



# UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

*Association internationale sans but lucratif*

*International non-profit organisation*

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Brussels, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We are writing to you regarding the European Standardisation Committee (Comité Européen de Normalisation - CEN).

The UEMS is a non-governmental organisation representing national associations of medical specialists in the European Union and its associated countries. It is the oldest professional organization of European doctors, it had been established in 1958 and at present it is the largest one. With a current membership of 37 Member Associations including all EU and EEAA member states, the UEMS operates through 43 Specialists Sections, 12 Multidisciplinary Joint Committees and 3 Thematic Federations. With the support of its membership, the UEMS is committed to ensure the highest quality and safety of medical specialist care for European citizens.

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the CEN has published standards on Aesthetic Surgery. The UEMS Council has repeatedly expressed its strong opposition to the CEN projects aimed at defining standards in Aesthetic Surgery and other areas of medical practice. The rules adopted by CEN for development of the so-called "standards", as well as the failure to take into account the position of medical specialists are unacceptable and threaten the safe medical practice. It has been brought to our attention that, in spite of very strong opposition from medical specialists and other medical organisations, the CEN is considering developing new standards in other medical areas.

Please find enclosed a statement from the UEMS section of Plastic, reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery (PRAS) regarding the impacts of the CEN initiative on the practice of European doctors. We are convinced that, as pointed out in the attached joint statement of European Medical Organisations and in multiple other documents, the CEN standards are not evidence-based professional standards and must not be used in medical practice.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Romuald Krajewski  
*President*

Dr Edwin Borman  
*Secretary General*



## **Statement from the Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery Section of the UEMS**

The UEMS Section of PRAS wishes to express its serious concerns about the CEN process. Following the issue of aesthetic surgery and so called 'aesthetic medicine', CEN has now turned its attention to the care of cleft lip and palate patients. CEN is carrying out this process without the involvement of health professional organisations in this field.

The UEMS Section of PRAS strongly believes that the whole CEN process goes against the principle of self-regulation within the medical field. A process which does not seek the advice and expertise of those directly responsible for providing clinical care is flawed.

To date the CEN process has yet not affected the specialty of PRAS. However this is undoubtedly the thin end of the wedge and in future may affect any specialty. Our Section therefore believes that the UEMS should condemn outright any attempt to impose standards from outside the medical profession.