

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN:

1. The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), an international non-for-profit organisation incorporated and existing under the laws of Belgium, with its registered office at 1040 Brussels (Belgium), Rue de l'Industrie 24, hereby validly represented by UEMS President, Prof. Vassilios Papalois, and UEMS Secretary General, Dr João Grenho.

Hereafter “**UEMS**”

AND:

2. The European Junior Doctors Association (EJD), an international non-for-profit organisation incorporated and existing under the laws of Belgium, with its registered office at 1040 Brussels (Belgium), Rue Guimard 15, hereby validly represented by EJD President, Álvaro Cerame

Hereafter “**EJD**”

The parties sub (1) and (2) shall hereafter be referred to individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”.

RECITALS

The UEMS and the EJD are active in areas relevant to the quality of medical specialist practice in medicine in Europe, and to the quality of care for the benefit of European patients. The Parties are willing to establish a partnership that will promote and facilitate their activities in this area.

The overall goal of collaboration and cooperation is to define joint actions, to achieve the best possible outcomes, and to increase the visibility of both Parties.

The Parties seek through this Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to renew and strengthen their partnership, as well as to explore and develop new opportunities in accordance with their objectives and competencies.

THE PARTIES DECLARE THAT

1. SCOPE

This MoU outlines the principles of cooperation and collaboration between the UEMS and the EJD.

2. INTENTION OF THE PARTIES

The Parties acknowledge that this MoU does not, and is not meant to, constitute a legally binding agreement between them. Whenever an activity undertaken by both Parties would require a formal legal framework, Parties will conclude a formal, legally binding agreement.

The non-binding relationship between the UEMS and the EJD governed by this MoU is that of independent contractors. Nothing contained in this document will be construed as constituting any other relationship between the Parties.

This MoU does not prevent or limit the EJD or the UEMS to enter into agreements with other parties. Both Parties declare that they will not enter into agreements that would jeopardize or invalidate this MoU and, whenever reasonable doubt would arise as to whether a new agreement is likely to be in conflict with this MoU, the Parties will communicate and strive to resolve outstanding issues.

3. INTERNAL POLICIES

Subject to the terms of this MoU, the implementation and pursuit of the goals, objectives, conditions, and terms of this collaboration will be carried out in accordance with the internal policies and procedures of each Party.

4. SCOPE OF COMPETENCES AND ROLES

a) EJD

The EJD is a non-governmental, independent and non-profit organisation. According to its articles of association, the non-profit objectives of international utility of the EJD are to:

- Represent and promote the interests of Junior Doctors in the member states of the European Union, European Economic Area and European Free Trade Association, as well as other states with significant ties to European countries (hereafter “Europe” or “European countries”);
- Exchange information and develop a common approach, and formulate common views on relevant topics such as the medical workforce, postgraduate training (PGT) and working conditions;

- Improve and develop relations among Junior Doctors in Europe;
- Protect and improve standards of healthcare in Europe.

To achieve these goals, the EJD carries out, in particular, the following activities:

- Promote the positions defined by the Members and assert them through appropriate channels, with the European and international authorities;
- Promote dialogue, understanding and development of joint projects with European Medical Organisations;
- Cooperate with and assist other initiatives and/or organisations having a purpose similar to the purpose of the Association, as well as other regional and/or international initiatives and/or organisations.

b) UEMS

The UEMS is the oldest medical organisation in Europe (1958), currently has 41 National Medical Associations. There are 44 Specialist Sections (S) and Boards (B) , 17 Divisions (D), 19 Multidisciplinary Joint Committees (MJC) and 11 Thematic Federations (FT). They were created to promote and defend the interests of medical specialists in their respective fields and to improve the quality of medical specialist training and practice at the European level.

Differences between the aforementioned Bodies:

- Section is a medical specialty;
- Division represents a field of interest of only one medical specialty;
- MJC represents a field of interest of several medical specialties;
- TF also represents a field of interest of several medical specialties, but their activities focus on the general added-value of a discipline rather than scientific and training issues;
- The European Board oversees the organisation of examinations of a medical specialty.

According to its articles of association, the UEMS objectives are to promote the harmonization of training standards for specialist physicians within the European Union and to promote free movement of specialist doctors within the European Union. The UEMS is independent from the medical industry in order to assure unbiased position in areas of medical politics and in accreditation of continuing medical education (CME).

The key activities of the UEMS include:

- Political lobbying (European Commission, Parliament, Support of national medical associations (NMAs));
- Standard setting for specialist training and practice;
- Accreditation of CME and continuing professional development (CPD).

5. MUTUAL RECOGNITION

Each Party acknowledges the competences of the other, according to its articles of association. Each Party acknowledges that the other is an essential partner in the development and improvement of the quality of medical specialist practice in Europe. Parties recognize that their continued collaboration should be a crucial and integral element to the future success of both organisations and their members.

6. PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UEMS AND THE EJD

- I. Both organisations share similar vision and goals, approaching them through complementary perspectives. Through collaboration we share different views and ideas, working together to improve training programs and education systems, and better career development in Europe.
- II. Both parties will openly share ideas while engaging in continuous dialogue and exchange of information and best practices.
- III. Advocacy and policy influence: both parties will work together to advocate for policies that benefit medical professionals and the healthcare system, addressing issues like working conditions, training opportunities, medical mobility, medical workforce. Individually we promote and support the efforts of both organisations.
- IV. Mutual recognition of professions & qualifications across Europe: the EJD and the UEMS support the principle of free movement of doctors across Europe and the mutual recognition of professions & qualifications. It is the aim of both organisations that doctors are provided a clear framework for professional practice within the EU.
- V. Base for the EJD representation to the UEMS bodies is that both organisations acknowledge the importance of high-quality PGT for specialist training. The Parties undertake to work towards establishing a set of principles that safeguard the well-being and health of trainees and ensure safe and appropriate training. Fulfilment of these principles will be verified every time a visitation will take place for the accreditation of a centre.

These principles serve as a foundation for a partnership that enhances the professional landscape for healthcare workers in Europe paving the way for a better future.

7. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

Parties undertake to collaborate in order to achieve the objectives of mutual interest and according to the principles of collaboration. The areas of collaboration between the UEMS and the EJD, are, but shall not be limited to:

a) EJD representatives in the UEMS S/B/MJCs and other groups of the UEMS:

Since 1991, each UEMS Specialist Section and European Board has welcomed a representative from the EJD to represent European doctors in training in an advisory/observer capacity. At the

UEMS Executive meeting of May 2007, it was agreed that EJD delegates would also be invited to represent doctors in training in UEMS MJC's in an advisory/observer capacity. Given the significant interest and the importance of ensuring a junior doctor is always involved in UEMS S/B/MJC's activities, the position of vice-representative was later introduced.

The EJD representatives and vice-representatives (hereafter "Representatives") to the UEMS S/B/MJC's are elected by the EJD General Assembly and must be doctors in training in their corresponding specialties. After every EJD meeting, the EJD PGT Committee Chairperson will send the UEMS Coordination Office an updated list of Representatives and the UEMS Coordination Office will then notify the Presidents of each UEMS S/B/MJC the name and contact details of the newly-elected EJD Representatives. Recognizing the financial implications of said role as well as junior doctors' limited resources, the UEMS will try to ensure that the organisational bodies in which junior doctors collaborate try to bear the associated costs arising from the participation in face-to face meetings.

b) Participation in an advisory/observer capacity of the Representatives in the UEMS activities:

The UEMS also welcomes the participation in an advisory/observer capacity of a Representative appointed by the EJD in following UEMS activities:

- Related to PGT: such as CESMA examinations, Authentication of certificate and UEMS fellows, and NASCE - assessment to training centers. It is recommended that the Representative in each S/B/MJC shall be invited to be part of the visiting committee. The expenses related to this function are covered by the center being visited.
- Related to CME/CPD: the EACCME Advisory Council, and other groups that could be created within the UEMS structure and are related to PGT. The input of doctors in training in the matters of PGT is considered of paramount importance for both associations.
- Connected to advocacy for medical specialists: free movement, improving working conditions and other EU-funded projects.

8. COMMUNICATION

The Parties acknowledge and agree that prompt and constructive communication is of great importance for promoting their collaboration.

Each Party will put on its website the logo and a link to the other Party website as well as information on collaboration and related documents and media.

Official announcement:

An official announcement of the present MoU will be made on both Parties' websites as a common statement by the UEMS and the EJD after the signature of the MoU. The statement will also be circulated to both Parties' constituencies.

9. REPRESENTATION

The President and/or the PGT Committee Chairperson of the EJD is invited to participate in the Advisory Board and Council Meetings and to present an annual report on the collaboration between the EJD and UEMS Bodies and the EJD and the UEMS. Likewise, the UEMS President will be invited to attend the EJD General Assembly and report on the progress of the common work of the two organisations.

Each Party will invite representatives of the other Party whenever matters of joint interest, as described in this MoU, are considered.

In addition, a joint conference (physical or digital) of the UEMS and EJD Executives will be held, at least annually, to discuss the collaboration.

10. FUNDING

This MoU does not include the exchange of funds between parties.

11. MODIFICATION

This MoU can be modified or amended only by a written document signed by both Parties.

12. TERM AND TERMINATION

This MoU is concluded for an indefinite period but needs to be re-approved or revised and approved every two years.

Each Party may propose amendments, modifications or cancel the MoU.

13. EFFECTIVITY

This MoU is effective immediately upon the signature of all Parties here.

Date: 25th of February 2025

UEMS President: Prof. Vassilios Papalois

EJD President: Álvaro Cerame

UEMS: Secretary-General: Dr João Grenho

EJD: PGT Committee Chairperson: Valentina Pugelj