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RESPONSE TO THE EU COMMUNICATION 'CONSULTATION REGARDING COMMUNITY ACTION ON HEALTH SERVICES'

The International Healthcare and Health Insurance Institute (IHIII) is a leader in providing premium healthcare consultancy services to public and private clients in Bulgaria in the field of healthcare sector reform, quality management for hospital establishments, health information & technology, health promotion and provision of access to healthcare services, and healthcare communications.

With the following response I would like to express the views of the IHIII team on the future of the health services in the European Union and the possible legislative actions to be undertaken on behalf of the European Commission.

In our view the focus on patient mobility is the right one as the possibility of the average European to receive regular treatment should not be limited from state boundaries. This is naturally valid for people the profession of whom are related with movement, but current agenda should include also the possibilities of people who live at cross border regions.

Secondly, IHIII team considers the right to informed and free choice as a must. For that purpose we would support the introduction of an information standard for healthcare establishments and insurance institutions. Competition between medical institutions, from one side, and between health insurance funds, from another, should be stimulated, in order to achieve better results in the overall health status of the average European citizen.

In a long run, IHIII suggests that the implementation of the doctrine for substituting health insurance should be considered and it should include the private health insurance funds. Public expenditures should be concentrated primarily in diseases having transnational importance and impact. It is may be time to think about common concept in the area of international health, its public financing and coordinated management.

Our institute is ready to provide expertise and consultancy in working groups, formed with the view to establish and implement a possible European Health Strategy.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Ilko Semerdjiev
Chairman of IHIII

Minister of Health of Republic of Bulgaria (1999-2001)

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