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ЕВРОПЕЙСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ НА СТАРШИТЕ БОЛНИЧНИ ЛЕКАРИ**

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Author :	Dr Thomas Zilling
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AEMH position paper on the Bologna Process

For medical students there has been a natural endeavour for development in the medical profession. Through medical school, internship and specialist training, the development of skills has been standardised and performance controlled by the medical faculties and authorities on a national level.

In 1999, the ministers of education of 29 countries met to discuss the future development of higher education in Europe. The result of this meeting is the so called Bologna declaration. The goal of the Bologna declaration or process is the adoption of a comparable degree system for higher education in the EU, with three main cycles aimed to facilitate movements of students and teachers between countries. The first two cycles consists of a basic and an advanced level. The third cycle is a doctoral study with the goal of a PhD. The first two cycles should be given a bachelor and masters degree. Since the first meeting in Bologna there have been meetings for follow up in Prague (2001), Berlin (2003), Bergen (2005) and London (2007). The process is scheduled to be completed in 2010 and today over forty countries throughout Europe have accepted and are involved in the process.

The Bologna process has adopted ten action lines;

1. Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees
2. Adoption of a system essentially based on three main cycles
3. Establishment of a system of credits
4. Promotion of mobility for students and academic and administrative staff
5. Promotion of European cooperation in quality assurance
6. Promotion of the European dimension in higher education

7. Lifelong learning
8. Higher education institutions and students
9. Promoting the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area
10. Doctorial studies and the synergy between the European Higher Education Area and The European Research Area

The Bologna process is currently not adjusted to medical studies and training. To study medicine is a long process which requires theoretical as well as practical training. According to the Directive No93/16/EEC the medical educations shall consist of 5500 hours of structured schooling or six years. The medical faculties today issue the diploma; Degree of Master of Science in Medicine. As a doctor you need to be certified by a national organisation to receive the official title of an physician. The requirements for this vary throughout Europe. In some countries a trainee period (turnus/internship) is following after the university studies. In other countries the MD degree will follow immediately allowing a faster career. This creates problems in Europe regarding the free movement before the trainee has become a specialist.

Action plan for the AEMH to be adopted at the plenary meeting 2008

1. The national delegations have, in the name of the AEMH, to inform national authorities on the specific problems for medical training within the Bologna process and the differences in requirements between different countries within Europe.
2. The national delegations have to convince national authorities that exception has to be taken regarding the Bologna process for medical education.

3. The board has to lobby in Brussels for the creation of a new Advisory Committee on Medical Training run by the European Commission.
4. The board has to convince the European Commission that the medical profession needs their own process created for the special needs of the medical profession.
5. National delegations and the board have to oppose the third step in the Bologna process. It must be possible to start doctoral studies before six year. Requirements of two years of medical studies can be a proposal.