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EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
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DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΓΕΡΙΑΤΡΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΩΝ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING
ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES
EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN
EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNICNIH ZDRAVNIKOVA
EURÓPSKA ASOCIÁCIA NEMOCNÍČNÝCH LEKÁROV

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1. Administration

End of January we could successfully complete the registration of the AEMH statutes under Belgian law. With the help of the VLK and a German lawyer we try to avoid a liquidation procedure of the German association by asking the court of justice for simply accept a transfer from Düsseldorf to Brussels. This is still in an ongoing process.

In compliance with this change a new accountant will have to be appointed. You will hear a presentation of a company later during this meeting and decide on their competence and give a formal mandate to execute the Closing of account and Belgian tax declaration.

The day-to-day accountancy is kept in the same chronological way as previously and the spread sheets are available at any time .

The move into new office space had been decided by the CPME and the AEMH naturally followed. The transfers could be arranged smoothly. Administrating the office is one of the main parts of the secretary's job.

2. Internal and External Communication

The AEMH Newsletter.

This project could not be prolonged due to a lack of finance. Even if this obstacle can be overcome, looking back to the experience of the achieved two numbers, problems also occurred to obtain editorial contributions. An alternative solution could be an electronic Newsletter which contents would compile and replace the information I send out by e-mail titled "News from Brussels". This version could be published on the website and hereby avoid also the distribution problem.

www.aemh.org

The AEMH website which I have the past year updated myself had become somehow obsolete. We have therefore decided to get it redesigned and restructured by a professional in a much simpler but more flexible configuration, making updates easier.

The World Market Research Centre

The proposal of the WMRC for a one page advertising in their edition "European Pharmacotherapy" has been re-conducted in 2003, but did not result in any contact. We also obtained a 3-page article, space which the AEMH-President shared with the Vice-President of EFPIA.

3. Meetings

AEMH

Second important part of the activity is the preparation of the AEMH Meetings. The 35th Board meeting took place in Brussels in January, the 36th Board meeting was held at the occasion of the opening of the Hospital Kirchberg in Luxembourg, the 37th in Copenhagen prior to the Plenary Meeting.

The 55th Plenary Meeting was prepared in collaboration with the colleagues from the Danish Medical Association.

For the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the AEMH presents had to be found. The Aesculap medal inserted in a glass plate with the inscription and year were given out as rewards in Copenhagen. For all delegates crystal paper weight cubes were arranged and given as a souvenir.

CPME

In March and August the CPME meeting took place in Brussels. I attended the meetings of the Sub-committee of Ethics and Prevention while the President attended the parallel session of the Training and Health care commission.

EAHM

Contact could be made with the EAHM – European Association of Hospital Managers, which resulted in a meeting of the President with their General Secretary Mr Heuschen in Luxembourg.

HEALLO

The Standing Committee of European Hospitals – HOPE - invited the President and myself to a meeting in October in Brussels which united different health related organisations to an informal exchange of information. The meeting is called HEALLO which stands for **HEALTH LOBBYING** and takes place every 6 months. The participants give an overview of their activities and exchange information. The next HEALLO meeting will take place in May 2004 in the CPME premises.

LOBBYING TRAINING

All these organisation having lobbying activities, I thought it appropriate to learn more about it and therefore attended a one-day training course provided by a Public Affairs consultant firm. Lobbying is the intervention of a private or public

organisation to influence the lawmakers and is seen in Brussels as an essential element of the democratic process, in other words as a counter-power which is not politically directed. Lobbying on EU level is different from national lobbying and has not the same bad reputation.

Information was also given on the structure of the EU institutions, i.e.

Commission, Parliament and Council of Ministers, all equally important but should not be addressed in the same manner. In general it is not difficult to get an appointment with the institutions as the EU actors are keen on showing that they work in a transparent manner. Nevertheless, the subject has to be well prepared and professionally brought forward.

How can the AEMH take advantage of this newly acquired knowledge ? What are the subjects the AEMH wants to take influence on ?

EU-COMMISSION : Risk Perception

Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner David Byrne hosted a conference on Risk perception which I attended partly with 600 other participants. Speakers included experts in science and risk communication as well as the Spanish and German Agriculture Ministers, Miguel Arias Canete and Renate Künast. The debate surrounded essentially GM foods and crops and attempted to find solutions of how to bridge the gap between science and public risk perception and how to organise risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Telemedicine, e-Health

The Brussels office of the German Medical Chamber had invited a couple of German natives to a lunch meeting where a German expert to the EU Commission, Dr. Sigurd von Ingersleben, gave a short presentation on the Research and implementation of the European Framework Programme.

Conclusion

I would like to point out that I attend these meetings for informative reasons and in a passive manner, meaning I do not take any position in the name of the AEMH.

I have applied for accreditation of a permanent pass to attend committee meetings of the European Parliament and hope on a favourable outcome.

4. Objectives

Provided the approval of the members of the AEMH on this report, I would like to increase my external activities making my job a less sedentary one by getting more involved in public affairs and in this way improve the information level to the benefit of the AEMH.