



**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**

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<b>Foreword</b>
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**Association Européenne des Médecins des Hôpitaux  
European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians**

***A report by Dr Raymond LIES  
President of the European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians***



Dr Raymond Lies is President of the AEMH (European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians) since 1998. He trained his profession as a surgeon in France and Germany and has been practising in Luxembourg since 1976. For 17 years, he has defended the position of hospital physicians and has represented the Luxembourgian hospital physicians within the Union of the AMMD (Association of Physicians and Dentists of Luxembourg) and as delegate of Luxembourg within the AEMH (European Association of Hospital Physicians). Dr. Lies is also Director General of a new hospital of 456 beds, the Kirchberg Hospital in Luxembourg, which opened in July 2003.

### **2005 - A year of major decisions and orientations in the hospital sector**

While I'm writing this foreword, we are all under the "Tsunami-shock" of the Indian Ocean transmitted directly in our homes and offices by TV or Internet and it may be that this globalisation effect would help to clarify the situation and the problematic in the European hospital sector.

Under the incredible extend of human suffering and weakness; we can perhaps succeed in putting the European hospital problems into the right light.

### **The European Enlargement**

2004 has been a milestone in the European process. We have seen the biggest ever enlargement of the EU, the signing of a Constitution for the EU, the election of a new European Parliament and the approval of a new European Commission. The enlargement to 25 countries has also been followed by a full membership of the "new" countries in the CPME (Comité Permanent des Médecins Européens). This gives a new extension to the discussions in the CPME and the great variety of hospital systems in the member states will give the opportunity to the

organizations representing the hospital sectors to summarize their potentialities by working closer together.

### **Collaboration AEMH and FEMS (European Federation of Salaried Doctors)**

At the end of 2004, both organizations decided to work closer together by joining not only in one secretariat in the “Domus Medica Europea” in the CPME surroundings in Brussels, but the boards of the two associations will bring up common positions to the next plenary assemblies of both organisations in May for decisions.

This comes in a period of discussions in the CPME about the future of the European medical associations.

### **The future of the CPME and the Associated Organizations**

This will be the topic of the spring meeting organized by the CPME. The national delegations and the representatives of the European Medical Associations must find a solution for a better effectiveness in the representative bodies of the medical sector by taking account of the financial possibilities but also of the specificities of the different medical sectors.

European wide, the hospital sector is in restructuration and the hospital physicians and their patients are interested from Warsaw to Porto and from Malta to Oslo in more quality and expertise in their hospitals.

This is directly proportional to the standards of the labour conditions in our hospitals and therefore the representatives of the hospital sector must be involved in the elaboration process of European directives in this field, f. ex. the WTD (Working Time Directive).

### **The Patient’s Safety Conference in March 2005**

Under the auspices of the Luxembourg Presidency and thanks to the initiative of the CPME and other European stakeholders in healthcare, a conference about patient’s safety will be held in Luxembourg at the 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> of March in order to crystallize a common declaration able to be taken as a guideline for further European directives or even national legislations.

The AEMH will actively participate in this common work. Patients Safety and the prevention of errors and risk management are dependent on the knowledge and the skill of doctors. Quality Assurance should thus be an integrated part of CPD (Continuing Professional Development) of doctors. The AEMH will hold a conference on Continuing Professional Development 12 May 2005 in Athens.

On behalf of the AEMH and our publishing partner World Market Research Centre, we would like to thank all contributors to this publication and in the interest of our patients. We are looking forward to a collaboration with all partners involved in the hospital healthcare sectors to improve healthcare in European hospitals.

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