



**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 ZDRAVNIKOV  
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EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIHI LIJEČNIKA  
ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΙΑΪΑ ΝΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΝΗΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ  
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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## EUROPEAN HEALTH POLICY FORUM

The aim of the Health Policy Forum is to bring together umbrella organisations representing stakeholders in the health sector to ensure that the EU's health strategy is open, transparent and responds to the public concerns. The intention is to provide an opportunity to organise consultations, to exchange views and experience on a wide range of topics, and to assist in implementation and follow-up of specific initiatives.

The EU Health Policy Forum is, as agreed in the response of the Commission to the public consultation on the creation of the forum in early 2001, part of a structure additionally consisting of the [Open Forum](#). The EU Health Policy Forum currently has 49 member organisations. Membership has been revised in 2006.

The EU Health Policy Forum meets regularly in Brussels. The meetings review the EU work in various areas of public health and adopt recommendations on them.

The Forum seeks to cover evenly four groups of organisations:

1. Non-governmental organisations in the public health field and patients' organisations.
2. Organisations representing health professionals and trade unions.
3. Health service providers and health insurance.
4. Economic operators with an interest in and commitment to health promotion, protection and improvement.

The NGOs which are members of the EU Health Policy Forum all cover a broad range of issues and have members in all or most of the EU member states.

The Directorate General for Health & Consumers (DG Sanco) wishes to renew the membership of the EU Health Forum (formerly EU Health Policy Forum) on the basis of the EU Health Strategy: Together for Health – a Strategic Approach for the EU 2008 - 2013 <sup>1</sup>.

This notice is a call for expression of interest in becoming a member of the EU Health Forum. The envisaged term will cover the period to the end of the current Health Strategy, i.e. 2010 to 2013. Forum member organisations are expected to take part actively in the work of the Forum and should be represented by competent and high-level participants in the meetings. Organisations will be selected on the basis of the criteria laid down in the document "The European Union Health Forum – the Health forum's role: a Renewed Mandate" adopted by the Health Policy Forum in January 2009 <sup>2</sup>.

The overarching goal of the EU Health Forum is to contribute to the development and implementation of actions to protect and improve the health of European citizens. In particular, the objectives of the Forum are:

- **To provide a communication channel between policy makers and stakeholders on EU health policy issues.** The information in this channel should flow in both directions and should also facilitate communication among stakeholders. This requires a strong commitment of Forum members both to ensure dissemination within their networks but also to reach beyond their members in an open and inclusive manner.

- **To enable stakeholders to contribute to EU health policies** by identifying emerging health issues, proposing policy options or shaping and giving feedback on policy proposals and implementing measures;
- **To support delivery of the EU Health Strategy** by health advocacy and other appropriate means and tools at EU, national, regional and local levels.
- **To enable health actors at national and local level** to define EU level work that will support their agenda.
- **To define European work packages** that are relevant to the broader range of health actors, e.g. youth, lifestyles, workplace, health promotion or health in all policies (HIAP).

Membership of the EU Health Forum will concentrate on associations with a pan-European coverage, rather than on national or regional organisations. In general preference is given to umbrella organisations covering several topics or mandated by other organisations to represent them in the Forum. For practical reasons the Commission seeks to keep membership limited to around 50 to 60 organisations.

The selection criteria set out below will be used in establishing the EU Health Forum. In addition, the requirements for transparency in the membership organisations agreed by the Health Forum apply. Only organisations adhering to these criteria can become Forum members.

**Broad coverage of issues:** Organisations should cover broad, horizontal issues which are of relevance to developing the Community's health agenda and with an interest in overall public health policy development.

**Representitiveness:** Organisations should be recognised as being able to speak for their sector. Their activities and membership should cover at least half (currently 14) and, ideally, all (currently 27) EU Member States. Organisations should be committed to extending their membership.

**Active involvement:** Each participating organisation is expected to be actively involved in the work of the EU Health Forum. Failure to do so will lead to discontinuation of membership.

**Transparency.** Organisations should apply the principles of transparency as set out in the EUHPF guiding principles published on the forum's website, as well as those of the European Transparency Initiative.

DG Sanco will ensure that the composition of forum members is balanced in terms of coverage of health policy areas, sectors and stakeholder categories as well as geographical coverage.

Initially, the EU Health Forum was established in September 2001 following an open consultation.

For more details, please consult the [following web-page](#)

Interested organisations are requested to complete and submit the [attached application form and questionnaire](#)  available on the above link and send it by e-mail to arrive before **17 October 2009** to the following mailbox: [sanco-health-forum@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sanco-health-forum@ec.europa.eu).

Current member organisations of the EU Health Policy Forum which are interested to remain members of the group need to re-apply.