



**ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX  
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS  
EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE  
EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN  
DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING  
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ  
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI  
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING  
ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES  
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES  
EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN  
EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVNIKOV  
EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV  
EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIHI LIJEČNIKA  
ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟCΙΑCΙΑ ΝΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΝΗCΗΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ**

<b>Document :</b>	<b>AEMH 09-002</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Secretary General's Activity Report</b>
<b>Author :</b>	<b>AEMH European Secretariat</b>
<b>Purpose :</b>	<b>Information</b>
<b>Distribution :</b>	<b>AEMH Member Delegations</b>
<b>Date :</b>	<b>22 January 2009</b>

## AEMH Secretary General's Activity Report 2008

The tasks and duties of the AEMH European Secretariat have not changed since the last report. The FEMS activity has though considerably increased and thus the workload.

Some AEMH delegates have requested to receive more summarized information instead of extensive documents, which I try to follow as much as possible, as I consider this request justified and understandable. But there is a lack of time and priority is to be given to up-to-date news.

The activity report is a listing of events I attended during 2008. It was a very eventful year, especially under the French presidency. And Paris is only a 1h 20 from Paris! Most meetings are more “networking” opportunities intending to make the AEMH seen in Brussels and amongst healthcare stakeholders. Some conferences, which would have deserved a report on their own, are summarized here below. More extensive information and relevant documents are of course available on request.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Organisation/ contact/ venue</b>	<b>Event</b>
23 January 2008	<b>Claire Herbert</b> , Project leader HPCB, health Professionals crossing borders	Preparation of AEMH Conference 2008
26 January 2008	<b>FEMS</b>	Board Meeting Paris
2 February 2008	<b>AEMH</b>	Board Brussels
13 February 2008	<b>EHPI – HOPE</b> Brussels	Meeting of European Health Professionals and Institutions
6 March 2008	<b>European Parliament</b>	EU Environment and Health Action plan
18 April 2008	<b>UEMS 50<sup>th</sup></b> anniversary	Conference “Building on solid foundations to improve specialist healthcare for European citizens”
1-3 May 2008	<b>AEMH</b> , Zagreb	Conference and plenary
15-14 May 2008	<b>FEMS</b> , Prague	General Assembly
13-14 June 2008	<b>CPME</b> , Brussels	Sub-committee and Board Meeting
24 June 2008	<b>Ian Powell</b> , Director ASMS, Ass. of Salaried Medical Specialists, New Zealand	Visit request during EU tour
1 July 2008	<b>EP</b> Brussels MEP Isler Béguin	“Which mobility between neighbours”
29 July 2008	<b>Titanium</b> , Strasbourg	FEMS website training
11 September	<b>EP</b> Brussels, Council of EU	Roundtable “High quality healthcare in

2008	<b>Dentists &amp; CPME</b>	EU
17 September 2008	<b>OECD + European Commission</b> , Brussels	Conference "Improving Health Systems efficiency"
2-4 October 2008	<b>FEMS</b> , Warsaw	General Assembly
7 October 2008	<b>EU Committee of the Regions</b> , Brussels	Workshop "Regions working for sustainable health systems – shift to prevention"
8 October 2008	Open Days	Workshop "Regional innovation for a healthier Europe"
9 October 2008		Workshop "e-health"
13-14 October	<b>EU Presidency</b> , Institut Pasteur, Paris	Conference "Europe for Patients"
15 October	<b>Prof Degos, Marie Colegrave-Juge</b>	Opening of the Brussels office of the French Chamber
24-25 October	<b>CPME</b> , London	Sub-committee and Board Meeting London
13 November	<b>IOM</b> -International Office for Migration	Launch of EU Project "MoHProf" – Mobility of Health professionals
27 November	<b>EPHA</b> – European Public Health Alliance / WHO Brussels	Conference "Public Health: What Next for Europe?"
28 November	<b>EU Presidency</b> , Salon Hoche Paris	Conference "HPRO Card: the European Health Professional Card"
8 December	" <b>Friends of Europe</b> ", Brussels	Conference "Long Live Europe: Shaping our Healthcare Revolution"
10 December	<b>European Commission</b>	Launch of the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health
11 December	<b>European Commission</b>	EU Open Health Forum 2008 "Developing and Implementing health in the European Union"
11 December	<b>EU Presidency, EU Observatory</b> , Brussels	Conference "Health Systems Governance in Europe; the Role of EU Law and Policy"
15 December	<b>European Parliament</b> Strasbourg	Euro-demonstration (vote EWTD)

## REPORTS FROM SOME 2008 MEETINGS

13 February 2008	<b>EHPI – HOPE</b> Brussels	Meeting of European Health Professionals and Institutions
------------------	-----------------------------	---

### **EHPI – HOPE** Brussels

This meeting of European Health Professionals and Institutions (HOPE, CPME, EAHP, FEMS, UEMS, AEMH) takes place twice a year.

Topic: Health Services Directives

**Brian Edwards** stated that the commission has still not published the directive proposal, although at least 6 different unofficial versions of the directive circulated. He confronted the group with the question whether there is at all a need for it, as it concerns finally only a small number of persons. Do we want and need a health Services Directive ?

**CPME SG Lisette Tiddens-Engwirda** firmly answered YES and informed on the press release drafted in common with the European Patients Forum on 8 February, which is an appeal in favour of a directive. Patients want to be treated close to their homes but they must be able to seek care abroad if necessary or by free choice. Free movement of patients and health professionals must be recognized and protected.

**AEMH President, Raymond Lies** agreed that a directive is needed in order to stop depending on decisions of the ECJ. The costs of treatments differ too much in the member states.

The group discussed the political reasons for the delay of the publication.

**FEMS President Dr Claude Wetzel** informed that not only the Socialists MEPs opposed the directive but also the PPE. The reason is that the Commission tries to become a regulatory body competing with the Parliament.

The group questioned on common actions and discussed the elements to be picked up: mobility of health professionals, rare disease centres, emergencies, ambulatory care, e-health.

18 April 2008	<b>UEMS 50<sup>th</sup></b> anniversary	Conference “Building on solid foundations to improve specialist healthcare for European citizens”
---------------	---	---

UEMS celebrated its **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Conference entitled “Building on solid foundations to improve specialist healthcare for European citizens”**, which was attended by around 200 persons.

Speakers from the European Commission and Parliament, the World Federation of Medical Education, the Royal College of Physicians and UEMS lectured on various subjects such as **Patients safety, migration of healthcare professionals, the EWTD and of course CME/CPD and the European Accreditation Council (EACCME)**.

Furthermore, the role of the UEMS in doctors’ CME/CPD and its contribution to the EU policy debate took a great place in the conference.

On 19 April 2008, the **UEMS Council** meeting accounted the greatest number of delegates ever and demonstrated the strength of its medical sections. The UEMS is a privileged partner of the European Commission for the professional recognition of medical specialties.

The UEMS President drafted a document on the **UEMS strategy 2008**, which was edited in a leaflet and distributed to all participants.

15-14 May 2008	<b>FEMS, Prague</b>	General Assembly
----------------	---------------------	------------------

FEMS adopted the following documents:

**-Motion to support the protest activities of the Bulgarian Medical Association**

FEMS expressed full support to the physicians in Bulgaria for their demands for adequate funding of the healthcare system and decent basic salary

**- Resolution on the Reform of the Czech Health Care System**

FEMS supported the protest organized by physicians and other medical professionals against the reform for privatization of the Czech health care system.

13-14 June 2008	CPME, Brussels	Sub-committee and Board Meeting
--------------------	----------------	---------------------------------

CPME Subcommittees and Board met on 13 and 14 June 2008 in Brussels.

Commissioner Androula Vassiliou gave a speech in which she emphasised the need for the Commission to closely collaborate with European doctors' and patients' organisations.

**The CPME Board adopted the following policy documents:**

**Position on the EPSCO Council political agreement regarding the Revision of the European Working Time Directive**

In the statement which has been drafted in collaboration by all EMOs, CPME finally phrased "CPME and the other EMOs", which was unacceptable for UEMS. The other EMOs agreed to accept for the sake of the cause to speak with one voice. Nevertheless, AEMH protested in a common letter with FEMS.

**Position paper on Access to healthcare for undocumented migrants**

The CPME believes that no one should be deprived of their right of access to facilities for the treatment of illness, rehabilitation of health and prevention. The ethical obligation for doctors is to provide healthcare services to anyone in need of such services.

**Statement on Organ donation and transplantation**

The CPME welcomes the European Commission's intention to adopt a Directive and  
 -to establish a EU-wide promotion programme on organ donation;  
 -to develop measures for aligning the conditions for providing transplantation services in the Member States, with the aim to guarantee that these services are comparable in the EU.  
 fight against organ trafficking.

**Resolution on EU smoking ban in EU public places**

The CPME reiterates its call for an EU smoking ban in all EU public

1 July 2008	EP Brussels MEP Isler Béguin	"Which mobility between neighbours"
-------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------

This was the first meeting at the first day of the French Presidency organized to examine contradiction of the principles governing the European Neighbourhood Policy: on one side opening, and on the other strengthening of the borders of the EU. Free movement of goods is known to be easier regulated than free movement of persons.

11 September 2008	EP Brussels, Council of EU <b>Dentists &amp; CPME</b>	Roundtable "High quality healthcare in EU"
----------------------	--	--

The focus of the roundtable was the Commission's recent proposal for a Directive on the Application of Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare. The purpose was to bring together Commission officials, MEPs and stakeholders to discuss in a wider institutional and political framework.

**Commissioner Vassiliou** characterized the draft Directive as the most important initiative in the health sector during the current Commission's mandate. The proposed legal framework was structured around three main areas. First, it reaffirmed the common principles of all EU health systems: universality, equity, access to good quality health care and solidarity. Second, the Directive clarified the entitlements of patients and related conditions to receive healthcare in another Member

State. Third, the Directive established a new framework for European cooperation in key areas for the future.

Mrs. Vassiliou concluded by stressing that the purpose of the Directive was to help patients receive appropriate healthcare wherever they are without changing the rules or the management of Member States' health care systems.

**Bernard Merkel, DG SANCO** emphasized that only 1 percent of patients currently sought treatment abroad, as most people preferred to be treated close to home, and that the Commission did not anticipate this number to increase substantially as a result of the Directive.

**MEP Vergnaud (PES)** cautioned against unnecessary complexities in the text, particularly when defining criteria for reimbursement of costs. She also pointed to unclear definitions, as "undue delay" and "hospital care", and encouraged health professionals to provide input. She felt that prior authorization should be compulsory for all cross-border healthcare to avoid creating a 2-speed system in which wealthier patients could afford to travel abroad and pay for healthcare up front, while less affluent patients would be obliged to wait for authorization.

**CPME President Dr Michael Wilks** pointed out that efficient information systems for both patients and physicians are essential to support cross-border care. He also underlined the importance of e-health and IT issues in providing good information to patients.

**CED President Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva (dentists)** focused on establishing criteria for European Reference Networks. He voiced his concerns on how to set standards for quality, which he said is difficult to measure.

**EPF President Dr Anders Olauson (patients)** stressed that patients always prefer to receive treatments as close as possible to their home and in their mother tongue. Nevertheless, if their condition is severe or their disease is rare, it is crucial that they can access treatment abroad. To achieve this goal, it will be important to focus on the provision of information to patients: make the information understandable and easy to access.

The panelists concluded that there was a European dimension to healthcare, but what was missing was a master plan for a straightforward policy in medium and long term, as there was no proper legal basis for health policy at EU level.

17 September 2008	<b>OECD + European Commission, Brussels</b>	Conference "Improving Health Systems efficiency"
-------------------	---	--

The overarching aim of the conference was to explore policies leading to more rational use of resources in the health care sector. The key question was "How can health systems improve efficiency of resource use and, thereby, help ensure the financial sustainability of health care systems." The audience was composed mainly by national administrations of member states searching ways to improve health system performance through improved cost efficiency, e.g. strengthening primary care provision, shifting to outpatient care, increasing the productivity and quality of inpatient care, increasing the use of e-health.

The pharmaceutical sector was challenged on the pricing policies as spending on drugs continues to rise. Timely and accurate health information was considered to be key factor to improve the quality of medical care.

24-25 October	<b>CPME, London</b>	Sub-committee and Board Meeting London
---------------	---------------------	--

This was the first meeting without France, Spain and Italy, which overshadowed the whole meeting and raised some vehement discussions. A strategy working group to reflect on the future of CPME was established.

### **Policies adopted by the CPME Board meeting 25 October 2008**

**CPME statement on the global and European shortage of physicians: proposals for a common European Strategy**

The EU Member States should, by cooperating and communicating, strive to keep a balance between the added value of internationally qualified physicians and the sustainability of the individual national health systems.

**CPME Statements on e-health:**

- **Consent and confidentiality**
- **Cross-border mobility, e-prescription, telemedicine and future applications**

**CPME Commitments on mental health and well-being**

**CPME Support to the End Water Poverty Campaign**

CPME considers that **communication training** must be prioritised and be part of the doctors' lifelong learning.

7 -9 October 2008	<b>EU Committee of the Regions,</b> Brussels Open Days	Workshop "Regions working for sustainable health systems – shift to prevention"
		Workshop "Regional innovation for a healthier Europe"
		Workshop "e-health"

At the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop **Commissioner Vassiliou** stated the health inequalities in the EU, attested by a gap of 18 years in life expectancy. She also informed on the launch of the campaign "Europe for patients". Health systems invest in treating diseases not in prevention, which should change. Health care falls under the subsidiarity principal, but via the regional funds 5 billion Euros are made available. A speaker from Siemens reminded that healthcare is an important economic factor, as it is the biggest industry. Health should be seen as a productive not a spending sector.

**R. Madelin** from the commission called for a political decision to join a platform on public-private initiative.

Concerning e-health, the big concern is the interoperability of the different systems. E-prescription has been implemented in three countries. Austria seems having solved the problem: 270 IT systems supplied by 70 manufacturers connect 270 hospitals, 700 institutions, 1200 pharmacies and 15000 GPs and specialists.

Telemedicine is supposed to grow in Europe by 19% between 2007 and 2012.

13-14 October	<b>EU Presidency,</b> Institut Pasteur, Paris	Conference "Europe for Patients"
---------------	--	----------------------------------

The organization of a conference on **European health at the service of patients**, under the auspices of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, originated from the wish to: highlight the added value of EU action on health issues; compare the progress achieved with patients' expectations and the forthcoming challenges.

With over **420 participants** registered and almost **50 speakers**, the conference achieved its objectives in terms of sharing information, raising the awareness of patients and professionals and giving them a forum for expression. The representatives of the Member States, the Commission and the Parliament emphasized the points of convergence around three major axes:

- improved communication and information
- continued collaboration between Member States, particularly in the area of rare diseases and cross-border care
- enhanced exchanges of knowledge and best practices, including at political level.

The official recognition of the 18 April as the European Day of Patients' Rights, could be an opportunity to make further EU advances along these lines.

**Amongst the speakers: French Health Minister Roselyne Bachelot, MEPs Françoise Grossetête, Evelyne Gebhardt, John Bowis, Andrzej Rys, DG Sanco, MEP, Prof Laurent Degos (HAS),**

**Michael Wilks (CPME), Paul de Raeve (EFN), Pascal Garel (HOPE); Willy Palm (WHO Europe), several representative from patients' organizations, and many others.**

13 November	<b>IOM</b> -International Office for Migration	Launch of EU Project "MoHProf" – Mobility of Health professionals
-------------	--	---

The Scientific Institute of the German Medical Association (WIAD), and the IOM invited to launch a project funded by the European Commission "Mobility of health professionals". The general objective of this 3 year project is to research current trends of mobility of health professionals to, from and within the EU.

It appeared that WHO is working on a similar project.

This gives the impression that many projects are launched and funded without consultation of other institutions.

**Elizabeth Kidd** from DG Sanco announce the Green paper on EU health workforce, stating that 1 from 10 workers in the EU is working in the health sector. 70 % of the healthcare budget is spent on salaries.

28 November	<b>EU Presidency</b> , Salon Hoche Paris	Conference "HPRO Card: the European Health Professional Card"
-------------	--	---

The invitations were sent by the French Chamber, which organized the CEOM meeting prior to this conference, which was well attended by more than 200 participants from 24 countries.

The project HPRO Card is funded by the Commission since March 2008 by a 300,000 Euro grant.

The objective is to improve the free movement of health professional within the scope of the Directive 2005/35/CE; to follow-up on CME and ensure patients' safety. It concerns the five health professionals of the directive, i.e. dentists, nurses, mid-wives, doctors and pharmacists.

**MEP Stefano Zappala**, who has been the rapporteur of the directive in European Parliament, considered the HPRO card as technical translation of the political intention of the directive.

**Pamela Brumter**, DG Internal Market, stated that although free movement is possible, the complexity of the administrative obligations slow the procedures. She hopes that the HPRO card might simplify this in the future.

The existing European IMI project (Internal Market Information System) allows the dialogue between competent authorities with help of a questionnaire whereas the HPRO card will allow connection to data bases. The two projects are therefore considered to be complementary.

The interoperability of the different electronic systems must be guaranteed by international standards. Participants also worried about the sensitive problem of secure data protection.

10 December	<b>European Commission</b>	Launch of the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health
-------------	----------------------------	--

The Green paper had been announced long ahead and an unofficial version circulated since September.

**Robert Madelin**, Director DG Sanco opened the meeting and advocated ethical recruitment. **Paul de Raeve** (EFN) for the nurses' perspective, evoked gender equality, ageing and the non-attractiveness of the profession. **Christiane Wiskow** from the International Labour Organisation, alerted on the lack of health worker (4 million are missing) and the direct link between working conditions and retention. The road to retention is the social dialogue.

**Andrzej Rys, DG Sanco and Otmar Kloiber** from the WMA summed up the key concerns : Attractiveness of the profession (salary, working conditions), mobility, competition, planning well ahead (it takes 12 years to train a doctor), entrepreneurship (increase efficiency), productivity, ageing workforces...

The commission invites stakeholder to take part in the consultation, which closes 31 March 2009. The commission will decide according to the outcome whether action is needed.



11 December	<b>European Commission</b>	EU Open Health Forum 2008 “Developing and Implementing health in the European Union”
-------------	----------------------------	--

Unfortunately, this important event was scheduled at the same time as a high level conference. It was organized in round tables:

1. Challenges for implementing the EU health strategy.
2. Health lifestyle for young people
3. Europe for Patients
4. Maximising Health Benefits for citizens through New Technologies
5. Reducing inequalities in health – the Way Forward

11 December	<b>EU Presidency, EU Observatory, Brussels</b>	Conference “Health Systems Governance in Europe; the Role of EU Law and Policy”
-------------	--	---

**Five European health Ministers attended, Laurette Onkelinx (BE), Ulla Schmidt (DE), Melinda Medgyaszai (HU) Bernat Soria Escoms (ES), Mars di Bartolomeo (LU)** and discussed together with Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou on “Health Systems and the EU: Prospects and challenges”.

The conference presented the main findings of a study (300 pages), which will be published in February 2009 in its final version in book form. The book will provide policy-makers with a compelling and rigorous analysis of the real and potential impacts of EU-level policies on the national healthcare systems, highlighting the need to balance economic and social priorities.

The conference speakers, a team of high level experts, provided a comprehensive overview and multidisciplinary analysis of the developments related to EU law and policies that have an impact on national healthcare systems, such as

- Health care and the EU: a legal and policy-making perspective
- Potential implications of EU competition law for national health systems
- Pharmaceutical products
- Free movements of patients
- Free movement of health services and professionals
- EU law and voluntary health insurance

The programme and presentations of the speakers can be found <http://www.ose.be/hconference2008/fr/index.htm>