



The Hague, December 21, 2017

To: Presidents of the National Societies of hematology
Re: Madrid Declaration

Dear colleagues,

It is with pleasure that I can inform you that 26 out of 28 national hematology societies in EU Member States have now co-signed the **Madrid Declaration on enhanced training requirements for hematologists in the Professional Qualifications Directive**. The declaration has also received support from the Haematology Nurses & Healthcare Professionals Group (HNHCP) as well as from nearly a dozen patient organizations.

Please find the declaration with the current list of co-signatories attached. For your convenience, the outline of its objectives and rationale as presented at the National Societies Dinner at EHA22 in Madrid has also been attached once more.

The time has now come for action. At the **European** level, EHA will formally present the declaration to the European Commission, emphasize the importance of increasing the minimum length of hematology training to five years (or three years if combined with two years of Internal Medicine), and call upon the Commission to amend the Professional Qualifications Directive accordingly.

Action at the **national** level is equally if not more important, as each Member State is responsible for opting its specialties into the Annex V – the part of the directive that provides a mechanism for automatic recognition of qualifications for professions with harmonized minimum training conditions – and for ensuring that the minimum training duration for each specialty, as set out in the Annex, is met. We therefore warmly encourage you to:

- 1) urge the National Competent Authorities (NCAs) to adopt (or maintain!) the five-year minimum requirement at the national level;
- 2) advise your NCAs and/or other relevant health or education bodies to adopt the European Hematology Curriculum as the basis for national training programs (if this is not yet, or not sufficiently, the case).

To optimize the automatic recognition regime laid down in the Annex V, it would also be helpful to have all national hematology specialty titles listed under a single '(General) Haematology' category. This would require action from the Belgian, Dutch, French, Bulgarian, Luxembourgish and Portuguese authorities.

For an overview and specifics of the recommended actions at the national level, please refer to the Excel document attached.



The coming months will be crucial in promoting the objectives of the Madrid Declaration. A 'Delegated Decision' by the European Commission amending the Annex V is expected in the fall of next year; the Commission plans to collect proposed changes and recommendations from Member States **in the first quarter of 2018**.

I thank you for your contribution to this joint effort that will benefit hematologists' professional mobility and, ultimately, the high-quality patient care that we all aim to deliver.

With kind regards,

Prof. Ulrich Jäger
Chair EHA European Affairs Committee

Attachments:

- *Madrid Declaration with list of co-signatories*
- *Presentation given at the EHA22 National Societies Dinner*
- *Overview of follow-up actions*