

Dr. João Miguel Grenho

Portuguese Medical Association

# Creation of The Physiotherapists chamber in Portugal



CEOM Meeting, Paris 8 of December 2017

# Autonomy

- Self-governing
- Act independently
- Self determining



# The portuguese physioterapy situation...

- The Portuguese Parliament approved in general two draft laws to create the Chamber of Physiotherapists.



# Autonomy

- Self-governing
- Act independently
- Self determining



# Specialized formation

- In Portugal specialized physicians in Physical medicine and Rehabilitation have a global training of 12 years in medicine that allow to promote, with a high degree of confidence and specialization, the determination of the diagnosis and establishment of medical treatment and prognosis.
- The technical course of physiotherapy, for its part, lasts for 3 years.



# MoU between CPME and ER-WCPT



 **COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS**

 **EUROPEAN REGION**  
**World Confederation**  
**for Physical Therapy**

**Memorandum of Understanding between the**  
**European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy /**  
**Physiotherapy (ER-WCPT)**  
**and the**  
**Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)**

# MoU between CPME and ER-WCPT



EUROPEAN REGION

**World Confederation  
for Physical Therapy**

## **Memorandum of Understanding between the**

- The partners commit to safeguarding the independence of their professions for the benefit of patient safety and quality of healthcare. The partners also underline their commitment to safeguarding the professional obligation to comply with ethical codes and the fundamental principle of medical neutrality.



# In Portugal...

- The Mou is used by physiotherapists to justify:
  - Diagnosing
  - Requesting complementary studies
  - Propose and execute therapeutic plans
  - ...without medical supervision...



# Medical Act – UEMS

## Definition

- “The medical act encompasses all the professional actions, e.g. scientific, teaching, training and educational, organizational, clinical and medico-technical steps, performed to promote health and functioning, prevent diseases, provide diagnostic or therapeutic and rehabilitative care to patients, individuals, groups or communities in the framework of the respect of ethical and deontological values. It is the responsibility of, and must always be performed by a registered medical doctor/physician or under his or her direct supervision and/or prescription.”



# This situation

- Is dangerous for patients
- Is dangerous for physiotherapists
- Is dangerous to doctors.
- Is financial detrimental to the patient – No reimbursement



# Questions

- Who is responsible?
- Who supervises the treatment?
- Who guarantees that the best practices are observed?



# The Portuguese Medical Association would like

- To have your support in declaring that the recognition of the activity of the physiotherapist as a profession in the area of health care can never lose sight of the fact that the diagnosis and referral for treatment of physiotherapy is **exclusively** a medical decision. In this way it cannot forget that, if the medical diagnosis establishes the existence of a disease that needs a rehabilitation program, the physical activity of the physiotherapist is carried out in the context of his participation in the multidisciplinary team, but under the supervision of a physician.

