



**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 ΙΔΤΡΩΝ 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
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ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΑΪΑΪΑ ΝΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΝΗΪΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ**

Document :	AEMH 07/026
Title:	National Report Austria
Author :	Prof. Spath
Purpose :	Information
Distribution :	AEMH Member Delegations, Participants in the 60th AEMH Plenary Meeting
Date :	4 April 2007

National Report 2007 – Austria

VERBAND DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE ÖSTERREICHS
 AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
 ASSOCIATION AUTRICHIENNE DES MEDECINS DES HOPITAUX
 (Verband der Ärztlichen Direktoren und Primärärzte Österreichs)

Until 2005 all Medical Doctors (MDs) including Dentists were compulsory members of one common Austrian Medical Chamber (AMC). Since 2006 Dentists are members of their own Austrian Dentist Chamber (ADC).

Actual numbers of MDs registered by AMC are: total 35.354

Employed MDs:	20.169 (including 6.531 MDs in internship)
Self-employed MDs:	15.185 (including 1.717 retired MDs practicing on a reduced scale)
MDs in internship:	6.531
General practitioners:	12.299
Medical specialists:	18.001

Dentists (website of ADC, March 2007): total 4.496

Self-employed:	3.704
Employed:	493
Retired dentists practicing on a reduced scale:	299

With the separation of the Dentists the distribution of employed and self-employed MDs in the former common Medical Chamber has changed, hospital (employed) MDs representing now the majority within the AMC.

Federal elections of the Austrian Government in October 2006 brought about a political change with a relative social-democratic majority. After long negotiations a “great coalition” – social-democrats and conservatives - was established. Due to political and personal changes the reorganisation of health care – in January 2006 the Austrian Health Structure Plan was started – was not abandoned but delayed for obvious reasons.

The new Minister of Health – MD Andrea Kdolsky, anaesthesiologist and lately health care manager – is continuing the Health Structure Plan with personal focal points. As it has been mentioned in the Austrian National Reports 2005 and 2006 the Austrian General Health Care is laid down in constitutional laws on the federal and regional levels.

With January 2006 the Austrian Health Structure Plan was introduced, dividing Austria in 4 medical supply zones with a total of 32 regions providing complete optimal medical health care for the intra- and extramural areas including rehabilitation and nursing care aiming at the best health care for everybody.

Health Platforms are active on the regional levels (in the federal districts - counties). Only one representative of MDs (Medical Chamber) participates on a board with political/governmental deputies. Regional health funds separate strictly between extra- and intramural sectors. Counties/federal districts taking care of hospitals, health insurances of the extramural sector. Agreement is only possible within a “sector of cooperation”.

Health Minister MD Andrea Kdolsky has pointed out her preferences for the reorganisation of the Austrian Health Care Structure Plan (Österr. Ärztezeitung no. 3: p.10, 2007):

- Reduction of administration by rationalisation
- Clear-cut definitions/evaluations of performances/results (extra- vs. intramural)
- Better efficiency in health care, improvement of supply structures
- Balance of integrated intra- and extramural care
- Structures of regional cooperation
- Special projects on Health Platforms for better economical efficiency
- Standardisation/regulation of postgraduate medical education, enforced responsibility of Senior Hospital Physicians, emphasis: Internship
- Working Time Directive of MDs
- Estimated saving potential of 400 Mill. Euro

N.B.: As pointed out in previous National Reports from Austria a 20 % VAT on medicaments is still kept corresponding to another saving potential of 200 Mill. Euro.

Electronic Patient Card (E-Card): in the extramural area the E-Card is in general use and indispensable in Austria. There are discussions of extending the transfer of more medical data from patients.

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