



**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 ΑΣΟΪΙΑΪΙΑ ΝΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΝΗΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ**

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## **AEMH Secretary General's Activity Report 2009**

The annual plenary meeting is the most important event of the AEMH as well the conferences, which we try to make more and more professional and interesting also for non-delegates. The venues are determined two years in advance and for 2009 the Bulgarian Medical Association had invited the AEMH. Internal problems and a radical change of the governing body of the BMA made the possibility to hold the meetings in Sofia doubtful. Therefore the AEMH Board decided end of January to change the venue to Brussels.

It was possible even at such short notice to find a hotel and all organizational facilities for the May meeting. But in Brussels there are many conferences and events, which made it difficult to engage speakers and attendees from the political scene. Moreover, the European Parliament held its plenary at the same dates in Strasbourg.

Nevertheless, everything went smoothly, thanks also to the help from our Belgian member ABSyM and their staff.

The Plenary assembly approved the proposal of a change of statute from salaried to a self-employed, which relieves the finances of the AEMH considerably as it saves the employers social fees of approximately € 20,000. These savings will allow to participate in the establishment of a Domus Medica with a common secretariat. This financial advantage is of course a disadvantage for the self-employed especially for the insurance. But in exchange there is the freedom of working from home and operating in a "virtual office". The plenary decided to keep the office space within the CPME premises for the time being. The rent amounts € 6000 per year. According to the statutes, the place of the registered office can be changed by the Board.

On request of the German AEMH member,VLK and in collaboration with Prof Hartmut Nolte , we drafted totally 8 articles on different European affairs, which were published in their monthly journal "Arzt und Krankenhaus". In 2009 the focus was the situation of European Medical Organisations and the project of an alliance. It was important to demonstrate the raison d'être of all different EMOs as there was a trend within the VLK to integrate the German CPME delegation to the detriment of the AEMH membership.

The European Commission DG SANCO launched a call of interest to participate in the European Health Policy Forum, which has a restricted number of permanent members. The commission thought appropriate to renew the list of participants. Besides filling in the application form, they asked for the motivation of the organization to become a member and why the commission should consider this application, thus our added value, but also the why and how the European Health Policy Forum could support our organization. Applications are evaluated and the outcome will be communicated shortly.

Besides getting involved in European institutions, and even more, if the application is not retained, it would be useful to become a member in EPHA - the European Public Health Alliance. They are very well introduced in all official bodies and support their members and their interests. It is also a very valuable information source. As a member, besides the information available to the general public on EPHA's website, members have access to internal policy and strategy information.

## List and Reports of attended meetings

| Date            | Organisation/ Event /contact/ venue  |
|-----------------|--|
| 24 January 2009 | <b>AEMH – FEMS</b> , Board Meetings, Paris Roissy CDG  |
| 4 February      | <b>GBS (FEMS member) Bernard Maillet and Edgard Maes</b><br>Preparation of FEMS GA in Brussels   |
| 19 March        | <b>Action against Cancer</b>   |
| 7 May           | <b>AEMH Conference « Privatisation of Hospitals »</b> , Brussels   |
| 8-9 May         | <b>AEMH Plenary Meeting</b> , Brussels   |
| 11 June         | <b>FEMS Board Meeting</b> , Brussels   |
| 11 June         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Joint <b>EMO Meeting</b> , Brussels  |
| 12-13 June      | <b>FEMS General Assembly</b> , Brussels  |
| 29 September    | <b>Launch of the Partnership for “Action Against Cancer”</b> , Brussels  |
|                 | <p>300 cancer organisations, patients and cancer survivors, health professionals, researchers, health authorities and health ministers gathered to mark the official launch of the European Partnership for Action against Cancer. The opening speeches by European Commission President <b>Jose Manuel Barroso</b>, <b>Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou</b> and <b>HRH Princess Mathilde of Belgium</b> highlight the impact of cancer on individuals and, their families. In addition, the importance of talking about cancer, breaking down the barriers of stigma and secrecy which surround some cancers is also raised. Three million people are diagnosed with cancer every year in the EU. It is the second biggest cause of death in both men and women. The Partnership aims to draw together relevant organisations to share expertise, to identify challenges in order to reduce the number of new cancer cases in the EU by 15% by 2020.</p> <p>Participants watched a film illustrating the experiences, hopes and aspirations of five cancer survivors, and a video message by singer Josep Carreras about his own fight against cancer and his hopes for the partnership.</p> <p>The event concluded with the unveiling of testimonies from cancer survivors.</p> <p>The European Partnership for Action against Cancer aims to support countries in their efforts to tackle cancer by providing a framework for identifying and sharing information, capacity and expertise in cancer prevention and control. It aims to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including non governmental organisations, researchers, patients groups, industry and national authorities across the EU in a collective effort and with a common commitment to addressing cancer. This partnership approach will also help to avoid scattered actions and the duplication of efforts by contributing to better use of limited resources available.</p> |
| 7 October 2008  | <b>EU Committee of the Regions</b> , Open Days, Brussels   |
|                 | Workshop “ <b>Healthymagination</b> ; Tackling healthcare access, quality and costs with advanced technology”.   |
|                 | This workshop was rather a showcase for GE and their health technology.  |
|                 | Workshop “ <b>Hospitals and Territories</b> ”  |
|                 | This workshop was monitored by HOPE. Attendees were reminded the book published by HOPE and DEXIA, which studies the major changes in the hospital sector using a cross-sectional analysis of 27 national health systems. The analysis is structured to illustrate common trends in hospital systems over the past years, while showing their diversity from country to country in terms of the distribution of powers, funding for hospital operations and investments, status, organisation of care, etc. Finally, the book examines the influence   |

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|               | <p>of the EU on hospital and healthcare systems. The full text can be downloaded free of charge from the website.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hope.be/05eventsandpublications/publications_dexia.html">http://www.hope.be/05eventsandpublications/publications_dexia.html</a></p> <p>To go further, HOPE has developed a web tool. With a slightly different structure compared to the paper poster and with updated figures, the situation of hospitals in each EU Member State is presented in details on HOPE's website</p> <p><a href="http://www.hope.be/03activities/quality_eu-hospitals/eu_hospitals-masterpage.html">http://www.hope.be/03activities/quality_eu-hospitals/eu_hospitals-masterpage.html</a></p>  |
| 13 October    | <p><b>COSTEFF</b> "Making cost-efficiency in Healthcare a reality: the input of the industry.", Brussels</p>  |
|               | <p>The 13 October 2009 COSTEFF, a new association of companies in the pharmaceuticals and homecare sectors, officially inaugurated in Brussels its alliance with a vow to help make medicines more affordable and improve the quality of healthcare throughout the European Union.</p> <p>Speakers at the COSTEFF inauguration included Edwin Kohl, Chairman of COSTEFF, Jo Leinen MEP, Chairman of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee and Jérôme Boehm, on behalf of Andrzej Rys, Director in DG SANCO, European Commission.</p> <p>Mr. <b>Edwin Kohl, Chairman of COSTEFF</b>, explained that cost savings are more critical now than ever before because of ageing of population. For example, France will operate its public healthcare system at a 9.4 billion euro deficit in 2009, while Germany's public system is expected to reach a 7.4 billion euro deficit in 2010.</p> <p>From the view of COSTEFF's chairman a new association is therefore needed to focus on cost-effective solutions, in particular affordable patented medicines, generics &amp; biosimilars, and Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) technologies for elderly patients.</p> <p><b>Jo Leinen, MEP and chair of the ENVI Committee</b> celebrated the forthcoming entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty increasing the EU health competencies. He reviewed the Parliament's current healthcare dossiers, insisting on the impact of the cross-border patients' rights directive. He expressed his desire for a broader exchange of best practices among Member States. Mr. Leinen stated that with climate change likely to add "new stress on healthcare systems, initiatives like COSTEFF, which encourages debates on cost-effective solutions are strongly needed".</p> <p><b>Jérôme Boehm, DG SANCO</b>, who is working to promote European Union cooperation on Health Technology, Assessments (HTAs), welcomed the new stakeholder COSTEFF. He stressed that cost efficiency was essential to ensure sustainability of healthcare systems, but added that health promotion remained also an important goal. EU health policy was based on the core values of universality, equity, solidarity and quality, he explained.</p> <p>As a next step following its inauguration, COSTEFF will be organising best practice workshops to ensure that cost efficiency and innovation are taken into consideration by EU and national healthcare decision-makers.</p> |
| 24-25 October | <p><b>CPME</b>, Sub-committee and Board Meeting, Winchester</p>   |
| 3 November    | <p>The <b>Parliament Magazine "Towards a Healthier Europe"</b>, Brussels</p>  |
|               | <p>The debate on the future of healthcare in Europe was organized in association with <b>EFPIA</b> and questioned on the role of the European Parliament: What is the healthcare agenda and role for EP over the next five years? <b>MEP Françoise Grossetête</b> hosted the meeting and explained the challenge, firstly to ensure that EU citizens remain healthy and able to live better quality lives and secondly to ensure that Europe remains a world leader in pharmaceutical research, development and innovation.</p>   |

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|             | <p>Former MEP <b>John Bowis</b> moderated the debate with MEPs from the three biggest political groups and representatives of patients groups and the pharma industry. <b>Arthur Higgins, President of EFPIA</b> considered that health and economy are closely linked and ambitions for the EU to become the pharmacy of the world.</p> <p>Mrs Grosstête requests that all pharmaceutical products pass the EMEA.</p>  |
| 12 November | <p><b>Financial Times “Future healthcare Series”</b><br/> <b>Innovation-Paving a new Way to Patient-centric Healthcare.</b></p>   |
|             | <p>The Seminar with very prestigious speakers and a reduced selective audience was opened by <b>Commissioner Androulla Vassillou</b>, who stated a demand for more and more specialised treatments. She suggested that new technologies can be the solution to improve the quality of life, which introduced the next speaker, the <b>President of Philips Electronics</b>, the co-sponsor of the meeting. The first panel discussion was about innovation in EU Healthcare delivery with <b>MEP Antonia Parvanova (MD)</b>, who believes that PPP might be the way to success. Interesting was the point made by Marcel Smeets, DG of the Association Internationale de la Mutualité, who stated that all systems are based on cure not on care. Patients act as consumers and do not accept the doctor’s dictate. Furthermore he said that healthcare costs are mainly wages of health professionals.</p> <p>The second panel discussion was about Patient-centric care and questioned whether health professionals are ready for it or whether it needs new skills, roles and responsibilities. <b>Josep Figueras (MD)</b>, Director of the European Observatory on Health systems and Policies said that doctors are no longer the host but the guest in the patients health management. He concluded that technology is not a problem of cost, it is an enabler.</p> |
| 18 November | <p><b>European Voice « Fake medicines... genuine solutions»</b>, Brussels.</p>  |
|             | <p>A debate about how to fight counterfeit medicines in Europe, with <b>MEP Marisa Matias</b>, rapporteur on the proposal for a directive.</p> <p>The falsification of medicinal products has been steadily on the increase in recent years. Trade has succeeded to introduce fake products into the legal supply chain, putting the safety of patients at serious risk. The European Commission made a proposal for a directive in December 2008, which is now under discussion in Parliament and the Council. The initiative proved to be divisive. Manufacturers are mostly in favour (EFPIA) but also worry about the cost burden to implement safety features. Consumer/ patients groups are also supportive but fear that the cost increase linked to the introduction of new traceability systems. The problem of how to control internet sales in this aspect was also approached.</p>  |
| 2 December  | <p><b>“Friends of Europe”</b>, Brussels<br/> <b>Conference “Planning Europe’s Healthcare Revolution”</b></p>  |
|             | <p>The conference took place the day following the failure of the Directive on Patients right to crossborder healthcare to pass the Council, which was commented and regretted by all speakers.</p> <p>The conference was divided in three sessions: I. Could e-health deliver a strong economic opportunity? The interoperability of different systems, the reconciliation of the exchange of vital information and data protection were discussed. <b>Michael Wilks</b>, President of CPME, was one of the panelists.</p> <p>Session II: Is the goal of EU-wide Healthcare standards attainable? tackled the gap in healthcare standards and life expectancy between EU member states. Patient mobility could be a mean to reduce inequalities.</p> <p><b>Nick Fahy, DG Sanco</b> and <b>Pascal Garel, CEO of HOPE</b> reported on existing projects of crossborder cooperation.</p>  |

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|            | Session III: Does Europe's regulatory framework create the right incentives for innovation in health? Tackled the consequences of the economic crises on investments in pharmaceutical research in Europe. <b>Wim Oosterom, PricewaterhouseCoopers</b> and <b>MEP Antonya Parvanova</b> participated in this debate. |
| 7 December | <b>FAIB – Union of International Association in Belgium</b> – Information meeting  |