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Declaration
from the working Group Quality of Patient Care

Commercialisation of medical practice

It has been reported that in certain European countries, financial incentives have been introduced aiming to meet certain financial targets at the expense of patient safety and quality of care.

Access to high quality, evidence based healthcare is enshrined in the UN Charter of Human Rights. We recognize that we live in a commercially driven world but we strongly believe that provision of healthcare should not be seen as a “ruthless commercial enterprise” in a civilized society. Medical practice must not be considered as a profit orientated business.

It is our duty to serve the best interests of our patients and provide them with healthcare of the highest standards within a robust clinical governance framework. It is of paramount importance that contracts for medical doctors do not include terms that force them to consider financial profits before and above provision of high quality standards of care. In that context, quality control and assurance governance systems must be in place in all public and private hospitals to protect patients and healthcare professionals from the risks of commercialization of medical practice.

The UEMS strongly supports action on behalf of the National Medical Associations of Europe to ensure that the contracts of medical professionals across Europe must reflect above principles.