



22nd January 2019
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**Statement on the Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament
and of the Council on the protection of persons reporting on breaches
of Union law,
“Whistle Blowing”**

Tuesday 22nd of January 2019

The European Junior Doctors Association (EJD) welcomes the proposed directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law.

We support this initiative to improve the safety of individuals as the current legislation is insufficient, with most member states without legislative protection for “whistle blowers”.

Whilst the directive reflects the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), employee protection, unfortunately, remains outside its scope.

It has, however, been proposed to amend the directive to include employees’ rights (article 153 TFEU) and to allow the right to protection when reporting abuses of workers’ rights, and threats to their health and safety.

EJD supports the inclusion of such employee protection and would emphasize its importance to the provision of safety and high-quality healthcare also for employees across Europe. Junior doctors, often responsible for on-call work and with notoriously heavy workloads, are a particularly vulnerable part of the workforce. Due to the nature of specialist training, they are mostly employed on a temporary basis and are often forced to change placement during this training , with a greater risk of abusing workers rights.

In addition, and due to a variety of reasons – i.e. family commitments, research and training commitments - junior doctors increasingly work across borders in multiple jurisdictions. Accordingly, such cross-border workers face particular challenges as they cannot rely on a single minimum EU standard of protection.

To conclude, EJD supports the adoption of this Directive as improved protection for “whistleblowing” doctors will, in our view, lead to significant advancements in junior doctors’ working conditions and a commensurate improvement for employees as well as in patient safety across Europe.