

# UEMO 2000/182

[Name of Minister]  
[Title of Minister]  
[Address of Minister]

Ref:

October 2000

[Greeting],

## **SLIM Directive on professional diplomas – EU minimum duration of GP training**

In the coming weeks representatives of the EU Council of Ministers and the European Parliament will meet in Conciliation negotiations to agree the final text of the SLIM Directive on mutual recognition of professional qualifications. On behalf of the medical profession in [country] I am writing to urge you to ensure that the [nationality] government's representative at these negotiations works to strengthen the EU rules on the training of general medical practitioners (GPs). In particular, I urge you to ensure that the [nationality] delegation supports the European Parliament's proposed amendment number 8. This amendment, which was passed by an overwhelming majority at the Parliament's July 2000 plenary, increases the EU minimum duration of specific training for general medical practitioners to three years.

It has long been the case in this country that doctors wishing to practice as GPs have to complete [three / five] years of professional training. This is regarded by both the [Ministry of Health] and the medical profession as essential in order to ensure our GPs provide a good quality, clinically sound service to their patients.

In nearly all other EU Member States doctors wishing to practice as GPs are required to complete three or more years professional training. The European Union of GPs (UEMO) strongly supports a move to an EU minimum duration of GP training of three years, as does the Commission's own Advisory Committee on Medical Training. It is unacceptable, and quite baffling to us, why the EU minimum standard of training is still set at a level that the vast majority of Europe's GPs and regulators regard as inadequate to guarantee good quality, safe healthcare.

[The European Parliament also passed amendment 10, requiring GPs wishing to have their qualifications recognised in another Member State to provide proof that they have participated in Continuing Medical Education (CME). Though the medical profession in [country] supports the principal that doctors should participate in CME we do not believe Parliament's amendment is workable. CME is still at an early stage of development in most Member States. Whether EU level rules are needed on CME is far from clear and needs further study.]

We would be grateful to have an opportunity to discuss [this / these] issue[s] with you further. Our secretariat will be in touch with you in the coming days to see whether it is possible to arrange a meeting.

I am writing in similar terms to your colleague [name of other minister(s) written to]

Yours sincerely,

[Name]  
[Title]