



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

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UEMS Statement on Professional Autonomy

Adopted by the UEMS Council

Larnaca, Cyprus – 19th October 2012

Given the medical profession's commitment to efficient, safe, high quality care for patients, the UEMS rejects attacks on the integrity of the medical profession, and on its professionalism, as has occurred in some European countries. These have included challenges to medical professionals' autonomy and the self-regulation of the medical profession. Such attacks are not in the best interests of the patients we serve, or in maintaining the trust that is the foundation of the doctor-patient relationship.

The UEMS recognises that professional autonomy is a key component of the professionalism that is characteristic of medical specialists. This professionalism is sustained by the trust that society shows in their doctors who have, as their first duty, the care that they provide for our patients.

The UEMS, in representing medical specialists throughout Europe, confirms the commitment of all colleagues to:

- providing medical care and expertise with the goal of patient safety as paramount
- achieving the highest attainable quality of patient care
- delivering efficient care, whilst ensuring patient safety and high quality of care.

While the UEMS recognises the social and economic context of modern healthcare, the UEMS is deeply concerned by the adverse health effects for our patients, and the deleterious impact on healthcare systems that have been the result of austerity measures and rationing decisions.

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The UEMS will continue to advocate for the appropriate funding of the best achievable and evidence-based care for patients. The UEMS calls on politicians to fulfill their professional responsibilities by ensuring the provision of appropriate funding for healthcare and for the provision of services.

To achieve these aims, and to maintain a healthy relationship with society, the UEMS is committed to working with all groups that share the aims set out above:

- patients and organisations representing their interests
- organisations representing other healthcare professions
- medical organisations throughout Europe
- governmental and non-governmental funders of healthcare
- national governments and supranational political institutions

The UEMS calls on all healthcare professional colleagues to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and autonomy despite the adverse circumstances, both economic and political, facing Europe. The UEMS calls on all like-minded organisations to reject attacks on the integrity, regulation and autonomy of the medical profession.