



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS  
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS



European Junior Doctors  
Permanent Working Group



Fédération Européenne  
des Médecins Salariés  
European Federation  
of Salaried Doctors

**Mr Michel Barnier**  
**Chief Negotiator – Task Force for the Preparation and conduct of**  
**the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 TEU**  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1040 Bruxelles  
Belgique

6 June 2017

## **“Brexit” and the European Medical Profession**

Dear Mr Barnier

Further to our letter of 5 January and subsequent meeting with your Taskforce colleagues on 14 February this year, we are writing to express our support for your public recognition of the European “nurses and doctors who contribute to the quality of healthcare in the United Kingdom” and support for the rapid regularisation of their situation.

Such public statements, and their affirmation in the EC’s (European Commission) draft negotiating guidelines, provide enormous succour to our members.

The EC’s view that “the withdrawal agreement should continue to provide the same level of protection for EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU” and include the “recognition of diplomas, certificates and other qualifications” is also welcome.

Such mutual recognition of professional medical qualifications, along with free movement, plays a crucial role in both doctors’ professional development and in meeting various workforce requirements across Europe, as the following case study demonstrates:

*Dr P is a Lithuanian anaesthetist/intensive care specialist who works for one week per month at a hospital in South London and the rest of the month back in Lithuania. This ability to move between different EU states has been of enormous benefit both to him, those he works with and his patients. As 70% of the hospital staff in London are from overseas compared to very few in Lithuania, this has given them the chance to learn from many different colleagues with diverse expertise and backgrounds. This is very unlike the situation in Lithuania where doctors typically stay in the same medical school that they trained in, so they have very few chances to exchange knowledge with different colleagues who are from dissimilar backgrounds.*

Whilst “Brexit” will obviously impact upon these areas, every effort to mitigate such shocks to the provision of health services across Europe must be supported.

Our members were also pleased to note the EU’s recognition that “the unique position of and the special circumstances confronting the island of Ireland” mean that “flexible and imaginative solutions will be required.”

As representatives of doctors living and working on both sides of the border, we share your view that this is a “priority in the negotiations” and look forward to working with all sides to ensure that such solutions facilitate the ongoing provision of cross-border healthcare.

Your institutions’ guidelines demonstrate clearly the EU’s recognition, and commitment to ensuring, that “Brexit” cannot be allowed to threaten Europe’s health.

Recent discussions, however, between the EU and the UK government have indicated that the “Brexit” negotiations may be carried out in a robust manner, albeit between longstanding allies.

As we approach the beginning of the negotiations, we would ask for your support in ensuring that the principle of medical neutrality in times of conflict - a guiding principle of our civilisation – continues to be applied during negotiations to ensure that “Brexit” does not result in any collateral damage to our patients’ health.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Romuald Krajewski**, UEMS President




**Dr Nicolino D'Autilia**, CEOM President



**Dr Sascha Reiff**, EJD President



**Dr Aldo Lupo**, UEMO President



**Dr Enrico Reginato**, FEMS President



**Dr Jacques de Haller**, CPME President

(Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/register/search\\_stats.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/register/search_stats.asp)

<sup>2</sup> Academies publish joint statement on research & innovation after the EU referendum, 19 July 2016

<sup>3</sup> <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/draft-EU-guidelines-prudent-use-antimicrobials-human-medicine.pdf>