



**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 ZDRAVINIKOV
EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV
EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIH LIJEČNIKA**

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Document : | AEMH 04/023 |
| Title: | National Report Austria |
| Author : | Prof Spath, Prof Hruby, Verband der ärztlichen Direktoren und Primärärzte Österreichs |
| Purpose : | Information |
| Distribution : | AEMH-Member Delegations, Participants at the 57th AEMH Plenary Meeting |
| Date : | 1 April 2004 |

National Report 2004 of Austria

1.) Reform Of Health Care System:

At the end of 2004 the Austrian government plans to reform the Health Care System. The still existing system since decades is characterized by "dual" financing from the federal budget and the social health insurances with complex streams of the financial means. There are now plans of simplifying the financing of the Health Care System from one source in order to save money.

From the Federal Health Agency consisting of representatives of federal and regional governments and social health insurances up to 9 regional Health Agencies corresponding to the 9 federal countries/districts will be directed, the latter possessing mainly financial competence. Neither hospitals or medical doctors will be involved in the distribution of the financial means.

There is general concern that the new system could facilitate "Nationalization of the Health Care System". On the other hand planning and financing competence on one level would allow to increase the cost efficiency of the entire system.

2.) European working time directive:

The final realization of the EWTD has not yet been possible in general in Austria. The intention of the Austrian Medical Chamber is to introduce the EWTD not only for M.D.'s but also for all medical personnel in hospitals. The known problem of increasing costs for employment of a greater number of doctors with decreasing continuity of patient care and risk of impairment of training quality are disadvantages which have to be faced. There does not really exist a lack of doctors in Austria, but there is still a distinct shortage of specialists why the EWTD can not be executed yet generally. It is to be hoped that realistic solutions are accepted which will allow that also small hospitals can be operated for the benefit of patients in peripheral areas.

3. E-Card (Electronic Patient record insurance card):

The introduction of the E-Card was already announced in the Austrian Mat. report of 1999/2000 but has not been accomplished yet. There seem to exist unresolved problems between insurance companies and the Medical Chamber.

