



## **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 Yleislääkärjärjestö – UEMO  
Europeiska Allmänläkarorganisationen – UEMO



### **UEMO 2002/165**

Correspondance between the UEMO Presidency and MEPs in the EP Environment  
Committee prior to the adoption of the Bowis opinion on the proposal for a directive of the  
European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications

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#### **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](mailto:info@uemo.org)



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MEP Ms Dagmar Roth-Behrendt  
European Parliament  
Bâtiment Altiero Spinelli  
12G318  
60, rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels

Stockholm, 6 December 2002

Dear Ms Roth-Behrendt,

We met briefly at the AESGP Annual Meeting in Dublin in June 2002 and perhaps you remember our brief encounter. I am writing to you somewhat concerned. I know that you already have contact with my friend and colleague Dr Reiner Brettenthaler, President of the CPME, on this matter, and although the UEMO and CPME are working closely together on the dossier I still wanted to write to you, knowing that you are the Shadow Rapporteur in the Environment Committee for the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications.

In the original draft opinion by Mr Bowis suggested the complete deletion of recital 13. That suggestion was much appreciated by the UEMO and our members (and by the CPME for that matter). We also know that this is supported by several governments throughout Europe, namely those (including your own country Germany) which currently already have a specialty in Family Medicine / General Practice. In the proposed amendments to Mr Bowis opinion, Mr Bowis and Mrs Oomen-Ruijten suggest a new wording which unfortunately reintroduces the very strong sentence *“The Member States cannot therefore recognise any medical specialism which has a field of professional activity similar to that of general practitioners.”* By reinserting this wording at least six member states in the European Union are in breach with community law and have to, if the European Court of Justice so decides,

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go back to a stage where they were twenty years ago, leading to shorter training periods, less quality in training and certainly lack of status for general practice. The latter follows the easily understood fact that young doctors want to call themselves specialists.

The UEMO recently took the stand that it is going to work for a European-wide specialty in General Practice / Family Medicine. We immediately understood that this would not be obtained in the short period of time that was available with regard to the current proposal for a directive. Instead we are working on long-term with quality improvement in family medicine / general practice. Any statement like the current one would at this stage seriously undermine our work, supported by several member states, and certainly be detrimental to patients in Europe. We set public health and patient safety at the forefront.

With these words we constantly ask you and the socialist group in the European Parliament, to vote against the proposed wording as introduced by Dr Bowis and Mrs Oomen-Ruijten. The deletion of Recital 13 is a much preferred way forward for general practice in Europe.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any clarification on this.

Yours sincerely,



Christina Fabian  
President



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MEP John Bowis  
European Parliament  
Bâtiment Altiero Spinelli  
14E115  
60, rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels

Stockholm, 6 December 2002

Dear John,

I am writing to you somewhat concerned this time. We have just read the compilation of amendments to your draft opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy for the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications.

In your original proposal you suggested the deletion of recital 13. That suggestion was much appreciated by the UEMO and our members. We also know that this is supported by several governments throughout Europe, namely those which currently already have a specialty in Family Medicine / General Practice. By reinserting yours and Mrs Oomen-Ruijten's wording you reintroduce the very strong sentence "*The Member States cannot therefore recognise any medical specialism which has a field of professional activity similar to that of general practitioners*". By reinserting this wording at least six member states in the European Union are in breach with community law and have to, if the European Court of Justice so judges, go back to a stage where they were twenty years ago, leading to shorter training periods, less quality in training and certainly lack of status for general practice. The latter follows the easily understood fact that young doctors want to call themselves specialists.

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With these words we consequently ask you and Mrs Oomen-Ruijten, to withdraw your proposal and return to your original proposal to delete Recital 13 in its entirety.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any clarification on this.

Yours sincerely,



Christina Fabian  
President



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MEP Ria Oomen-Ruijten  
European Parliament  
Bâtiment Altiero Spinelli  
60, rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels

Stockholm, 6 December 2002

Dear Ms Oomen-Ruijten,

I am writing to you somewhat concerned. We have just read the compilation of amendments to the draft opinion (Mr John Bowis) of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy for the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications.

In his original proposal Mr Bowis suggests the deletion of recital 13. That suggestion is much appreciated by the UEMO and our members. We also know that this is supported by several governments throughout Europe, namely those which currently already have a specialty in Family Medicine / General Practice. By reinserting yours and Mr Bowis' wording you reintroduce the very strong sentence "*The Member States cannot therefore recognise any medical specialism which has a field of professional activity similar to that of general practitioners*". By reinserting this wording at least six member states in the European Union are in breach with community law and have to, if the European Court of Justice so judges, go back to a stage where they were twenty years ago, leading to shorter training periods, less quality in training and certainly lack of status for general practice. The latter follows the easily understood fact that young doctors want to call themselves specialists.

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With these words we consequently ask you and Mr Bowis, to withdraw your proposal and return to your original proposal to delete Recital 13 in its entirety.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any clarification on this.

Yours sincerely,



Christina Fabian  
President