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## **IRISH DOCTOR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN ORGANISATION**

Dr. Clement Leech, Deputy Chief Medical Adviser of the Department of Social and Family Affairs has been elected as President of the European Union of Medicine in Assurance and Social Security (EUMASS).

Founded in 1972, EUMASS is an association of national organisations of social insurance doctors. It co-ordinates exchange of information between countries, helps to improve standards in disability assessment, promotes research and publications in the field and organises International Conferences.

Dr. Leech has formed a Working Group in EUMASS to study Low Back Pain in member states, how it is assessed, its costs in benefits and healthcare and methods of reducing resulting chronic disability.

Dr. Leech is a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Physicians of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and of the American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians.

ENDS

7th March 2003

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