

Brussels, March 16th, 2021

In support of the SEMES manifesto for Emergency Medicine

The European Society for Emergency Medicine (EUSEM) is a scientific organization that represents 37 National Emergency Medicine Societies in different European countries. EUSEM has the mission to improve the quality of medical emergencies care and reach the higher quality standards in the professional competences.

All European Union (EU) countries have set standards of medical training for professionals working in the emergency medical field, in the prehospital and in-hospital settings. In most of these countries, EM is a full specialty, with the exception of Austria, Cyprus, Portugal and Spain. Since 1990, when only Ireland and UK have officially recognized the specialty in emergency medicine, all other countries across the EU have followed this model. Interestingly, the few countries that initially opted for a supra-specialty like Belgium, Sweden and France have moved EM as a primary specialty. Only Greece and recently Germany still consider EM as a supra-specialty.

EUSEM firmly supports a uniform and officially recognized training program for Europe, which is the Emergency Medicine specialty, to guarantee similar quality of care to all citizens and free movement of professionals. This is a European requirement, stated in the [Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications \(2005/36/EC\)](#) annex V that applies to specialist doctors, with a training period of minimum 5 years.

EUSEM supports the Sociedad Española de Medicina de Urgencias (SEMES) in its quest for having Emergency Medicine as a primary specialty in Spain, to comply with the European Regulations, and ultimately for the advantage of the patients.



Dr Abdo Khoury
President, The European Society for Emergency Medicine

EUSEM ivzw
Antwerpsesteenweg 124 B27
B-2630 Aartselaar
Belgium

E: info@eusem.org
T: +32 3870 4616
W: www.eusem.org



Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes-

Section and Board for Emergency Medicine

The status of Emergency Medicine in Spain

I am writing as the President of the Section and Board for Emergency Medicine within the European Union of Medical Specialties (UEMS). The UEMS is the representative organisation of the National Associations of Medical Specialists in the European Union. The organisation works through 43 Specialist Sections, addressing training in the respective specialty and incorporating representatives from academia (Societies, Colleges and Universities).

The aim of UEMS and of the Section and Board for Emergency Medicine (EMS&B) is to define the European Medical Standards in each specialty and to promote the highest standard of training at the European level as well as advocacy and specialist accreditation.

The EMS&B has developed a European Training Requirement, which is endorsed by the UEMS. This document defines the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for high quality patient care in emergency care, including care in the pre-hospital period until care is transferred to another specialist as an inpatient. The training programme to gain that competence is expected to be five years. Emergency medicine is, and should be recognised as, a primary specialty working with other specialties but a trained emergency physician will have unique skills and training that complements the other specialties in and out of the hospital setting.

Standardising the training of specialists working in the emergency care arena will ensure patients receive the best possible care and that the health care system in a country is effective with equal access for all citizens

Therefore the Emergency Medicine Section and Board would like to confirm unconditional support for the manifesto from SEMES which calls for the establishment of Emergency Medicine as a primary specialty of five years training.

Dr Ruth Brown

Emergency Physician London

President of the UEMS Section and Board for Emergency Medicine

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