



Building on solid
foundations
to improve
specialist
healthcare
for European
citizens

**UEMS 50th Anniversary Conference
Brussels, 18th April 2008**



Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

In my capacity of President of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), I am proud to announce to you the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of our organisation.

As you know, the UEMS has been active since 1958 on the European scene with an aim to federate medical specialists across Europe and promote the highest quality of medical care for European citizens. This goal has been pursued by the UEMS for now 50 years through notably developing common standards in specialist training, facilitating the cross-border recognition of quality assessments in Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development as well as ensuring the quality of specialist medical practice.

Without the strong commitment of the delegates of our 35 national member associations and our 37 Specialist Sections and Boards, these ideas would never become a reality.

Celebrating these 50 years of existence and activities will also feed our current reflection on the strategy of our organisation for the decades to come. The expertise the UEMS has built up during that period is undoubtedly the most precious asset in facing the challenges the medical profession will have to deal with in the future.

In the framework of the Anniversary Celebrations, a Scientific Conference will be organised with an aim to shed light on the UEMS involvement in fields of importance to the medical world and pave the way to the key role the UEMS will have to play in the future to achieve its goals. The issues to be dealt with will encompass the key areas of interest and expert-knowledge for medical specialists in Europe, i.e. postgraduate training, continuing medical education and professional development, and quality assurance in specialist practice.

These are fields where the UEMS has played and will play a crucial role in the coming years. At the same time, the global reach of our organisation is continuously expanding and will undoubtedly encompass the full scope of issues related to specialist medical practice in Europe.

I am proud to head such an esteemed organisation as the UEMS and trust that it has a long life remaining for at least another 50 years!

Dr Zlatko Fras
President

