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ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ  
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI  
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ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΑΪΑΪΑ ΗΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΗΝΗΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ  
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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**EFTA court opinion – Withholding registration from doctors on the grounds of their language skills:**

The Court of Justice of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) has given its opinion on a case concerning a decision by the Norwegian Appeal Board for Health Personnel to deny full registration to a Bulgarian doctor on the basis of their language skills.

The court found that competent authorities may make registration to practise medicine conditional upon the applicant having the necessary language skills, given that a doctor's ability to communicate with colleagues and patients constitutes a general public interest.

The opinion outlined that competent authorities are not normally allowed to make a discretionary assessment of a professional's language or competence, given the harmonised minimum training requirements outlined in the Directive. However, the Court took the view that in exceptional circumstances, competent authorities must be able to deny full authorisation to professionals if there are overriding reasons of public protection, and upheld the decision by the Norwegian Appeal Board.

[Report of the Hearing](#)