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ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
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The evolution in the Luxembourgish Health System in 2005/2006 is depending, like in other European countries, on the decreasing financial resources of the government and the national health insurance union (UCM)

In order to keep the balance of the budget of his ministry of health and social affaires, Monsieur Mars di Bartolomeo initiated since one year many discussions and consultations among all the stakeholders in the health care sector in order to stabilize the sector for the next coming years. So as well the AMMD as the representatives of the hospital sector were invited to present solutions to diminish the expenses by keeping a high quality standard of health care. So you see : “nothing new under the Sun”.

Nevertheless in Luxembourg due to the small distances between the deciders, a solution (or a compromise) could be found and the last Quadripartite session, mostly dedicated to the hospital sector, elaborated the following decisions.

1. The hospital managers agreed to centralize their purchases in a common virtual purchase center. This allows to diminish the variable costs in the hospital sector in a substantial way.
2. A scientific committee is created in order to determine guide-lines in health care and secure the quality in health care at affordable costs. The AMMD is called to play a key-role in this committee. So the first recommendations of this committee concerned the prescribing of antibiotics and the cost diminished to 30%. Another possibility to save money is the prescription of generics.
3. The legal framework for the organisation of the medical departments in hospital has been initiated. The doctors and the hospitals are working on it. One of the goals of this is the higher integration or participation of doctors in the management of the hospitals.

As you see in Luxembourg the politicians, managers and doctors are actually, after the modernisation of the hospital sector, together succeeding in finding solutions to prevent not only a financial crash in the health care sector but also to allow a high quality medical standard for the population.

Dr Raymond Lies

P.S. At the end of the last quadripartite session, the manager of the national health insurance union declared that the budget in the health care sector for 2005 and 2006 could be kept until now in balance thanks to the decisions taken as described above