

## 16 member states want opt-outs on EU's Working Time Directive - Derek Clark MEP

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### Full Transcript

**Subject:** the Working Time Directive (WTD): 1. the need for Member State (MS) opt-outs, and 2. the damaging effect on the qualification of junior doctors in hospital clinical training

### SPEECH BEGINS

[Point one "OPT-OUTS]

I am very interested to hear that the Commission reports that no less than 16 of the MS out of the 27 still want opt-outs [from the WTD], which is hardly a blocking...majority as some members of this cmte have alleged in the past.

I am also interested to hear that at least one other visiting speaker today has said that opt-outs should be retained, and I agree with them, so they should. If 16MS want opt-outs, then that should tell this company that something about the matter of opt-outs and the WTD.

These countries have worked out their own position with regard to employment and workers, and I believe they should be allowed to continue in their traditional path.

[Point two "CORE TIME" - DAMAGING IMPACT IN UK ON JUNIOR DOCTOR CLINICAL TRAINING]

The second point I'd like to raise Madam Chairman, is simply on core time, in one specific consideration. It has impact very very greatly upon the medical profession. I'm not too worried about core time in other places, eg, truck drivers. It is quite obvious that they must take whatever hours of rest per day it is laid down for them, but are you aware that in the UK, and I cannot speak for anywhere else, that last year several hundred young doctors left the profession, because having completed their studies in medical school, they went into the hospitals to do clinical training, but the WTD forced them to quit those training hours before they had gained the necessary experience. They were unable to complete their qualifications. Now those trainee doctors were not like the experienced physicians with whom they were working, who were carrying out the bulk of the work, they were looking, listening, learning, only lending a hand.

How can you possibly say that extended hours of working for them resulted in a health problem for them, and still less, a health problem for their patients? We lost several hundred good young doctors because of it, they cannot be replaced just like that, and that cannot be good for the health and safety of the rest of the population. Thank you.

### SPEECH ENDS