

Prospects for Health in Europe

European Health Forum Gastein 1999

Health & Social Security – October 6 to 9, 1999 in Bad Hofgastein, Austria

Health and Social Security is the underlying theme of the second European Health Forum Gastein, which will take place from October 6 to 9 in Bad Hofgastein / Austria. More than 300 renowned Eastern and Western European personalities from industry, science, and politics will attend the congress to discuss solutions for topical health issues.

The European Health Forum Gastein is conceived as an **interdisciplinary and international meeting** for all groups participating in decision-making over health issues or are affected by these decisions. For this reason, the International Forum Gastein, the organiser of this event places a special focus on the inclusion of patient and consumer organisations. Since these groups represent the interests of the largest affected group, it is of utmost importance to integrate them in the discussion. Participants and promoters include the European Commission, the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the Committee of the Regions of the EU.

The main objective of the forum is to **guarantee health care for Europe's population** in the long term. In order to produce usable results, the discussion groups propose concrete measures for safeguarding, improving, and integrating European health systems. These results are presented to the World Health Organisation, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the press by way of a **Gastein Health Paper**.

There are six fora, each of them dealing with a specific health policy issue. These six main issues are:

Poverty leads to disease :

Equal access to health services for all social groups

Improving the quality of care:

How to finance the improvement of quality; Liability for harmed patients

Information technologies and telemedicine :

Current state of information technology and protection against data abuse

Biotechnology:

Patent protection of new forms of life, moral responsibility for unforeseeable long-term damage, legal and ethical aspects.

Rare disorders:

The right to treatment, ethical aspects, financing and patenting of research and development, the role of patient groups in stimulating research.

Public Health / Health Promotion / Health care:

National achievements from EU countries tested on a European scale.

(further information on the individual fora are available on request)

A workshop on the **integration of European economic and health systems in an enlarged Europe** will take place specially for participants from Central and Eastern

European countries, for which a large number of participants has already registered in advance.

High-ranking **decision-makers of European health policy** such as the new European Union Health Commissioner **David Byrne**, the new French Health Minister **Dominique Gillo**, the German State Secretary for Health **Erwin Jordan**, and his Finnish counterpart **Markku Lehto**, the Romanian Health Minister **Hajdu Gabor**, the Austrian Science Minister **Caspar Einem, Ferdinand Sauer** from the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA), as well as **Marlene Haffner** from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are expected to attend the European Health Forum.

The industry is represented by leading personalities such as **Curt Engelhorn**, President of the European Foundation for the Advancement of Medicine and former CEO of Boehringer Mannheim, Prof. **Rolf Krebs**, Vice-President of the International Federation of Pharmaceuticals Manufacturers Associations, and **Ulrich Bode**, President of the Austrian Association of Pharmaceutical Industries.

Scientific perspectives will be presented by eminent authorities from the world of science such as Prof. **Elias Mossialos** from the London School of Economics, Prof. **Spencer Haggard** from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dutch Professor **Albert R. Bakker** from the International Medical Informatics Association, BSE / TSE researcher Prof. **Herbert Budka** from the Institute for Neurology at the University of Vienna, as well as the Swiss Prof. **Richard Braun**, Vice-President of the Task Group on Public Perception of Biotechnology in the European Federation of Biotechnology.

The organiser is particularly interested in the participation of patients and consumers organisations, represented by personalities such as Mary McPhail from the European Public Health Alliance, Yann Le Cam from the International Alliance of Patients' Organisations, and Bill Albert from the Disabled Peoples' International Europe.

Most of the participants come from member countries of the European Union. Moreover, several registrations from Central and Eastern European countries and some from Taiwan, Australia, and the United States.

For more information, visit our Internet Homepage at <http://www.ehfg.org/> or call our congress office at +43 -6432 -7110 -70.

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Press photos on the Internet: www.ehfg.org/presscenter

Participation at the Forum:

Journalists who wish to participate at the European Health Forum are kindly asked to register per fax or e-mail so as to confirm hotel reservation and arrival.

Invitation to press conference: Creating a better Future for Health in Europe

Presentation of results of the European Health Forum 1999 on Friday, October 8, at 10.30 am at the Congress Centre Bad Hofgastein