



To Mr Michel Barnier
Head of Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom
michel.barnier@ec.europa.eu

European Medical Organisations on recognition of doctors' qualifications post-Brexit

Dear Mr Barnier,

The undersigned European Medical Organisations have been following the progress made in the negotiations towards an EU-UK free trade agreement closely. As you are aware, we are especially interested in safeguarding the future of the recognition of doctors' qualifications.

Upon review of the proposals the EU and the UK have made on this chapter respectively, we would like to express our support for the solution put forward by the UK government and ask you to consider its merits:

- We strongly favour a provision that is enshrined directly in the free trade agreement, applies to every Member States on equal footing and that can immediately enter into force upon ratification. This will ensure continuity and legal certainty for both students and professionals at the end of the transition period. The solution proposed by the EU, that is the conclusion of mutual recognition agreements by professional organisations, is – for all its flexibility – a largely untested process which is likely to require time to take shape.
- While we accept that it is not possible to replicate single market legislation in a free trade agreement, the proposal put forward by the UK government accounts for both the current degree of harmonisation of the applicable regulatory framework and any dynamics which may occur in future. This ensures that recognition decisions can observe quality and patient safety.
- The solution proposed by the UK government draws on processes that are familiar to national competent authorities thus allowing swift implementation. This too is beneficial for legal certainty and operational efficiency at Member State level.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has proven once again that health is global and the medical profession transcends national borders. In recognition of the fact that the UK is special among third countries, and it is the EU's explicit objective to maintain as close as possible a partnership with the UK, we hope that there can be acceptance of the solution which the profession believes to be most suited to ensuring that Brexit does not threaten the European medical profession nor the patients it serves.

We would be delighted to set out our appeal in a personal meeting. We thank you for considering this request and trust in the outcome.

Yours sincerely,



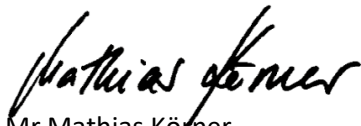
Dr Erich Theo Merholz
President of the European Association of Senior Hospital Doctors (AEMH)



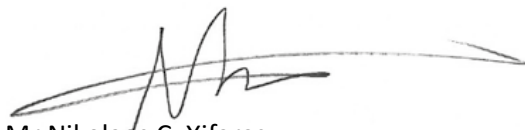
Dr José Santos
President of the European Council of Medical Orders (CEOM)



Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery
President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)



Mr Mathias Körner
President of the European Junior Doctors Association (EJD)



Mr Nikolaos C. Xifaras
President of the European Medical Students Association (EMSA)



Dr Călin Bumbuț
President of the European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO)



Prof. Vassilios Papalois
President of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)