



EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE

7 -9 Breams Buildings

London EC4A 1DT

United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7400 6101 F: +44 (0)20 7067 1267

E: ruth.klassengreen@eusem.org W: www.eusem.org

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doc. MUDr. Leoš Heger, CSc.
Minister of Health of the Czech Republic
Palackého nám. 4
128 01 Praha 2
Czech Republic

3 April 2012

Dear Dr Heger,

I have been asked by Dr Jana Seblova, President of the Czech Society for Emergency and Disaster Medicine, to express strong support that Emergency Medicine should again be recognised as a basic medical specialty in the Czech Republic. I do this in my current role as Chairman of the UEMS European Board and Committee on Emergency Medicine and as a Past President of EuSEM, the European Society for Emergency Medicine.

You will know that the European Union Directives 2005/36/EC and 2006/100/EC include lists of hospital medical specialties and the EU countries in which they have official recognition. One of the lists is headed 'Accident and Emergency Medicine', the name by which the specialty was once known in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The Directive requires that the period of training for Emergency Medicine as a hospital-based primary specialty should be a minimum of five years and the current list includes nine countries which are **Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and United Kingdom.**

The lists of medical specialties in the EU Directives have not been amended for several years but are due to be revised in the near future. The current list does not therefore include the four additional EU member states which have more recently recognised Emergency Medicine as a basic medical specialty and which are **Belgium** (2005), **Slovenia** (2006), **Italy** (2008) and **Luxembourg** (2010). However, the list does continue to include the Czech Republic even though it was decided two years ago to change the status of Emergency Medicine to a supra-specialty.

There are certainly other EU countries which acknowledge Emergency Medicine as a supra-specialty (Denmark, Finland, France, and Sweden) but there is strong expectation that at least two of them will soon change to a basic specialty. I was therefore very concerned to learn that the Czech Republic had moved in the opposite direction and I very much hope that you may now consider revising this decision.

There is progressive development of the specialty of Emergency Medicine in Europe and the Council of UEMS (including representatives from the Czech Medical Association who voted in favour) agreed at their plenary session in Naples last October the creation of a new Section of Emergency Medicine. The first meeting will be held in Brussels on 25 May and I understand that your national delegates will be Dr Seblova and Dr Zika. However, the Statutes of UEMS determine that only delegates from countries with Emergency Medicine as a basic specialty are eligible to vote on important issues.

The main reason for the development of hospital-based Emergency Medicine as a basic medical specialty with a minimum of five years of training is the increasing recognition that this is in the best interests of patients who are in need of urgent and acute medical care at any time. The European Curriculum for Emergency Medicine was developed by a multinational working party and has been formally approved by EuSEM and by UEMS. I very much hope that you may give further thought to the status of Emergency Medicine in the Czech Republic and accept that a basic medical specialty will be the best way forward and will be in line with the majority of countries in the EU.

Please let me know if you think I can offer you any additional relevant information.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr) David Williams
Chairman, UEMS European Board and Committee of Emergency Medicine
Past-President, European Society for Emergency Medicine

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