



EUROPEAN MIDWIVES
ASSOCIATION



Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe



Mr Michel Barnier
Chief Negotiator
Task Force on Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom
European Commission
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgium

Brexit and the mutual recognition of professional qualifications

Dear Mr Barnier,

We are writing to you on behalf of the European architectural, dental, medical, midwifery, nursing and veterinary professions following the publication of the UK government's White Paper on *The Future Relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union*.

Our members share the view of both the European Council and the UK government that "the future partnership should include ambitious provisions on movement of natural persons...In areas such as (the) recognition of professional qualifications¹."

You will be aware that such professional mobility has led to our workforces becoming increasingly integrated and interdependent, and that the mutual recognition of professional qualifications (MRPQ) plays a vital role in our members' professional development as well as in meeting varying workforce requirements across Europe. MRPQ has driven up professional standards across the continent and supported employers to access the very best professional talent.

We recognise that the development of "a system for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, enabling professionals to provide services across the UK and EU²" after Brexit is an ambitious goal. While we understand the view that it "presents particular difficulties, notably in light of the integrity of the single market that should not be underestimated" and are cognisant of the fact that "so far, the European Union has not entered into a horizontal agreement on mutual recognition of professional qualifications with a third country³," we believe that MRPQ has been of enormous benefit for businesses and individuals across Europe and securing a comprehensive agreement for continued mutual recognition of professional qualifications is vital for our each of our professions.

Accordingly, we would urge you to continue to work to overcome these challenges and deliver pragmatic solutions that permit such a system of MRPQ to safeguard our members' ongoing pan-European provision of essential services to Europe's citizenry.

We hope that this information is helpful and would be delighted to meet with you in person to expand upon these views and the other, numerous, Brexit related issues threatening the future provision of our members' services in Europe.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jacques de Haller,
CPME President

Mr Paul De Raeve,
EFN Secretary General

Mervi Jokinen,
EMA President

Jan Vaarten,
FVE Executive Director

Dr Marco Landi,
CED President

Mr Ian Pritchard,
ACE General Secretary

CC The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

Endnotes

¹ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/33458/23-euco-art50-guidelines.pdf>

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/725288/The_future_relationship_between_the_United_Kingdom_and_the_European_Union.pdf

³ Michel Barnier letter (6 March 2018) to the Presidents of UEMS, CEOM, EJD, UEMO, FEMS, CPME, EMSA and AEMH