

Association of Natural Medicine in Europe e.V.
Waldstr. 21 D-61137 Schöneck Tel. 0049(0) 6187- 9928121
Fax: 0049(0) 6187-9928074
e-mail: info@anme.info home: www.anme.info
Member of the EPHA, Brussels

Schöneck, 20.08.2004

Dear Commissar David Byrne,

We from ANME (Association of Natural Medicine in Europe e.V.) emphatically greet the thinking process over the future strategy of health politics, which was initiated by you.

We understand ourselves as a European voice for CAM (Complimentary and Alternative Medicine) and would like to present you with the following points as stimuli for your reflection process:

1. We share your point of view; cultivate health and support a self-confident EU-Citizen who makes his own decisions (pt.1). It is certainly necessary to have a ballot for this. At present, 80% of the German population and 40% of the European population wishes a treatment with nature medicine. The tendency is increasing.

2. Self-responsibility and sensible cooperation during therapy, with the goal that no further treatment is necessary, is part of the tradition of Nature Healing. (pt.2)

Traditional nature healing methods of treatment and medication assist health recovery, health preservation and prevention. (pt.2)

3. We wish the same as you in pt 4.1; the penetration into all political fields with health political aspects (schools, workplace, agriculture etc...). In your presentment however, you warn of the danger of a one-sided „High-Tec-Medicine“, with the „brittle citizen“ as the leading character.

So desirable a EU-wide standard treatment for all EU-Citizens seems, so much more endangered seem all non-standard treatments.

Out of experiences in Germany to date, the regularisation and harmonisation of medication to protect EU-Citizens for example, has forced a great number of nature medicines to either disappear from the market or change their ingredients. Despite many initiatives from German EU-Citizens (patients and therapists), it was not possible to save these products.

4. During the determination of its role in the preservation of health, the EU should certainly take traditional medication, which has been approved for hundreds of years, into consideration. To do this, it would be important for Nature Healing to be given a sovereign position or a position which is independent of High-Tec-Medicine. To measure Nature

Healing, which is an individual oriented medicine, on standards of a scientific clinical study is the „square of the circle“, so to speak.

5. A further aspect lies in the manifoldness of Nature Healing which, because of the regional differences in Europe, can not be identical. Nature Healing willingly emphasizes and cherishes the individual versatility in every region of Europe.

6. Your thoughts which are mentioned under point. 4.2., deserve special attention. Nature Healing is also part of the circles of experts in European Public Health and should therefore be listened to.

ANME now acts as middleman for contact persons nationwide and on a european level. We are actually acting as an associated member of EPHA and are attempting to gain admission to the EMEA.

We support and encourage the installation of a database for Nature Healing.

However, we wish for the recognition of CAM experiences without so-called double blind studies in the „concrete knowledge base“ area. The solitary acceptance of a one-sidedly defined „evidence of effectiveness“ is really the opposite of a concrete knowledge base. (pt.4.2)

Nature Healing has an interest of its own in the development of Quality Standards for the documentation of genuine nature healing knowledge, e.g., the German alternative medical practitioners‘ associations (deutscher Heilpraktiker-Berufsverbände),.

7. Finally, we ask you to call attention to the significance of individual consultation and treatment in a competent practice, in addition to Online-Health-Services and Tele-medicine (Pt.5).The measures which have already been implemented for Quality Safety and Practice Management, would then be acknowledged. The EU should endeavour to be closer to handlers and citizens and take their individual needs into consideration.

A vision for the future contains among other things, an integration of Nature Healing, which has grown with the human race.Because of this, we wish that you take our positions affirmatively into account and consider them as suggestions for your concepts of a Europe of Health.

Yours faithfully,

Monika Gerhardus

Nora Laubstein

1. Chairperson

ANME-PR

This paper represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumer Protection DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.