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To: All National Societies of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, members of EFORT

Rolle, 3 May 2016

## European Curriculum in Orthopaedics and Traumatology

Dear EFORT member Societies,

We are all aware that due to the relaxation of border controls, labour movement across Europe has become more widespread. However, concerns have been raised about the standard of knowledge and professional competence of surgeons who have qualified in one country and move to practice in another. EFORT is conscious that even in the larger countries there can be considerable variation in training systems and assessments.

The training of specialists, like many other things in Europe, is very changeable, depending of each countries training program. Furthermore, the scope of the specialty is variable, with some countries separating **Orthopaedics** and **Traumatology (O&T)**, and variable levels of training in non-operative and operative management. EFORT as umbrella organization of National Societies of Orthopaedic and Traumatology has education as a prime objective.

For this reason we believe it would be to the benefit of all the National Associations if we developed a document setting out what we consider to be the minimal requirements for training in *O&T* across Europe. Based on this premise we think that one of the roles of EFORT is to build up a European Orthopaedic and Traumatology platform, which recognises the primacy of the National Associations and Regulatory Authorities. The goal is to develop a European Curriculum for *O&T* acceptable to all European Nations, which includes a unified process of assessment; and assurance that acceptable standards of competence have been achieved.

In December 2012, EFORT launched The European Education Platform – (EEP), by inviting the National Associations to contribute to this process. The idea was to start with a small group to establish a framework and later to involve all Associations, in order to have wide representation across the European Union. At the same time UEMS, EBOT, the Specialty Societies and a representative of FORTE, (the Federation of Orthopaedic trainees in Europe), were invited to participate in the process.

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After a long procedure to build a curriculum we achieved a final document which is attached with this letter. In May of 2015 the current document was approved by EFORT and UEMS. The intention of this curriculum is to enable nations to produce *O&T* surgeons who are safe to screen the full range of referrals which may be made to an orthopaedic and/or trauma service, and to deal with them safely.

The intention of this document is not to impose a European Curriculum but to act as a guide for all Associations that want to implement a European Curriculum at the National level.

Both UEMS and EFORT are aware that there is still a wide variation in *O&T* Education in Europe and this document intends to help in harmonizing the different processes within this field of Education in Europe.

It is up to each National Association to adopt or adjust it to their National requirements.

Yours Sincerely,

**Prof. Dr. Enric Cáceres Palou**

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Enclosure: ment.

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