



CPME/AD/Brd/290303/13/EN/fr

At its Board meeting, Brussels, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the CPME adopted the following policy : **Statement concerning the integrating refugee doctors into the European workforce : the way forward** (CPME 2003/029 Final EN/fr)

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Refugee<sup>i</sup> doctors are a valuable potential resource; they are motivated professionals who want to contribute to the country that has given them shelter rather than depend on it. Furthermore, they are our colleagues who have lost all but their medical expertise and knowledge and they should be given the chance to re-establish their careers.

National Medical Associations (NMAs) are ideally placed to take the lead in raising awareness of the problems they face and in offering them moral and practical support. The integration of refugee doctors, including the recognition of their qualifications, is a matter to be addressed at a national level.

The CPME calls on its members to:

- discuss the integration of refugee doctors and their potential registration with their medical associations, other professional organisations and governments
- facilitate, where appropriate, the development of programmes that support the integration of refugee doctors, as proposed in the BMA framework
- develop links between CPME member states to share good practice, recognising that NMAs have an important role to play in supporting these colleagues and helping them to re-establish their careers

The CPME will:

- lobby the European Commission for special funds to support initiatives to assist the integration of refugee doctors into the workforce and to raise the awareness of EU/EEA members states of the positive potential of refugee doctors.
- highlight the issue to other European medical organisations affiliated to the CPME, recognising that the PWG has already carried out important work and research in this area.

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<sup>i</sup> The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) definition of a refugee is "a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country" as quoted in the 1951 Convention Relating to Refugees.