

San Remo, 12th March 2010

Honourable Trinidad Jimenez
Minister of Health and Social Policy
Madrid

Dear Minister Jimenez

The European Council of Medical Orders (CEOM) as regulatory body of the medical profession in Europe, fully supports the General Medical Council of Spain in its defense of the compulsory registration for all physicians, the only system to ensure the safety of patients and the qualification of physicians moving through Europe.

The CEOM barely understands how Directive 2006/123/EC "services" - whose coverage excludes the health sector by its specific characteristics – can, in its implementation, have an effect on the medical profession and bring into question the compulsory registration putting the safety of the patient at risk.

Regulation of the profession and disciplinary control, which is absolutely essential in health practice, requires the existence of the General Medical Council of Spain as competent authority and regulatory body for the whole profession as stated in Directive 2005/36/EC "Recognition of qualifications".

The exercise of the medical profession is closely connected with the right to health protection, the right to life and physical integrity, the respect for private and family life, to human dignity and the free development of the personality, and permits to protect the patient (Articles 2, 3, 8 and 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union).

Only the Professional Orders can ensure that the exercise of the profession, both public and private, is carried out with the essential minimum guarantees for patients.

Registration should be mandatory in order to regulate the whole profession with the same control criteria and the same medical ethics: a profession at the service of the patient, united, independent and responsible.

Therefore, we ask the Spanish Ministry of Health to maintain the compulsory registration of all physicians as a professional control mechanism and in defense of the security not only of Spanish patients but also of all citizens of the EU moving to Spain each year.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Pedro Nunes (Portugal)
CEOM President

Dr. Roland Kerzmann (Belgium)
CEOM Vice President

Dr. Gordana Kalan Zivcec (Slovenia)
CEOM Vice President

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