



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

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To: UEMS Members

Dear Members of the UEMS,
Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to you with regard to recent developments related to the draft Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare. As you know, this issue is currently under discussion at the level of the European Parliament and Council. In this framework and on the basis of the unanimous motion adopted by the UEMS Council in Copenhagen last year, the UEMS Executive has formulated a series of suggestions for further amendments to the current proposal.

We are really pleased to inform you that the UEMS managed to gain the support from eminent Members of the European Parliament to a certain number of its concerns with regard to the Report presented by John Bowis MEP. Whilst this Report was deemed to be positive in general and hence well received by the Executive, further clarification was seen to be needed as regards some of the items covered within that text. Now that these proposed amendments were supported, we are looking forward to positive prospects about its adoption by the European Parliament Committee on Health in February.

As you well remember, this draft Directive was considered as a top priority for the UEMS in its Action Plan for 2009, given its repercussions on the medical profession as a whole as well as on the objectives of our organisation in delivering the highest quality of healthcare to EU citizens.

The UEMS requests addressed mainly the four following key points:

- **Maintaining professionals mobility within the scope of the directive**
The UEMS considers that patients' rights should be equally guaranteed and properly safeguarded in the context of professional mobility. In our view, this issue needs to be incorporated in order to ensure the necessary legal clarity of the current text and avoid further postponing the settlement of this matter;
- **Establishing European-wide standards for healthcare providers**
The UEMS calls for extra provisions regarding healthcare providers through which principles of universality, equity, solidarity, quality, safety and access to healthcare can effectively be met. These standards should take into account progress in medical science and health technology and should, moreover, be regularly monitored and subject to corrective action;
- **Guaranteeing quality and safety in the use of eHealth and Telemedicine**
In order to ensure safe and high quality cross-border healthcare to European citizens, the UEMS calls for these services to be subject to the same standards of quality and safety as other "regular" services, so as to avoid potential risks to patients;
- **Increasing stakeholders involvement**
The UEMS demands that the relevant experts and stakeholders are effectively involved in the whole implementation process of the directive;

The UEMS Copenhagen Motion clearly pointed to the need of making the UEMS position heard in order to achieve a positive outcome in the benefit of our Membership. We are pleased to inform you that our efforts led to the desired outcome so far. However, we call for the support of all the UEMS constituents' bodies, particularly its National Members Organisations and its Sections & Boards in order to further build up our position to EU decision-makers. We kindly invite you to contact our Brussels office in order to coordinate our action and efforts in achieving the best possible outcome in the interest of European medical specialists and their patients

Kind regards,

Zlatko Fras
President

Bernard Maillet
Secretary-General