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31 January 2007  
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## **Public consultation regarding Community action on health services**

### **Profile of the respondent**

Dansk Erhverv - Danish Chamber of Commerce is the second largest business organisation with 20.000 direct members and 100 industry associations representing trade, transport and services. This makes us to the largest representative of the service sector in Denmark.

Danish Chamber of Commerce looks after its members' interests both at national and international level. At European level the Chamber is a member of Eurochambres and EuroCommerce. The Chamber is also represented by a permanent EU office in Brussels.

We cover a wide area of industries and services; in particularly transport, textile, retail, food-industries, hotel and restaurants but also highly technical, IT and medico companies.

### **Reply to the consultation**

The Danish Chamber of Commerce finds an efficient and functional health care system an essential part of the modern welfare system in the Member States. Consequently, the Danish Chamber of Commerce strongly supports all initiatives, which may contribute to the better allocation of the resources in the health service sector. Thus, it is important that actions taken both assure a high quality in the treatment of the patients and fair conditions for the supplier.

The Danish Chamber of Commerce agrees with the Commission that there is a need for Community legislation in some areas of the health service sector. I.e. for a supplier of health services it constitutes a serious problem when the Community legislation is interpreted very differently in the Member States. Danish business often experience that the Community legislation, compared to other Member States, are interpreted restrictively by the Danish authority, which harms the competitiveness of the business. In addition, it is important to

establish Community legislation in all cross-border areas related to the health services sector. I.e. there is a need for common Community legislation within the area for public subsidies on medicine or the legal framework and general legislation for marketing private healthcare.

A functional European health services sector is closely related to a functional and efficient European market for health services. Creating better conditions for patient mobility between the Member States will only solve the bottleneck problem for a diminutive amount of patients. It raises serious challenges for patients to move across long distances to seek treatment and the capacity of health service sector in the various Member States are scarce. The potential for the health services sector is increased with an enhanced public private partnership. Nowadays it is difficult for a private health service provider to operate across the borders of the Member States; consequently better conditions for cross boarder health services market integration should be a main task for the Community. Experiences from Denmark indicate that an increase in the interaction between public and private operators benefit the quality of the health service in general.

It is the responsibility of the Member States to secure an efficient and complete health service sector, and as described there is a potential for an intensified public private partnership within the area. Thus, an internal marked for health service should be considered in relation to the discussion about Community action on health services.

Managing Director  
Danish Chamber of Commerce

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