

Letter dated:

31 March 2009

From:

Verband Deutscher Betriebs- und Werksärzte e.V. (Association of German Company Doctors)
Friedrich-Eberle-Strasse 4a
D-76227 Karlsruhe

To:

European Commission

Subject:

Opinion on the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health

Dear Sir/Madam,

Many thanks for sending us the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health (COM (2008) 725). We are pleased to respond, on behalf of our Association.

1. We very much welcome the Commission's initiative to investigate the situation for health occupations and propose solutions to any problems. The challenges facing company doctors are described accurately and correspond to their own assessments.
2. Particular emphasis must be placed in future on the additional training of company doctors in management skills. We, as an Association, would like to see a European Master's in Health Care Management, based on the traditional qualification in occupational medicine or further training in occupational medicine, as company doctors are facing increasing demands for management and leadership skills.
3. Our Association is convinced that the principle of lifelong learning must be reinforced in the health professions. We are therefore in favour of regular in-service training for both medical and non-medical staff in the field of occupational health.

Yours faithfully,

[signed]

Dr Wolfgang Panter

President

[signed]

Jochen Protzer

Director

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