



**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 ΑΣΟΪΑΪΑΪΑ ΗΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΗΝΗΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ  
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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## 1963 – 2013 50 years AEMH

### “Without the past, there is no future”

22 November 1963      Assassination of US President John F. Kennedy 28 August 1963

“We go to the moon”

28 August 1963      Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his

"I have a dream"

1963 was also the year of the 1<sup>st</sup> album of the Beatles

“Please, please me”.

Nothing was the same after.

### **It was also the year of the foundation of our organisation.**

The founders of the organisation motivated the establishment of the AEMH : “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 position will not be sufficiently discussed in already existing organisations”. (Quote from the minutes)

In its statutes the AEMH defines its objective as “a professional association of and for European hospital physicians with final responsibility for the patients, with the primary goal to improve all aspects of hospital life in Europe”. Thus, we require and assume responsibility, but claim total independent medical freedom of choice to ensure effective practice. Free medical decisions are essential for our professional self-affirmation and directly benefit the patient, who deserves safe, effective and compassionate medical care.

High quality of care requires appropriate structures and organization, as well as good working conditions for the health care workers. Quality assurance is not only based on the professional qualifications, but equally depends on the structure and the process. If these are not adequate, even the highest level of professional competence cannot assure the quality of the system.

Increasing specialisation in medicine has contributed to increasing survival rates and improved clinical quality and safety, but it can have negative consequences when multi-disciplinarity is poorly coordinated. Leadership is needed to clarify the roles and inputs to the different healthcare professionals involved in order to coordinate collaborative working and ensure the continuity overall care of the patient.

We have to play a key-role in decision-making in hospitals by advocating a greater active involvement in management of hospital physicians as leaders and drivers of change in the maintenance of traditional clinical duties. According to the latest data, outstanding hospitals tend to be those run by somebody with a medical degree.

We are the representative voice of European hospital physicians and we should strive to make this known at political and decision-making level.

Hospitals need to respond to changes and to adapt in order to take advantage of new technologies, drugs and innovations, cope with pressures on budgets and staffing. But medicine is a *disinterested human service* and cannot be dictated by economic interests or subordinated to the financial markets.

This service philosophy characterizes also the spirit of our organisation for now 50 years. We share a network of responsible hospital physicians providing information, exchanging experiences, sharing professional, organizational and social knowledge within and beyond the AEMH.

But 50 years of existence and tradition are worth nothing if not used to build a sustainable future. To reach measurable results, it needs more than just a few supporters. We need the personal committed involvement of you ALL.

**Long live the AEMH**

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