



# UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

*Association internationale sans but lucratif*

*International non-profit organisation*

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Brussels, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**To**     **Professor Vallo Volke**  
*Estonian Medical Association*

Dear Professor Volke,

It has been brought to our attention that the Estonian government is planning changes in the licensing system of doctors coming from outside the EU/EEA countries. It is our understanding that such foreign doctors have been granted specialist licenses in Estonia without proper assessment of their knowledge and skills, based only on documents they have presented. Furthermore, if we understand correctly, this practice is planned to be established in the Estonian legislation.

UEMS (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes) is the professional body representing specialist doctors from all EU and EEA countries. UEMS was founded in 1958 and its main task throughout its existence has been the quality of specialist training and of continuing medical education and continuous professional development of European doctors. This is a prerequisite for the free movement of doctors within EU/EEA area. Through its 43 specialist sections and their European Boards the UEMS has developed golden standards of specialist training within the medical specialities.

The EU professional qualifications directive (PQD) was renewed in the end of 2013 (2013/55). This directive regulates the free movement of e.g. doctors. The leading principle behind the renewal was to ensure patient safety for European citizens.

Although the directive does not regulate qualifications of doctors coming from outside the EU/EEA countries, the preamble of PQD mentions that each Member State should make sure that qualifications of non-EU residents or graduates should be recognized only when their competence is not lesser than required of specialists in EU countries.

In many EU countries the licensing of doctors coming from outside the EU/EEA countries is based on necessary training and evaluation of the knowledge and skills of these doctors including language tests.

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It is the view of the UEMS that each specialist practicing within EU has to conform with basic requirements set by the profession. The UEMS has set widely used European standards for specialist training. Based on this the UEMS hopes that the Estonian government will apply the same stringent quality criteria as most other European countries regarding licensing of doctors coming from non - EU/EEA countries.

Kind regards,



Dr Romuald Krajewski  
*President*



Dr Edwin Borman  
*Secretary General*