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ЕВРОПЕЙСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ НА СТАРШИТЕ БОЛНИЧНИ ЛЕКАРИ

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**Association Européenne des Médecins des Hôpitaux
European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians**

Core Values, development targets and action plan of the AEMH in 2008

Introduction

1963

The founders of the organisation motivated the establishment of the AEMH as follows: “With regard to the revolutionary development of hospitals and the establishment of new positions and services in hospitals, the interests of senior hospital physicians in responsible positions will not be sufficiently discussed in already existing organisations.”

2008

45 years after its establishment, the AEMH Board thought advisable to reconsider this motivation and the objectives of the organisation in order to adapt to the current situation and be in line with the concerns and interests of a new generation of senior hospital physicians.

At the 49th Board meeting in Brussels, 27 October 2007, the members of the AEMH-board decided to identify the core values and development targets of the AEMH in 2008.

The Board should propose a global strategy and plan of action, which is scheduled to be presented at the 61st AEMH Plenary meeting 2-3 May 2008.

Presentation and Core Values

The AEMH is a professional association of and for European hospitals physicians, who have final responsibility for the patients, with the primary goal to improve all aspects of hospital life in Europe.

The AEMH provides a European platform for hospital physicians, which develops and maintains a spirit of cooperation and communication among its national member delegations, improving the understanding of the different health systems. It encourages the exchange of ideas and experiences and promotes discussion among doctors, patients and politicians with the major objective of promoting health and improving patient safety.

The AEMH assembles a group of specialists promoting hospital management based on quality and safety, possessing valuable expertise in this field. The AEMH calls for European hospital accreditation recommendations to set standards to guarantee quality of treatment and ensure patient safety. Hospital accreditation based on quality and safety must consider:

- Risk management
- Involvement of doctors in Hospital management
- Evaluation of pre-and post graduate education.

Good working conditions of doctors are a major component to ensure quality care and patients safety. The AEMH defends the interests of hospital physicians and gets involved in the current debate on European legislations concerning their working conditions:

- the European Working Time Directive (on-call, opt-out, rest and reference period);
- the free movement of healthcare professionals (professional recognition);
- the health services directive (definition of hospital care);
- CME/CPD (to be included in legislation);
- New Health Technologies/ e-health.

Development Targets		Action Plan
The preceded core values being the fundament of the AEMH, the organisation should hold them in respect but keep up to the needs of a changing society. The AEMH has to become more participative within the health community in Europe and therefore explore concrete ways to		In order to implement the development targets, the AEMH has to undertake the following actions:
1	ensure financial sustainability to carry out the current activities and meet the requirements to fulfil the development targets;	find collaboration agreements with external partners who co-finance pre-defined and approved activities;
2	endeavour to communicate and promote its core values and development targets;	establish a media plan to advertise AEMH activities - define audience, target groups 1. National Member Delegations e.g. AEMH-President to attend GA 2. National Political Authorities 3. European Institutions
3	enhance sharing of knowledge amongst the AEMH delegates;	create a discussion forum on the AEMH website for members, who can use this communication tool to report on events, exchange ideas, ask and give advice, etc.
4	provide a concept and toolset to facilitate the flow of communication;	use this platform also for the working groups providing inputs from a larger audience;
5	analyse the change of position and esteem of senior hospital physicians and the predictable development for the profession; (perspective for a new generation of senior hospital physicians)	launch a survey amongst its member delegations and according to the outcome take the appropriate corrective steps: e.g. lobby to include quality management in medical curriculum provided by medical institutions.
6	investigate the major concerns in day-to-day work of hospital physicians e.g. keeping up with the increasing complexity of care (multi-disciplinarity);	launch a survey, ranking the priorities to be handled;
7	motivate all AEMH delegates to participate actively in the activities;	entrust each delegation with an up-to-date topic to be presented at the plenary meeting;
8	enlarge the platform to other EMO's and other healthcare professionals (nurses, pharmacists), hospital managers, patients organisations;	invite the board of other EMOs involving hospital doctors (FEMS, UEMS, PWG) to common meetings; e.g. to define quality and safety requisites for European hospitals;
9	reduce overlap and duplication of efforts;	enhance collaboration with EMOs

10	distinguish as a credible partner to stakeholders and politicians;	call on the CPME to entrust the AEMH with the representation in hospital related topics towards the European Institutions, hospital doctors representing a large percentage of all physicians in Europe. The AEMH believes that it is legitimate to discuss hospital problems in a broader scale. In specific cases the AEMH should also take own initiatives if its position is not sufficiently defended. The AEMH President is mandated to express this view to the President of the CPME.
11	achieve optimal use of the organisational structure and resources for greater effectiveness and efficiency.	involve the international departments/ secretariats of the national member delegations to synthesize information to answer the request for more concise news. redefine the tasks and duties of the AEMH European Secretariat.

ANNEX

Excerpt of the AEMH statutes

Article 3 - Object

3.1. The non-profit-making Association, aims to promote public health care in Europe, in particular in the field of hospitals. For this purpose, the Association is studying *inter alia* the conditions in which the medical profession is practised in hospitals, the systems by which the hospitals are organised in the various countries, cooperation procedures with other members of the hospital environment, possibilities to improve and supplement in the area of assistance and care of hospital patients.

3.2. The Association shall act as a reciprocal information resource for all issues concerning hospital life in Europe and draft proposals for improvements in this field at a European level. The AEMH shall in addition have the function of information provision and consultation to the Standing Committee for European Doctors (CPME).

3.3. The Association shall take all legal and appropriate measures it deems necessary to achieve its objectives. For example, it shall draft and disseminate statements of positions, resolutions and publications; it shall encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences and promote discussion among doctors, scientists and politicians.

3.4. The AEMH shall form working groups to defend the interests of specific categories of hospital doctors, for example heads of department or other staff doctors. This object of the Association shall be additional and without prejudice to its scientific and pedagogical functions.

The objectives as quoted on the AEMH website.

objectives

- The exchange of information on all hospital-related topics.
- Study of the conditions influencing medical practice in hospitals.
- Study of Health Care Systems from the point of view of hospitals in the different member states.
- Assure competence of hospital doctors at international level.
- Assure the defense of hospital ethics.
- Defend the interests of Heads of Hospital-Departments or other Staff Physicians.
- Improve pre- and post graduate medical training of doctors.
- Guarantee high standard of Continuing Medical Education (C.M.E.).
- Improve the quality of hospital care.