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ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI  
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING  
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**Meeting at HOPE**  
**29 MARCH 2006**  
 BRUSSELS, 207 BD AUG REYERS

Brian Edwards, President HOPE  
 Pascal Garell SG HOPE  
 Annette Kennedy President EFN  
 Paul de Raeve SG EFN  
 Brigitte Jencik SG AEMH  
 Carl-Erik Thors SG UEMO  
 Jacqueline Surugue President European Association of Hospital Pharmacists  
 Frederic Destrebecque assistant to SG UEMS  
 Daniel Mart President CPME  
 Lisette Tiddens – Engwirda SG CPME

The initiative for the meeting came from the President of HOPE and the aim was to bring the Presidents as well as the SG's of different organisations for healthcare professionals together to discuss issues that are considered of importance at EU level.

The following issues were discussed:

- Patient mobility  
 In this context the need for centres of Reference was debated. The Commission pushes for reference centres.  
 Most of the debate was on the actual mobility foreseen for patients and the relation with the Services directive. All participants concluded that a specific 'Health Services Directive' would be an issue to debate in the future.  
 DG Markt, DG Employment and DG SANCO already met on the issue.  
 HOPE proposed to push toward privatisation and away from state funding.
- Patient Safety  
 Establishing a 'no blame culture' EU wide was seen as the most urgent issue. It was also pointed out that insurers do not like this issue.  
 The pharmacists pointed out that an EU-wide reporting system on medication errors seems now to be promoted by a private institute from the USA. Would it not be preferable to have an EU system?  
 The discussion then continued about medication: labelling, packaging, names etc where the injectable drugs were used as a 'bad' example because of lack of harmonisation regarding bar-codes of substances for example. The pharmacists will present a paper on this at the Health Policy Forum of 5/04/06.
- Working Time Directive  
 The opinions differ widely in the group because of the different roles played in the healthcare system. There is a fear for lack of money for any changes in the current system however with all parties.

- Changing ownership of hospital sector  
This is mostly an issue for HOPE and they have started a survey on this issue together with AIM (Insurers). OECD has more detailed information on the public- or private financing of hospitals. It seems that a lot of American money is going to the Eastern countries. According to the SG of EFN the same could be said for Portugal.
- Recognition of medical specialties  
Because the Directive is now in the implementation phase not too much was said about this subject.
- CPD  
The upcoming conference was introduced. EACCME was shortly explained and the pharmacists expressed the wish to know more about this since there is no comparable organisation for Pharmacists.
- Health system investment levels and funding mechanisms (DRG's)  
This issue was decided to be national issues mostly. Hope is looking into them via their membership.
- Increasing regulators in the medical products and devices sector  
For the medical devices it was considered that they should be more strictly regulated since it often concerns very invasive products. HOPE expressed that they would want to have more information on this issue.
- Facilitating Cross Border collaboration (including preparation for Pandemics)  
The issue turned around to the preparation for Pandemics and in how far this was done only from overall EU or if there was also a concept for cross border co-operation.
- E-Health  
The overall conclusion was that it is desperately needed for the users to 'gang up' in order to make clear to the industry that they should develop what is wanted by the users rather than what now seems to be the case, that the users need to accept what the industry develops.
- Access to structural funds  
The question boiled down to: will there be a European Health Plan? And the overall impression was that this is an illusion.

It was agreed to meet again on 27 September. The host of the meeting is still to be determined.