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EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

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**EUROPEAN TRAINING CHARTER
for medical specialists**

In 1993 the **Charter on Training of Medical Specialists** in the European Community (EC) was adopted by the Management Council of the UEMS. This Council consists of the delegates of the national specialist organizations in the European Union. The Charter forms a framework for harmonization of postgraduate specialist training in the EU in each specialty. After the adoption of the Charter on postgraduate training the 30 UEMS Specialist Sections and 2 Subsections went to work to specify the training needs in their specialty within the framework of chapter 6 of the Charter. The UEMS Specialist Sections consist of delegates of the national scientific / professional organizations in the specialty.

This huge task was completed in 1995 and the present **European Training Charter** for medical specialists gives a complete picture of the consensus on training programmes that has been reached within the medical specialist profession in the European Union.

In 1994 another Charter was adopted by the UEMS Management Council, the **Charter on Continuing Medical Education** in the EU. The Management Council consisted at that time of the delegates of the 17 member states of the EU and EFTA (European Free Trade Association). The work on quality of medical specialist practice was continued in 1996, when the **Charter on Quality Assurance** was adopted. The **Charter on Visitation of Training Centres** was adopted in 1997. These documents are professional recommendations. Responsible national organizations are strongly recommended to implement these recommendations into the national training programmes. On the other hand, these documents will be professional position papers needed by the European Commission when further EU directives in the field of medical specialist practice are contemplated. At the moment there is only the directive 93/16/EEC which stipulates the minimum duration of specialist training. Content of training is not subject of European legislation yet. This may change in the course of the implementation of the Maastricht Treaty. The UEMS expects this document to be a contribution to the quality of medical specialist practice in Europe.

Brussels, October 1995 / Bruxelles, octobre 1995. C.C.Leibbrandt, Secretary UEMS
Harmonization Committee
Secrétaire UEMS Commission d` Harmonisation

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