



EHFG 2011: HEALTH MINISTER STOEGER OPENS EUROPEAN HEALTH FORUM GASTEIN -- PLEA FOR SOLIDARITY IN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

Austrian Health Minister Alois Stoeger today spoke at the opening of the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) of the great importance of solidarity in health care systems for social cohesion. Already in the coming year there, there will be more Europeans over the age of 60 of than those of working age, according to Paola Testori-Coggi, the director general in the EU-Commission for Health and Consumers. The European Innovation Partnership for active and healthy aging developed a package of measures to tackle these anticipated challenges.

Bad Hofgastein, October 5, 2011 -- "A solidary health system is important for social cohesion and care of people," said Austrian Health Minister Alois Stoeger today at the opening of the 14th European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG). "Only through collective systems can we provide good protection and care for the individual."

"Innovation & Wellbeing – Europe's Health 2020 and Beyond" is the motto of this year's EHFG. More than 600 health policy decision-makers, research, science, industry and patient organisations from 45 countries are currently meeting at the European Union most important health policy conference in Bad Hofgastein to discuss key issues for the future of European health systems.

Austria offers excellent access to medical care on a broad basis, said Minister Stoeger. "The fact that we are among the international leaders in health care was also confirmed by the OECD in its latest country report. But we must continue working on expanding our system. Whoever rests on one's laurels is doing lasting harm to health care provision."

"By the end of this decade, around a third of all Europeans will be 65 years old or over. Our aim is to bring together all actors to invest their know how to make lives not just longer but better. We want all those involved in technology and health to join forces so that our population's lives are spent as healthy, active and fulfilling as possible," said Paola Testori-Coggi, Director General for Health & Consumers, European Commission.

"The [European Innovation Partnership](#) is the European Commission's answer to the challenge of developing innovative ways of improving the quality of life for our ageing population, and enabling people to stay active longer. Our aim is to harness continuously evolving technology for practical applications in people's daily lives. Our ultimate objective is a set of real applications that will improve people's lives in Europe and will lead by example worldwide."

The EHFG is the most important conference on health care policy in the EU. This year it attracted more than 600 decision-makers from 45 countries for discussions on the latest developments in health care policy.

EHFG Opening Plenary Session: "Approaching wellbeing and European priorities." 5 October 2011

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