



**ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX  
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS  
EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE  
EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN  
DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING  
ΕΥΡΩ ΑΙΚΟΣΙΙΕΥΛΛΟΓΟΓΟΣ ΔΙΕΥΟΥΝΤΩΝ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΩΝ  
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI  
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING  
ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES  
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES  
EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN  
EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVINIKOV  
EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV**

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## Communiqué

The European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians, meeting in Copenhagen during their plenary session on September 5-6, 2003, having discussed the various situations of senior hospital physicians in different European countries:

- Once again restates the need of access for all to health care, regardless of social and economic circumstances, and maintaining physicians' autonomy and freedom in providing care;
- expresses its concerns given the general worsening of financial difficulties in hospitals, leading to the gradually increasing influence of administrative rules, the consequence of which being constraints on health care for patients, particularly relating to diagnosis and therapy;
- calls for greater medical expertise in decision-making bodies responsible for health organisation and policy in order to better consider proposals from professional organisations directly involved with the realities of the profession;
- wants to alert public authorities of the demographic deficit in medical professionals which exists in many countries and which has been exacerbated by social legislation on working hours and the European directive on resting hours following night-time on-call duty;
- speaks out against the widely-held notions that physicians are responsible for health budget deficits when we have seen a considerable increase in unavoidable costs: staff, accommodation, supplies, as well as emerging technologies and new and costly therapies with no adaptation made in finances;
- warns public authorities about the consequences of a sudden introduction of DRG's which will lead to profound financial imbalance;
- notes that insufficient funding has been made available for CME and that the pharmaceutical industry's contribution remains significant, sometimes representing the main source of finance.

Therefore,

- mandates the member delegations of AEMH to contact political decision-makers in all countries to raise their awareness on these points and to make proposals.

The Board shall make representations with the European authorities on the concerns contained in this communiqué.

