



Newsletter No 2- 09

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Dear CAM – supporters,

shortly before the holidays, the General Directorship (DG Sanco) of the EU Commission, invited everyone to the OPEN-HEALTH-FORUM 2008 in Brussels. During the two days, two main topics were discussed: A.- “The Future of the Workforce in the European Health Economy” and B.- “The Development und Realization of the EU- Health Strategy”. Here is a short summary:

Re. A.):

Emphasis on team work (key word: Skill-Mix = mixing competencies); increased dissolving of “organizational islands” (i.e. privileges of various professions); a redistribution and restructuring of jobs (such as endoscopies being performed by nursing staff), is to take place in order to boost efficiency; new health professions are to be created, such as “information manager”; increased norms, standards and analysis; the patient is to be the center of attention, rather than professional interests. In conclusion, attention was directed toward the educational guidelines which allow for seven well-ordered healthcare professions. All of these measures are currently being put together by the EU Commission in the “Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health”.

Re. B.):

Three work teams approached the topic from various starting points. Group 2 worked on “Europe for Patients” with a concentration on “Patient Safety”. The proposed guideline “Patient’s Rights in Cross-border Healthcare” has come under so much criticism that the proposed draft will be changed. A division between “patient’s rights”, as demanded by representatives of patient organizations, and “Healthcare Services” is under consideration.

The attending representatives of CAM pointed out several economical forms of natural therapies already in existence and presented the chairman, Robert Madellin, the CAM Manifest (see attached file) signed by 12 European organizations, which emphasizes the special significance of natural medicine for Europe. Mr. Madellin admonished that everything has already been organized and that the framework of Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) points the way. He also referred to the already initiated EBM Studies regarding CAM.

The discussions that took place during the breaks give some insight as to the future: an EBM-based CAM is to be developed that is to be re-named “Integrative Medicine” (IM). This IM has freed itself of the non-evidence based “ballast” of traditional CAM and will only be practiced by academic practitioners of medicine and reimbursed as part of the public healthcare system.

With regards,

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