

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003487/25
to the Commission
Cynthia Ní Mhurchú (Renew), Peter Agius (PPE)
(9 September 2025)**

Subject: Risk to patient safety from Oro-facial and Maxillary Surgery (OMFS) training requirements set out by the European Union of Medical Specialists

In May 2025 the Commission heard a petition in the Committee on Petitions raising serious concerns about the European training requirements for OMFS as set out by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). The training requirements pose a risk to patient safety by incorporating procedures from the otorhinolaryngology specialty curriculum.

The UEMS, despite being an organisation with no formal role under the Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC) ⁽¹⁾, is shaping specialist training and professional boundaries in the EU.

In its written response the Commission acknowledged that this non-profit organisation, operating without any EU oversight, and under influence from its members outside the EU, is allowed to ‘shape the medical landscape between medical specialties in Europe’.

Given the risk that these blurred boundaries could lead to misdiagnosis or surgical mishap by inadequately trained specialists, what measures will the Commission take to protect European consumers and patients from the consequences of unofficial curricula shaping cross-border medical practice?

Submitted: 9.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(10 November 2025)**

According to Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ⁽¹⁾, Member States are responsible for organising and delivering health services and medical care.

They are also responsible for training of health professionals and establishing clinical guidelines, treatment protocols and safety standards.

EU policies support them to strengthen their health systems via knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and funding. Improvements of health systems are also encouraged through the European Semester.

The Commission is not entrusted with developing or endorsing the European training requirements (ETRs) such as developed by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS).

Directive 2005/36/EC ⁽²⁾ provides for an automatic system of recognition of professional qualifications of certain medical specialties based on minimum training requirements.

Member States may choose to notify specialties regulated on national level for inclusion in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC and withdraw specialisations notified in the past. The UEMS has no formal role in the directive to define curricula, and each Member State decides whether to follow its ETRs.

Quality assurance of higher education is ensured at national level and based on the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance, agreed in the context of the European Higher Education Area and applied to higher education institutions and programmes leading to formal qualifications.

This protects students against non-accredited curricula. Professional organisations such as the UEMS may set training recommendations, but these only gain formal effect when integrated into nationally accredited curricula.

¹ OJ L 255, 30.9.2005, p. 22, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/36/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12008E168:EN:HTML>.

⁽²⁾ Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications (Text with EEA relevance), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/36/oj/eng>.