



# INTRODUCTION TO THE UEHP

[www.uehp.org](http://www.uehp.org)

# Uehp



## HISTORY

The history of the UEHP started in 1971 when the European Committee of Private Hospitals (CEHP) was created. CEHP has produced a number of publications, studies and positions which have ensured its authority and important contacts with the EC. In 1988, membership has been opened to associate private hospital organizations from non EC countries.

- On 11 January 1991 in Rome, the member Associations of the CEHP, together with other Associations, notably in Austria and Switzerland, created the UEHP.
- Today UEHP members are: AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, FRANCE, GREECE, GERMANY, HUNGARY, ITALY, MONACO, PORTUGAL, POLAND and SWITZERLAND. Associated members are: CACIC, CLEANSERVICE and COPAG.



# OBJECTIVES

In general, the UEHP has as its purpose to defend and to represent the independent hospitals in Europe, to generate political and economic conditions favoring independent initiatives in the health field; and the study and creation of better conditions for the operation and management of independent hospitals. The UEHP has as its objectives all matters related to the EC and particularly:

- a. The study and creation of best conditions for the management of private care specific to the E.C.;
- b. To co-ordinate preparations for the free establishment of independent healthcare facilities in the Common Market, as well as the preparation of the internal market in the field of healthcare;
- c. The study of conditions for the participation of independent hospitals in the social hospital services in the countries of the Community;
- d. Representation of independent hospitals in the European Community.

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## Action

- In Rome on 18 June 1993, UEHP adopted the Declaration of Principle which is the charter and the preamble that gives the course of numerous further resolutions and studies.
- Private hospitalization, made legitimate by human rights to freedom is the indispensable tool required by medicine in the service of the patient.
- It is based on the freedom of choice regarding doctor and hospital, where treatment is dispensed in a human, friendly and personal atmosphere
- Within the Citizen's Europe, freedom of choice shall apply without constraint across nations in accordance with the European Charter of Patients' Rights.



# STRUCTURE OF THE UEHP

The Board of Directors consist of:

One President of the General Assembly: Dr R. TITECA (B)

One President of the Council Administration: Dr. M. PONSEILLE (F)

Two Vice Presidents: A. SCIACHI (I) and Dr E. SIEBER (A)

One secretary: T. LEITE (PT)

One treasurer: R. BERTSCHY (CH)

Two auditors: Dr A. FROVA (I), Dr J.M LEONARDI (F)

UEHP has two General Councils and one Assembly General per year and meetings of the working groups.



# REPRESENTATION OF THE UEHP

- UEHP is represented to the following bodies:
- Health Policy Forum of DG SANCO.
- UNICE
- Health First Europe
- EMA (European Medical Association)
- BIAC (Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD)
  
- UEHP is also in contact with MEP in the European Parliament. UEHP also have contacts with officials from different DG in the European Commission. Furthermore, we are also connected with some Embassies and with the European Social Economic Committee.



# LOBBY ACTIVITIES

- **The European Commission:**

Following the latest proposals on new regulation, editing of notices related to health issues, taking part in consultation processes and in European projects, meeting with members of the Cabinets of the Commissioners.

- **The European Parliament:**

Lobbying together with MEP to add amendments on relevant laws, liaising with MEP on specific health matters, following the health related debates in the European Parliament.

- **The European Economic Social Committee:**

We give advice to the EESC on every new proposition that is of importance for us.

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## UEHP RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Quality assurance and risk management**
- **Patient mobility within the European Union**
- **Charter of fundamental rights**
- **Civil liability for the provision of services in health care**
- **Recognition of professional qualifications**
- **Equity, quality, financing of the healthcare services**
- **The Internal Market strategy**
- **Health Forum: comments on Enlargement to the East**
- **Health Forum: research**
- **Health strategy for the European Union**
- **Innovation**
- **Waiting lists**
- **Services of general interest**
- **State Aids**



## UEHP AND IT'S MEMBERS

- UEHP edit studies for it's members (for instance regarding advise on state aid legislation),
- UEHP organizes workshops for it's members on relevant issues (for instance on TARIFICATION),
- UEHP organizes conferences on different themes,
- UEHP provides assistance to all of it's members on any relevant issue.



# CO- OPERATION

**UEHP works with all major European professional organizations**

- **EMA - European Medical Association**
- **CEN - European Committee for Standardization**
- **CPME - Standing Committee of European Doctors**
- **EHMA - European Healthcare Management Association**
- **EOHCS – European Observatory on Health Care Systems**
- **HFE - Health First Europe**
- **IUHPE - International Union for Health Promotion and Education**
- **Red Cross/EU**
- **UEMS – European Union of Medical Specialists**
- **EUCOMED - Medical Technologies Industry in Europe**
- **UNICE - Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe**

## EUROPEAN FINANCING

- Framework program on research and development
- Structural funds



# PRESS COMMUNICATION

- Contacts with all major European Press Agencies,
- Regular press releases in European Publications (e. g. the Parliament Magazine)



## A European vision for health systems

Within the European Union the concept of “public service”  
cannot be reduced to the equation  
PUBLIC SERVICE=PUBLIC ENTERPRISE =  
PUBLIC MONOPOLY

**PUBLIC SERVICE =  
SERVICE “OF GENERAL INTEREST”.  
THE PRODUCTION OF THE SERVICE  
CAN BE EITHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE**



# A European vision for health systems

## COMMON PRINCIPLES

for a European model of health care services

Citizens' right to freedom of choice

Plurality of providers, public or private

Competition based on quality

Independent control institutions



The UEHP is in favour of  
a EUROPEAN MODEL OF HEALTHCARE SERVICE  
as SERVICE OF GENERAL INTEREST  
BASED ON A PUBLIC - PRIVATE MIX  
fairly managed to guarantee :

- free choice of citizens
- equality of all providers
- competition
- abolition of monopolistic regimes
- better use of public and private hospitals
- effective allocation of the resources
- adequate and rapid answer to the demand
- quality improvement.

# A view of the future

- The **European citizens** are favourable to a system, in which
  - ✓ individual free choice and plurality of providers,
  - ✓ in a relationship of competitive collaboration,
  - ✓ strives for a constant improvement in therapy standards and assistance, within available resources.
- In a Europe going towards a European health care model, which aims to harmonise welfare guaranties and market efficiency, an ideological opposition between **public and private sector** is destined to become irrelevant.
- ✓ **In fact, within the EU the main concern is to promote a high level of health care for citizens. This is our common aim.**