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MARKT/D/4/EMV D(00) 990

Dr Claudio Cricelli  
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## RICEVUTO UEMO

Dear Dr. Cricelli,

I refer to your letters of 15 May 2000 regarding the training for General Medical practitioners addressed to Mr. Prodi and Mr Bolkenstein which have been passed on to me for reply. I regret the delay in you receiving this reply which has been due, in part, to our priority work on the draft directive in question which now enables me to give you a more definite response than would have been possible earlier.

I would like to clarify the situation.

The Commission, represented by Mr Bolkenstein, has indicated at the Plenary Meeting of the European Parliament held on 4 July 2000 the various reasons why the amendments aiming to extend the length of minimum training provided under Doctors Directive 93/16/EEC of the Council cannot be accepted.

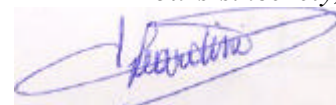
Firstly, as their title indicates, the Directives on freedom of movement and recognition of diplomas are aimed solely at fostering the mobility of professionals and, to that end, they provide for the mutual recognition of diplomas. That recognition is based on a minimum coordination of training. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity and Articles 149 and 150 of the Treaty, the organization and content of the systems of education and training are primarily and essentially a matter for the member States. Those Articles specifically exclude any possibility of harmonization. It is therefore inappropriate for the directives on free movement and the recognition of diplomas to be used to ensure that "all European General Medical Practitioners share common qualification procedures".

With a view to promoting freedom of movement, it is simply and solely a matter of providing for minimum coordination of certain conditions of training which are regarded as being sufficient and satisfactory in that respect.

In these circumstances, extending the minimum coordination of the conditions of training beyond what is necessary to ensure freedom of movement would be contrary to the Treaty and to the objective of the Directives on freedom of movement and the recognition of diplomas. While we understand the interests of the medical profession "to achieve better patients' care in Europe" and therefore to strengthen the rules on training for general medical practice, in the context of these directives we do not work on the basis of the same order of objectives.

I would like to add that my services have examined the situation several times during the months of May, June and July with your representative in Brussels. We remain at your disposal to examine any issue UEMO might wish to discuss under Directive 93/16/EEC with regard to General Medical Practitioners.

*Yours sincerely,*



*p.o. J.F. Mogg*