The AEMH Plenary Meeting has been informed by the Spanish Delegation of “Consejo General de Colegios de Médicos” that the public health services in Spain are contracting many doctors who hold medical qualifications obtained in countries outside the European Union ignoring the procedures of recognition of genuine medical specialist qualifications, as well as choosing medical university graduates who have not completed postgraduate specialist training. The AEMH urges the Spanish health authorities to put an end to this practice and to respect the European directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC).

We are concerned that this policy will jeopardise the quality of patient care and will have a major impact on patient safety.