



# The Newsletter of European Medical Specialists

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## Summary:

- Positive vote in EP committee on the recognition of qualifications.
- UEMS involved in major web-based event on medical issues.
- Part-Report and major overhaul to the Directive on services in the internal market.
- Positive outcome on Working Time

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## Recognition of Professional Qualifications

As announced in previous issues of UEMS Newsletters (See *N-0503 of 25/03/2005*), the committee on internal market and consumer protection of the European Parliament convened on 26 April last to examine Mr. Zapala's draft report on the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications.

The vote was first expected to be cast last week but had to be postponed because of translation delays.

The outcome of this vote was welcomed by UEMS Executive as most of our recommendations were followed by MEPs.

Automatic recognition acquired for current specialties

Firstly, MEPs decided that all specialties recognised on the date of adoption of the Directive would still benefit from automatic recognition. However, "automatic recognition should apply after the date of entry into force of this Directive only to

Further automatic recognition under "2/5 principle"

those new medical specialties common to at least two fifths of Member States".

But what is more important for UEMS, European professional organisations would

Involvement of European professional organisations

be involved in the coordination process to define minimum training conditions for the recognition of professional qualifications. Moreover, a committee on the recognition of professional qualifications will be set up in order to assist the European Commission and will consult experts from professional groups.

The Executive of UEMS enthusiastically welcomed these developments

Enthusiasm from UEMS Executive

and strongly believes that UEMS can provide the European Commission as well as the committee on recognition with extensive expert-knowledge thanks to its Specialist Sections and Boards.

The Executive will of course keep you fully informed of the next progress on this issue as the European Parliament still needs to formally adopt this report before sending it to EU Council.

## Hospital Management Conference

A web-based Conference on hospital management is going to be organised in the forthcoming weeks. "IDS Hospital Management" aims to provide educational resources on hospital and healthcare products and services in various fields such as Cardiology, Infection Control, Telemedicine, Diagnostics, Facilities Management, Oncology, Respiratory Care, Surgery and Wound Management. Information on these specialisations is presented through white papers.



Source: IDS

In this respect, UEMS was contacted by IDS organisers in order

to provide its expert-knowledge in these areas and issue white papers on these topics.

The Executive would like to further involve UEMS Sections and Boards, as groups of experts, in this Conference and calls on every Section wishing to take part in this online event to contribute their articles or case studies to UEMS Secretariat.

This event is an excellent occasion for partners to share ideas and provide insights on hospital management.

The Executive remains at your entire disposal for any further details on this event. See also the provisional website of the Conference: [www.ids-hospital.com](http://www.ids-hospital.com).

*UEMS invited to provide its expertise in a major web-based Conference on recent developments in Hospital Management*

## EP Draft Report on the Services Directive

The EP Rapporteur on the draft Directive on services in the internal market Ms. Evelyne Gebhardt presented a part of her draft report at the latest EP committee on internal market and consumer protection. This was the first real occasion for MEPs to have a real debate on this issue.

### Major overhaul to the text

Ms. Gebhardt proposed major amendments to the Commission's proposal, more particularly on the scope of the Directive and the country of origin principle ("COP").

### Scope

The EP Rapporteur proposed making a clear distinction between commercial services and services of general interest. Moreover, according to Ms.

Gebhardt, services covered by sectoral Directives should be more explicitly excluded.

### Country of origin principle

Ms. Gebhardt also rejected COP and proposed referring to mutual recognition and destination country principles.

### Scepticism from fellow-MEPs

In the course of the debate that followed, many MEPs raised criticism notably on how this new proposal would deal with the different types of discriminatory barriers identified as obstacles to the free movement of services.

### UEMS Executive remains careful

The Executive of UEMS will of course keep you informed of further developments with regard to this issue.



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## Working Time examined in EP committee

On 19 April last, the EP committee on Employment and Social Affairs convened in Brussels and adopted a Report drafted by Mr. Alejandro Cercas. (See N-0504 of 01/04/2005) MEPs disagreed with the Commission's initial proposal and decided the following:

### Opt-out

MEPs agreed to scrap the right of individual workers to opt out of the maximum 48 hours working week.

*UEMS Executive welcomed the outcome in EP committee on Employment & Social Affairs*

### On-call time

MEPs also considered that the entire period of any time spent on-call, including the "inactive part", should be regarded as working time. The committee though decided that Member States could allow inactive parts of on-call time to be calculated in special ways in order to comply with the maximum

### Increased flexibility for workers

In further amendments, MEPs also agreed that working hours should be organised in such a way as to give employees the opportunity for life-long learning. They also wanted to achieve the right balance between reconciling work and family life and the need for more flexible organisation of working time. Moreover, MEPs made clear that workers who have more than one job contract would be covered by the Directive.

### Satisfaction of UEMS Executive

The Executive welcomed this progress with great satisfaction and would like to remind UEMS Member Associations the importance to stay in contact with national MEPs in view of the vote in plenary session to be held in Strasbourg from 9 to 12 May 2005.

## UEMS Compendium

The Executive of UEMS would like to warmly thank the various contributors to UEMS Compendium.

However, many articles are still missing. Reminders will soon be sent to Sections and Associations from which nothing has been received yet.

## Next meetings

### UEMS Sections & Boards

*Brussels, 21 May 2005*

### UEMS Council

*Munich, 20-21 October 2005*

### EACCME Advisory Council

*Brussels, 26 November 2005*

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