EMO Joint Statement on the Review of the Professional Qualifications Directive

Approval

AEMH Member Delegations

Sent by e-mail 28 August 2012
This is the final version of the joint statement signed by most EMOs. This document is a slightly amended version of the document (AEMH 12-021) approved by the plenary in Varna.

The legislative state of play is the following:

In February, IMCO (European Parliament's Internal Market Committee) began its consideration of the draft Directive, covering such issues as partial access, minimum training requirements, and language requirements. Followed a public hearing in April, which focused on partial access, the professional card, and minimum training conditions. Presentations given at this hearing are available at http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/imco/events.html


The draft report by the rapporteur, the French Socialist Bernadette Vergnaud, will be considered at the September meeting, with amendments due by 15th October 2012. Eventual adoption by IMCO is scheduled for the end of November, with process to the plenary session in January 2013.

The Presidents of the undersigned European Medical Organisations call upon the European Parliament and the Council to respect the following principles in their scrutiny of the proposal amending the recognition of professional qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC):

- High quality medical training and patient safety must be guiding principles in the new Directive and should not in any way be compromised to meet the objectives of economic competiveness or administrative simplification.

- The recognition process must ensure integrity and confidence in the mobility of doctors. In this context, competent authorities in the host Member State must retain competence to take a decision for recognition, regardless of the recognition regime applied, including through the electronic European Professional Certificate.

- Although the new proposal should respect an applicants’ right to have their qualifications recognised in a timely and transparent way, it would not be appropriate for the principle of ‘tacit authorisation’ to apply to the recognition of medical qualifications.

- Partial access must not apply to the medical in order to ensure the integrity of qualifications and the safe provision of medical services.

- The proposal must respect a Member State’s competence in delivering and organising medical education and training. The medical profession and competent authorities must be involved in the development of any common provisions on medical training.

- In order to improve trust and transparency, Member States should be encouraged to share best practices in basic and specialist training.

- In light of developments in the role and responsibilities of general and family practitioners, family medicine should be considered a medical speciality like any other.
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