reimbursement system in Belgium. To get this certification, you need a bachelor degree in P&O and two years of practical internship. After this internship there is a medical and practical exam to pass at the Belgian official organ of social security (INAMI).

With this system, Belgium is the only European country to have recognized graduated professionals to deliver and adapt wheelchairs to the patients. This is to guarantee the quality of the service.

UPBTO represents the mobility aids professionals for all government relations. For this it has an internal workgroup to prepare all discussions at whatever level from ministries to insurance companies as well on a national level as a regional.

As a mobility aid supplier in Belgium, there is a reimbursement for wheelchairs (manual, active, electronic), antidecubitus material, tricycles, scooters, standing-up tables. This is for people off all ages. Sometimes people till the age of 65, can gain the right of a supplementary reimbursement by the regional offices for handicapped people.

UPBTO has a 7 headed representation in the technical workgroup for wheelchairs

reimbursement of INAMI. There they work together with doctors of the insurance companies, production industry, representatives of regional government bodies, representatives of INAMI, doctors and experts in the field of rehabilitation. They discuss all new legislation regarding mobility aids, administration flow, product registration and specific custom made requests.

They also sign yearly a convention between the profession and the mutual health insurances. This consists not only of price agreement between the two parties, but also payment terms, third party payment system, administration flow, information obligations to the patient and budget correction systems.

Via this system, they are responsible for the yearly national budget of reimbursed mobility aids.



## Risking health for money

By FEDOP (Spain)

Selling orthopaedic products on line, in many cases, is illegal as it threatens the health of users. With this premise, the Spanish Federation of Orthopaedics launched an information campaign to denounce the on line sale of orthopaedic medical devices.

The Spanish Confederation of Orthopedics has got in contact with many companies with a platform for on line sales of orthopaedic products that violate a Spanish Law about guarantees and rational use of medicines and medical devices, to cease in its business or otherwise to file a complaint with the competent authorities.

The initiative, available at [www.fedop.org](http://www.fedop.org), has generated interest from the media, which have been in contact with FEDOP to know the consequences of this unauthorized practice.

A journalist of one of the most important Spanish newspapers, "El Mundo", came to an orthopaedic establishment in order to talk with two patients experiencing first hand the consequences of buying a product on line, and also with the orthopaedic technicians who had to correct the error. The full report can be read in [www.crucesamarillas.com](http://www.crucesamarillas.com).

*The wrong choice of a orthotics product, as well as the lack of professional intervention, can aggravate your patient ailments and diseases.*



Orto Medical Care 2012 will be hold in Madrid from 27th to 28th of September 2012.

More information at [www.ortomedicalcare.com](http://www.ortomedicalcare.com)



## UFOP and the French Job Center

By UFOP (France)

Faces as most other french orthoprosthesis companies to recruitment problems, Proteor company use since several years, in partnership with job center located in Burgundy, tests of skill to recruit technicians Prosthetists Orthotists. They give satisfaction to the recruiter who found this method in a way to broaden its recruitment beyond the only job seekers who already hold a diploma of a manual activity.

With this successful experience, UFOP has decided to examine the possibilities of extending this partnership nationally. Based on its latest annual statistical survey, the profession is ready to sign a partnership agreement with the national job center (Pôle Emploi) in order to recruit a permanent contract of about 70 technicians Prosthetists Orthotists and 130 short-term to medium term.

This partnership agreement between national job center and UFOP must help organize recruitment sessions of prosthetic orthotist, based on the "recruitment method by simulation", and developed by the French national job center. This principle could also be extended to other professionals in the system (Podo-orthotic technicians) who, with orthopedic, are part of the FFAO (French Federation of Orthopaedic Equipment).



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