



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

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Motion to support Portuguese Doctors and their request for reporting</b>
<b>Author :</b>	<b>Misc</b>
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**AEMH - Motion to support Portuguese Doctors and their request for reporting adopted unanimously at the 67th AEMH Plenary Meeting 30-31 May 2014**

The AEMH - European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians has been alerted on the recent proposal of the Ministry of Health in Portugal not allowing health professionals, particularly physicians, to expose deficiencies or malfunctions in their workplaces.

For AEMH patients safety is a major concern and that includes a thorough job of risk management.

Deficient equipment, untrustworthy alarms, inadequate construction, impracticable procedures are latent conditions that results on “diseases” of the system. Research has shown that system improvements can reduce the error rates and improve the quality of health care.

Excessive working time, poor or no rest after a long period of work, understaffing teams, overwork, inadequate or outdated equipment, similar names, packages and storage of drugs, creates an accident opportunity.

To change this framework is crucial to establish a reporting culture with detailed analysis of events and make the necessary changes to reduce potential accidents.

Health accidents are the eighth cause of death in the United States and we know that 58% of them can be prevented.

So, reports should be made of adverse reactions, near misses, no harm incidents and open to all different levels of assistance.

Efforts to improve quality in health care system must be carried out to improve patients’ safety: use of information technology to reduce errors, use of a check control system to analyze medical equipments and maintain them up-dated, create a reporting culture in a non punishing environment where practitioners feel psychologically safe about discussing adverse events.

Subsequently identify changes that need to be made and implement them.

Identifying patient safety incidents and ensuring they are reported and analyzed is at the heart of reducing risk in healthcare. National organizations should use the data and review the tools, guidance and support available to them. This will ensure patient safety incidents continue to be reported and learned from, strengthening the patient safety culture across all levels of the National Health Service.

If the detected problems are not quickly solved within the framework of the institution then they must be reported outside.

Because the key to patient safety is to reduce or eliminate harm to patients we appeal and we trust that the Ministry of Health in Portugal will open wide consultation with the professional medical organizations in order to achieve together goals to ensure safety healthcare and allowing physicians to report all system malfunctions.



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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS**

Mr. Pedro Passos Coelho  
Prime Minister of Portugal

Brussels, 31 May 2014

Dear Prime Minister,

Allow me to bring to your attention the motion approved in the 67th Plenary Assembly of AEMH in Stockholm.

AEMH delegates expressed their concern with respect to this issue and would therefore appreciate your if you would give the matter due consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. João De Deus  
President



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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS**

Mr. Paulo Macedo  
Minister of Health of Portugal

Brussels, 31 May 2014

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Dr. João De Deus  
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