

Council

C(03)08
13.03.08

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 172nd MEETING: FOR INFORMATION

**1. European Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.
(Min. 6469 and 6470 June 2007)**

During the Autumn of 2007 the Department of Health, on behalf of all Health Professional Regulatory Bodies, prepared the enabling UK legislation for the introduction of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications.

Statutory Instrument 2007 No 3101 Health Care and Associated Professions: The European qualifications (Health and Social Care Professions) Regulations 2007 comes into force December 2007 and April 2008.

The changes to the Act and Rules are attached and it is to be noted that two new registers are established for temporary registration of EU/EEA dispensing opticians and optometrists. Applications for such registration, in the UK, must formally apply for registration to the GOC, meet the required criteria, undertake an aptitude test if necessary and fulfil any obligations of registrants for renewal of registration.

2. Therapeutic Prescribing of Medicines by optometrists (Min. 6507)

Council is asked to note that it is understood that the Prescription Only Medicines Order is not to be signed until April 2008. Council has consulted upon and prepared the requisite changes to Rules to introduce, for optometrists, the new specialty of Independent Prescribing of Medicines. Council cannot however make these changes to the Rules until after the POM Order has been undertaken.

It is expected that Council will be asked to make these changes at its meeting on 3rd July 2008.