



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

20, Av.de la Couronne
B-1050 BRUSSELS
www.uems.net

tel: +32-2-649.5164
fax: +32-2-640.3730
e-mail: uems@skynet.be

D 0411

March 31, 2004

- Presidents / Secretaries of the UEMS Specialist Sections
- Presidents / Secretaries of the UEMS European Boards

Dear Colleagues,

The UEMS Management Council met on Saturday March 20, 2004 in Brussels. Many delegations took up the issue of European examinations organised by the sections and/or boards of the UEMS and wanted to clarify their role and UEMS position.

Some sections and boards have for a long time organised European examinations as one method of quality assurance. The Management Council of UEMS recognises the tremendous work that colleagues in the sections and boards have done for this system.

The Management Council of UEMS wants to stress however, that these exams are only one method of quality assurance of specialist training. Other methods such as evaluation of training centres and evaluation of doctors in the training throughout the whole training period are also in use and justified. The UEMS Management Council has a working group of postgraduate training which is in the process of evaluating the different means of assessment of specialist training. This working group will report to the Management Council during its next meeting in October 2004.

The Management Council of UEMS wants to stress that these European exams have no legal meaning nationally or at European level. They are not a part of professional recognition of specialist doctors. This professional recognition and free movement of labour is solely governed by the directives of the European Union. It is of utmost importance to bear this in mind whenever the position of UEMS regarding these exams is in question.

This is in no way meaning to undermine the valuable work different specialities have done to develop these exams. They certainly have a place in the quality assurance process of specialist practice and can be an asset in a specialist doctor's CV and portfolio.

Thanking for you collaboration.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Hannu Halila
President

Dr. Bernard Maillet
Secretary-General