



## **EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS**

Alment Praktiserende Lægers Europæiske Organisation – UEMO  
European Union of General Practitioners – UEMO  
Europäische Vereinigung der Allgemeinärzte – UEMO  
Union Européenne des Médecins Omnipraticiens – UEMO  
Unione Europea dei Medici di Medicina Generale – UEMO  
Europese Huisartsen Vereniging - UEMO  
Unión Europea de Médicos Generalistas – UEMO  
Uniao Europeia de Clinicos Gerais – UEMO  
Euroopan Yleislääkärijärjestö – UEMO  
Europeiska Allmänläkarorganisationen – UEMO



**UEMO 2002/149**

**Letter (30 September 2002) from Commissioner Mr Frits Bolkestein to Mr Guiseppe Gargani, Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament**

**Subject: Professional recognition – Method of consultation with European representative associations of professions and educational establishments concerned by Community co-ordination of education and training leading to automatic recognition of titles**

---

**UEMO – PRESIDENCY**

*c/o Swedish Medical Association, P.O. Box 5610, Villagatan 5, SE-114 86 Stockholm  
Tel: +46 8 790 34 52, Fax 46 8 20 57 18, E-mail: info@uemo.org*



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

U E M O 2002 / 1 4 9

Brussels, 30-09-2002  
CAB/CB/aww/794-2002

Dear Chairman,

On 7 March this year the European Commission presented to Parliament and Council a Proposal for a directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (COM(2002)119 final). The Explanatory Memorandum to the proposal explains the broader intention of the Commission in this context to introduce a flexible, modern method of consultation with the European representative bodies of professional associations and educational institutions most directly concerned by Community co-ordination of education and training leading to automatic recognition of title in the field of professional recognition. This is to replace the existing consultative committees (COM (1997) 177 final).

I annex to this letter information for Parliament and Council on the way in which it is envisaged that the Commission will fulfil this objective. The intention is for this action to be taken by the Commission once the legislative procedure on the proposed directive has advanced sufficiently for its adoption to be in view.

Yours sincerely,

Frits Bolkestein

Mr Giuseppe GARGANI  
Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee  
of the European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
1049 BRUSSELS

**Subject: Professional recognition – Method of consultation with European representative associations of professions and educational establishments concerned by Community co-ordination of education and training leading to automatic recognition of titles**

## **Background**

In March this year, the Commission presented a proposal for a new directive on recognition of professional qualifications to Parliament and Council (COM(2002)119 final). The proposal provides for consolidation, liberalisation and simpler administration in an enlarged EU. The proposal covers, inter alia, the seven professions presently the subject of minimum co-ordination of training leading to automatic recognition of title for: doctors, dental practitioners, veterinary surgeons, pharmacists, general care nurses, midwives and architects.

At present, in addition to committees and groups of national officials operating under the existing directives covering the seven professions concerned, there exist seven consultative committees comprising three participants per Member State: one from national authorities, one from professional associations and one from educational institutions. These committees have proven administratively burdensome and procedurally inflexible and their manner of operation has been criticised by the private sector interests involved. Such difficulties are only likely to increase upon EU enlargement.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the proposal of March 2002 refers to the intention of the Commission to present a revision to its existing proposal for a Council decision (COM (1999) 177 final) to replace the existing consultative committees with simpler and more flexible procedures.

## **Action envisaged**

Once the Council reaches a common position on the proposal for a directive made in March, the intention is for the Commission to adopt a Decision creating an expert group to operate in connection with the proposed directive. This decision is planned for adoption in the last quarter of 2003 or the first quarter of 2004 assuming work in Parliament and Council on the proposal for a directive makes reasonable progress. The group would comprise experts from national authorities with a mandate to advise the Commission. The Decision should confirm that the Commission, for its part, will inform national authorities of the results of the work of the European level associations representing the professions and educational establishments, include such items on the agenda of the group, allow the representative bodies to present any suggestions for action to the group and inform these bodies of the results of the group discussions.

This method of consultation represents a more modern, flexible and efficient way of ensuring the provision, circulation and discussion of information and views of those private sector interests most directly concerned by Community co-ordination of education and training leading to automatic recognition of titles in the field of professional

recognition in an enlarged European Union. This way of working can produce significant advantages for the Commission and the associations concerned over the consultative committee mechanism hitherto operated. It could provide a good example of improved methods of public/private sector co-operation in accordance with Commission policy on Better Regulation and European Governance. This approach will not, of course, preclude other interested parties submitting information and views to the Commission or commenting on information and views submitted by others. However, the Commission has a clear interest in ensuring that provision is made for the circulation of information and views from those most directly interested in the operation of the directives and their updating. In July this year the European representative associations of the seven professions concerned adopted a joint statement confirming their willingness to work on the provision of information and suggestions to the Commission along the lines already indicated.