

Result and comments to the Admentment of the EU-CAM-community
EU-Plenary Session in Strassbourg, 16th of March 2006, EU-Parliament

Discussion and vote on the Trakatellis report took place on march,16th
Following a number of interventions from MEPS speaking about
complementary medicine in reply Commissionar Mr Kyprianou stated that
**Complementary Medicine is an issue of sub-sidiarity as a area of
health care delivery and therefore cannot be included in the EU
Health program.**

The vote was:

amd: **145 was adopted**

amd: **155 was rejected** (= +162/ -388)

Comments of two member`s of Parliament:

John Bowis (PPE – UK):

”By making the recital a "positive" inclusion - it was originally only to
be a "not excludes" reference - I think we have given a clear signal
that we expect CAM to be eligible for inclusion right across the policy.
There was a fear that the annex reference could have restricted it to
just one part of the policy, which is, I think, why the Rapporteur
rejected it.”

Axel Singhofen (Greens - Germany):

”In an action programme that contains a long list of actions - more
actions than the Commission can possibly deliver on - to my mind, a
general recital means very little. But assuming it would make it into the
final text - it is nothing but a general statement which is not
translated into any concrete action.

The Commission is really the master of the game in terms of the concrete
actions it takes. If they wanted, they could of course consider CAM in
certain actions. If they do not want to do it, they do not have to do
it. A recital does not entail any obligations whatsoever.

So at best, you can use it as a hook to influence specific actions that
the Commission will undertake to push them to include CAM in some way -
but you have rather weak grounds to stand on, I am afraid.”

