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<b>Document :</b>	<b>AEMH 05/041</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>National Report Switzerland</b>
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<b>Purpose :</b>	<b>Information</b>
<b>Distribution :</b>	<b>AEMH National Member Delegations, Participants at the 58<sup>th</sup> AEMH Plenary Meeting</b>
<b>Date :</b>	<b>9 May 2005</b>

## National Report

After rejection of the law on health insurance reform by the Parliament in Dec. 2003 the Minister of health decided to present again the same project, but divided into four different subgroups to avoid the summing up of opposition of different nature.

A brief consultation followed and the Parliament was confronted to the subject again in the course of 2004. Only the emergency measures for legal/procedure reasons have been so far decided. They have no significant consequences on the actual situation, but give some more time to deal with the rest. However an insurance card has been created with extremely shy extension possibilities toward a real health card. It will be compatible with the European one and in some way replace the E 111 form. Moderate social measures to relief the families were decided in the way that children pay only 50% of the premium. Financing by the federal state is up to CHF 2.5 billions and should grow according to the health costs.

Major issues such as hospital financing with the idea of bringing in the same modalities for outpatients and inpatients is still in discussion at the Senate. It is bound with very serious technical problems in relation with the federal system in Switzerland, i.e. the repartition of competences between the cantons, the federal government, and in the particular case the insurances. Who pays what ?

There is however a general agreement (limited on the medical side !) that future hospital financing should rely on DRG's. Pilot trials were attempted in Zurich and Lausanne using the AP-DRG system. The partners do not wish to have their data bank depending on a private company such as 3M. A SwissDRG project is consequently underway with participation of all the partners in the matter including the Swiss Medical Association. It should come to an end by 2007.

The same deals with the so called "freedom of agreement" allowing the social insurances (private organization recognized of public interest) to choose freely with which doctors they wish to collaborate is still hanging. An offer from the Swiss Medical Association to use criterias of quality rather than such "privatization" measures to control health cost have unsecured the senators. In case of approval of such a system putting into question the whole chain of care the Swiss Medical Association would be ready to launch a referendum, which according to the polls has great chances of success.