

Comments
of the
*bpa – Bundesverband privater Anbieter
sozialer Dienste e.V.*
on the
**EU Commission's Green Paper on the European
Workforce for Health of 10 December 2008**
COM(2008) 725 final

Berlin, 31 March 2009

With more than 6 000 active member institutions, the *Bundesverband privater Anbieter sozialer Dienste e.V. (bpa)* (Federal Association of private providers of social services) constitutes the largest representation of the interests of private providers of care and social services in Germany. The *bpa* embraces privately run institutions providing outpatient and (semi-) inpatient care, assistance for persons with disabilities and help for children and young people. The members of the *bpa* have responsibility for some 184 000 jobs and around 9 700 training posts. The invested capital amounts to approximately €14.8 billion.

The *bpa* is a member of the European Confederation of Care Home Organizations (E.C.H.O.), which is active at EU level and is the umbrella organisation representing operators with a total of more than 1 000 000 places in care homes in 13 EU countries.

The *bpa* welcomes the fact that in the Green Paper the Commission addresses fundamental issues of the health workforce, ensuring that personnel needs are met in the long term, and demographic change. In particular, we would stress that the problems of the health professions are mentioned and the challenges currently facing health systems are highlighted, along with potential solutions at EU level.

In the *bpa's* opinion, even greater emphasis should be placed on training and further training.

The *bpa* regards the Green Paper as a forward-looking discussion document that is to be seen as a basis for fundamental policy considerations in the health sector, with the explicit inclusion of the care sector.

Health services are characterised by competition, quality and self-responsibility.

To sum up, the *bpa* is pleased to take up the ideas put forward in the Green Paper and will make every effort to encourage discussion in the Member States of the topics broached in the Green Paper and to promote EU-wide opinion-forming via the European organisation E.C.H.O.

The *bpa* would ask to be involved in the further consultations.

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 & Consumers 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.