



AIM General Assembly meetings (Brussels, 2-4 June 2010)

The presentations of the meetings and the conference, as well as the declaration on "health and environment" and the photo gallery are available on www.aim-mutual.org.

EU INSTITUTIONS

EU COUNCIL

SPANISH EU PRESIDENCY



[Website](#) - [Spanish EU Presidency Program](#)

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL, 7-8 JUNE

The Council of EU Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Ministers met on 7-8 June.

The Council could find an **agreement on the draft directive concerning the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare**, on the basis of a compromise proposal of the Spanish presidency ([more](#)).

The Council also adopted following conclusions on:

- [Action to reduce population salt intake for better health](#) - [Other languages](#)
- [Equity and Health in All Policies: Solidarity in Health](#) - [Other languages](#)
- [Resolution of the Council of the EU and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member states, meeting within the Council, on a new European Disability Framework](#) - [Other languages](#)
- [Active Ageing](#) - [Other languages](#)
- [Advancing Roma Inclusion](#)
- ["New Skills for New Jobs: the way forward"](#) - [Other languages](#)
- ["Sustainable social security systems achieving adequate pensions and social inclusion objectives"](#) - [Other languages](#)
- [Press release- 3019th Council meeting Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs - Luxembourg, 7 and 8 June 2010 \(Provisional version\)](#)

SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS TO GAIN MATERNITY AND PENSION BENEFITS UNDER NEW EU LAW

Self-employed workers and their partners will enjoy better social protection – including the right to maternity leave for the first time – under new legislation endorsed by EU governments today. The Directive on self-employed workers and assisting spouses repeals and replaces an earlier law

([Directive 86/613/EEC](#)) and improves the social protection rights of millions of women in the labour market, boosting female entrepreneurship. At present, women represent only one in three entrepreneurs. [More](#)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, 17 JUNE

On 17 June, the European Council adopted the "Europe 2020" strategy for jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The Council welcomed the Mario Monti report on a new strategy for the single Market. The Council also took note of the "Project Europe 2030" report (see below). The European Council reaffirmed the collective determination to ensure fiscal sustainability as well as to ensuring financial stability by addressing the gaps in regulation and supervision of financial markets. The European Council also agreed on the need to reinforce the coordination of the economic policies. [More](#)

"PROJECT EUROPE 2030"

This independent Reflection Group, set up by the European Council in Dec 2008 under the chair of Mr. González to identify and propose solutions to the challenges at the horizon 2030, released its report on 9 May. The authors conclude that the EU's ability to influence developments beyond its borders will in turn depend on its capacity to secure solid growth and internal cohesion. They called on EU leaders to embark on an ambitious long-term reform programme for the next twenty years. The top priority must remain creating jobs and growth. The group also urged the EU to reform its financial institutions. Human capital is key and thus investing in and coordinating R&D are key factors. The EU must continue leading the fight against climate change. To face the demographic challenge, action should be taken to enable pension, health and welfare systems to handle an ageing population.

[Translations in 22 EU languages](#)

EU COMMISSION

COMPETITION LAW

STATE AID: COMMISSION CONSULTS STAKEHOLDERS ON THE APPLICATION OF STATE AID RULES TO SERVICES OF GENERAL ECONOMIC INTEREST

The Commission has launched a public consultation on the application of its 2005 Package on Services of general economic interest (SGEI). The Package sets out guidance as to when State funding of SGEIs is compatible with the EU State aid rules. The package was adopted in July 2005, following the landmark Altmark ruling of the European Court of Justice (ECJ). The deadline of the consultation is 10 September. AIM members are invited to send their contributions to the AIM Secretariat before September. [More](#)

E-HEALTH

DIGITAL AGENDA: EUROPEAN HIGH-LEVEL PANEL CONSULTS ON ICT SOLUTIONS TO HELP ELDERLY TO LIVE MORE INDEPENDENTLY

A consultation inviting citizens, businesses and researchers to share ideas on how best to use information and communications technologies (ICTs) to help older Europeans live more independently, and more generally to establish new ways to put ICTs at the service of the most vulnerable members of society, has been launched by a high-level panel established to advise the European Commission on the functioning of the [Ambient Assisted Living joint programme](#) (AAL JP). The public consultation is the first step towards meeting the target of doubling the take-up of independent living arrangements for the elderly by 2015 set by the Digital Agenda (see [IP/10/581](#)). The consultation runs until 1 July 2010. [More](#)

HEALTH

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2010: THE COMMISSION REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO FIGHT AGAINST SMOKING

Ahead of the 2010 No Tobacco Day (31st May), the European Commission unveiled the results of a Eurobarometer survey which shows that a strong majority of EU citizens support stronger tobacco control measures. For example, three in every four Europeans supports picture health warnings on tobacco packs and smoke free restaurants. The survey also shows, however, that nearly one in every three Europeans still smokes, despite the fact that tobacco kills half of its users. The Commission is planning to launch an open consultation shortly with a view to revising the 2001 Tobacco Products Directive and is stepping up its tobacco control efforts throughout the EU. [More](#)

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

Established in 2005, World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on 14th June to raise global awareness about the need for safe blood and regular voluntary blood donation. The Eurobarometer survey published this June indicates that 37% of Europeans have given blood representing a 6% increase since the last survey was conducted in 2002 in EU-15. The countries revealed to have the highest levels of blood donation are Austria (66%), France (52%), Greece (51%) and the Republic of Cyprus (51%). The Eurobarometer reports can be found [here](#). [More](#)

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN OLDER PEOPLE, 28-29 JUNE

A conference highlighting the importance of improving mental health and well-being in older people was part of the European Pact for Health and Well-being. Following 5 issues were in the spotlight of the discussions:

- Healthy ageing and well-being;
- Prevention of mental disorders and promotion of autonomy;
- Older people in vulnerable situations;
- Health systems for care and treatment;
- Supporting informal carers;

[More](#)

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

PESTICIDES: FOOD IN THE EU IS NOW SAFER THANKS TO MORE CONTROLS AND FEWER AND LESS HARMFUL RESIDUES

Food in the European Union has become even safer over the past year thanks, in part, to the withdrawal from the market of harmful pesticides and the strengthening of the Union's border control activity. As of January this year, the EU has in essence established a common control border as regards certain fruits and vegetables. For these imported products a new control regime has been introduced, which provides that consignments are checked at the EU border before their entry into the Union. [More](#)

INTERNAL MARKET

SERVICES DIRECTIVE: GOOD PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION, BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE

The European Commission has taken a new step to ensure that work is speeded up in the twelve Member States that have not yet finalised implementation of the Services Directive. The Services Directive was adopted end 2006 and it had to be implemented in all EU countries by 28 December 2009. It covers a large variety of economic activities – such as retail, construction services, tourism services and the services of many regulated professions – representing around 40% of EU GDP and employment. The Directive commits Member States to carry out an ambitious reform programme, combining the lifting of unjustified regulatory barriers and administrative simplification. It is expected to significantly contribute to boosting growth and job creation. Overall, the preliminary results of the Directive's complex implementation process are encouraging. The large majority of Member States have already adopted "horizontal" implementing legislation and in most countries a number of changes to specific regulations have also already been made. The Commission has sent this June a reasoned opinion to those Member States who have not yet notified to the Commission the adoption of all the regulatory changes required by the Directive – namely Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxemburg, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. [More](#)

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT: COMMISSION REQUESTS GREECE TO COMPLY WITH COURT RULING ON ACQUISITION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND TO ENSURE FAIR ACCESS TO MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS IN ATTICA

The European Commission has acted to ensure that common rules on public procurement – the spending of public money by public authorities – are respected in Greece. The Commission has also referred Greece to the EU's Court of Justice over the direct award of a public service contract for the management of hazardous medical waste in Attica without following a public tender procedure in line with EU public procurement rules. [More](#)

PHARMACEUTICAL & MEDICAL DEVICES

OMBUDSMAN: EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY SHOULD DISCLOSE CLINICAL REPORTS ON ANTI-OBESITY DRUGS

The European Ombudsman has called on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to grant access to

clinical study reports and trial protocols for two anti-obesity drugs. This follows a complaint from Danish researchers in the field of healthcare who wanted to conduct an independent analysis. EMA refused their request for public access to these documents on the grounds that disclosure would undermine the drug producers' commercial interests. During his investigation, the Ombudsman inspected the relevant reports and protocols. He concluded that their disclosure would not undermine commercial interests. [More](#)

MEDICAL DEVICES: COMMISSION REFERS ESTONIA TO COURT FOR NOT IMPLEMENTING THE REVISED DIRECTIVE ON TIME

The European Commission has decided to refer Estonia to the EU's Court of Justice for not implementing the revised Medical Devices Directive (2007/47/EC) within the deadline (Dec 21, 2008). [More](#)

SCIENTIFIC OPINION ON SAFETY OF REPROCESSED MEDICAL DEVICES MARKETING FOR SINGLE USE

The Commission's independent Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) published its opinion on the safety of reprocessed medical devices marketed for single-use. [More](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

NEW SURVEY REVEALS MORE PEOPLE STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET

One European in six reports a constant struggle to pay household bills and three quarters believe that poverty has increased in their country over the past year. These are the key results from a new Eurobarometer survey on social impacts of the crisis, presented by the EU Commission. The survey, carried out in May 2010, marks the halfway mark of the 2010 European Year against poverty and comes after EU leaders agreed on 17 June to lift 20 million Europeans out of poverty and social exclusion over the next decade. Around 3 out of 10 Europeans reported that it had become more difficult to bear the costs of healthcare, childcare or long-term care for themselves or their relatives in the past six months: 11% felt it had become "much more difficult" and 18% thought it had become "somewhat more difficult". [More](#) - [MEMO](#)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION BEGINS PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Although children are less likely to deal with courts or public administrations than adults, their rights are just as important. Children have the right to be protected against poverty and violence, as well as the right to be heard. The European Commission launched a public consultation today on a new EU children's rights strategy. The answers will be used to find out how EU policies can do more to promote children's rights. The consultation will cover issues like child-friendly justice, violence against children, child poverty and child participation. It is open until 20 August 2010. [More](#)

FUTURE OF PENSIONS IN EUROPE

The European Commission will present on 7 July a Green Paper launching a wide-ranging debate on the future of pensions in Europe. The Green Paper

will open a several month long consultation period in which the Commission welcomes all views on how the EU can best support national efforts to deliver adequate, sustainable and safe pensions in the light of the challenges facing pension systems from demographic ageing and the financial and economic crisis.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

INFORMATION TO PATIENTS

The vote of the ENVI committee on the Fjellner's reports on information to patients was postponed to 27-29 September.

MEPS REJECT 'TRAFFIC-LIGHT' FOOD LABELLING

Food labels should feature mandatory nutritional information and guideline daily amounts, according to draft EU legislation as adopted by MEPs at the plenary session in June. However, they rejected a proposal for 'traffic light' values to highlight the salt, sugar and fat content of processed foods. MEPs backed the European Commission proposal that quantities of fat, saturates, sugar and salt - as well as energy - must be indicated on the front of food packs. However, no quick agreement is expected with Council, so the draft legislation is likely to return to Parliament for a second reading. Once the legislation is adopted, food business will have three years to adapt to the rules. Smaller operators, with fewer than 100 employees and an annual turnover under €5 million, would have five years to comply. [More](#)

MEPS WANT FIRM TARGETS FOR EU2020 STRATEGY

A new form of economic governance for the EU is needed so that Europe is better prepared for future crises and to ensure the success of EU2020, the EU's growth and jobs strategy, said MEPs on 16/06. They also called for more concrete targets to be inserted into the EU2020 strategy, including a 3% GDP target for R&D spending, binding goals for greenhouse gas emissions and a 50% reduction in EU poverty. These recommendations were set out in two resolutions adopted by MEPs, one on economic governance and the other on the EU2020 strategy. [More](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

A [Written declaration on EU Workforce for health](#) is opened for signatures from Monday 17 May at the European Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg.

EU COURT OF JUSTICE

JUDGMENT IN JOINED CASES C-570/07 AND C-571/07

The demographic and geographical limits set by Asturian legislation for the opening of new pharmacies constitute a restriction on the freedom of establishment. Nevertheless, they are compatible with EU law, provided that they can be adjusted so as not to prevent, in areas with special demographic characteristics, the setting up of a sufficient number of pharmacies to ensure adequate pharmaceutical services. [More](#)

JUDGMENT IN CASE C-211/08

Where unscheduled hospital care is administered during a temporary stay in a Member State other than the Member State of affiliation, the latter is not required to reimburse the patient as regards costs which, in the State where the care was administered, fall to be paid

by the patient.

The institution of the Member State of affiliation is required to reimburse the institution of the Member State of stay, in which the care was administered, only as regards the costs incurred by that institution

on the basis of the level of cover applicable in the Member State of stay [More](#)

For more information: <http://curia.eu.int/>

GENERAL NEWS

HEALTH INSURANCE/SYSTEM

HEALTH CUT SPENDING

SOARING COSTS FORCE CANADA TO REASSESS HEALTH MODEL

Pressured by an aging population and the need to rein in budget deficits, Canada's provinces are taking tough measures to curb healthcare costs, a trend that could erode the principles of the popular state-funded system, says Reuters. An expert said provinces are weighing new sources of funding, including "means-testing" and moving toward evidence-based and pay-for-performance models. Other problems include trying to control independently set salaries for top hospital executives and doctors and rein in spiraling costs for new medical technologies and drugs. The losers could be drug companies and pharmacies, which are getting increasingly nervous. One cost-saving idea may be to make patients aware of how much it costs each time they visit a healthcare professional, which can make them using the services more wisely. [More](#)

REFORM

US HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES TRY TO SHAPE RULES UNDER NEW HEALTHCARE LAW

Health insurance companies in the US are lobbying federal and state officials in an effort to ward off strict regulation of premiums and profits under the new health care law, according to the NYTimes. Lobbyists are focusing on two provisions whose stated purpose is to ensure that consumers "get value for their dollars. One bars insurers from carrying out an "unreasonable premium increase" unless they first submit justifications to federal and state officials. Congress did not say what is unreasonable, leaving that to rule writers. Another provision, effective Jan. 1, requires that a minimum % of premium dollars be spent on true medical costs related to patient care — not retained by insurers as profit or used to cover administrative expenses. Insurers must refund money to consumers if they do not meet the standards, known as minimum loss ratios. Under the new law, insurers in the large group market are generally supposed to spend 85 % of customers' premiums on "clinical services" and quality-enhancing activities. The minimum is 80% for coverage sold to individuals and small groups. Thus, insurers are lobbying for a broad definition of quality improvement activities that would allow them to count spending on health information technology, nurse hot lines and efforts to prevent fraud. They also want to include the cost of reviewing care by doctors and hospitals, to determine if it was appropriate and followed clinical protocols. [More](#)
More on the reform: <http://www.healthreform.gov/>

SPECIFIC NEWS

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

WHO, SWINE FLU AND PHARMA COMPANIES

Scientists who drew up the key WHO guidelines advising governments to stockpile drugs in the event of a flu pandemic had previously been paid by drug companies which stood to profit, according to an investigation by the BMJ and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism ([More](#)). The report shows that WHO guidance issued in 2004 was authored by three scientists who had previously received payment for other work from Roche, which makes Tamiflu, and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), manufacturer of Relenza. On 3 June, a report by the Council of Europe accuses the WHO and European governments of vastly exaggerating the public health risks of swine flu and making secretive decisions that benefited pharmaceutical companies ([More](#)). "The tentacles of drug company influence are in all levels in the decision-making process," said a Labour MP. "It must be right that the WHO is transparent because there has been distortion of priorities of public health services all over Europe, waste of huge sums of public money and provocation of unjustified fear." Some experts believe that such public health decisions should be handed over to independent, rational decision making organisations, such as NICE ([More](#)).

HEALTH PERFORMANCE

WHY HIGHER HEALTH SPENDING AND STAFFING IN SCOTLAND COMPARED TO ENGLAND?

Questioning whether 12 to 16% higher health spending and higher staffing levels per head in Scotland compared with England has made any difference, a report by the Centre for Public Policy in the Regions and KPMG said it was hard to measure improved health outcomes that might have been hoped by the extra spending. "This could be due to worsening needs in Scotland relative to England, for example due to differing behavioural patterns, but at present it is difficult to convert any such higher needs into extra costs.", say the authors. The report was triggered after a recent Nuffield Trust report on the performance of the NHS across the UK which claimed that Scotland not only had the highest levels of poor health, health expenditure and staffing, but also had the lowest rates of staff productivity. However, the report said that data problems meant that many of the Nuffield Trust's findings were not robust. [More](#)

FUTURE HEAD OF GERMAN NICE SETS OUT AMBITIONS FOR HEALTH CARE

In a country with a powerful drug industry and a medical profession with little experience in evidence based medicine, the newly appointed head of German Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG), with evidence based medicine on his side, hopes to eliminate unnecessary drugs, medical devices, and

procedures while helping to save the country several billions in euros, according to the BMJ. He has bold ambitions for how the institute can contribute to Angela Merkel's plans to save €80bn from Germany's federal budget by 2014. He believes that €2bn can be cut from the annual drug budget. Alongside drugs he also wants the institute to assess medical devices, such as implants and pacemakers, diagnostic procedures, and operations for their clinical and cost effectiveness. "We have limited healthcare resources, and it should not be tolerated that devices, tests, and operations are not currently evaluated," he said. [More](#)

LONG TERM CARE

LONG TERM CARE IN SCANDINAVIA: THE WAY FORWARD

In a paper "[Scandinavian long-term care financing](#)" from the University of Oslo, the comparison of the systems for financing long-term care for older people (LTC) in the Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the 3 countries share common political traditions of local autonomy and universalism, and these common roots are very apparent when the financing of long-term care is concerned. There are high spending on LTC (2 to 2.8% GDP) and a trend towards deinstitutionalization. Nevertheless, the Scandinavian systems for long-term care exhibit some important deviations from the idealized "universal welfare state" to which these countries are normally ascribed. For example, user charges tend to be strongly dependent on earnings, which is incoherent with the general norm of flat-rate public services. Also, there is significant regional variation in the level of services provided, which is in direct contrast with the universalist ambitions. Overall, the Scandinavian countries distinguish themselves through their very high reliance on public spending in LTC. It is unclear to what extent the Scandinavian model for LTC financing will be sustainable as

demographic changes progress in the next few decades.

PHARMACEUTICALS AND AUSTERITY

SECOND FIRM WITHDRAWS DRUGS FROM GREECE OVER CUTS

Besides Novo Nordisk, another Danish pharmaceutical company, Leo Pharma, has withdrawn products from Greece in protest at the government's decision to cut the prices of medicines by 25%, according to BBCNews. The company says it is suspending sales of two popular drugs, an anti blood-clotting agent and a remedy for psoriasis, because the price reductions will cause job losses across Europe and would encourage similar moves in other countries with large debt problems such as Ireland and Italy. This decision takes Greece one step closer towards an all-out boycott by medical suppliers. The Greek government has condemned as unfair the action of both pharma companies. [More](#)

EUROPEAN AUSTERITY MEASURES HIT DRUG PRICES

France and Italy have joined the European austerity package bandwagon and announced major healthcare spending cuts, says PharmEx.com. France is to speed up plans to reduce drug prices by €100 million after a report found that its 2010 health spending has gone €600 million over budget. "We have to stop the infinite growth in prices for drugs. It's no longer reasonable," says the health ministry. Similarly, Italy has announced €24 billion of cuts, with €1.35 billion to be shaved off pharmaceutical spending. The country will cut the prices of generic drugs by 12.5% until the end of 2010 and from next year will limit reimbursement of prescription drugs to the cheapest versions only. The cuts follow the news of crisis-hit Greece's Draconian plans to impose reductions of 20–27% on patent medicines and to price generics at 30% lower than the brand." [More](#)

READERS' DIGEST

NEWSPAPER

HEALTH AFFAIRS

- June issue of Health Affairs focus on: "[Moving forward on health reform](#)" (in the US)

SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR - ILO

- Social Protection Floor Manual now available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#) and [English](#)

BOOKS - REPORTS – LINKS

DONOR RETREAT AND AIDS

- Backtracking by international donors in funding HIV/AIDS risks undermining years of positive achievements and will cause many more unnecessary deaths, warns Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in a new report. Titled '[No time to quit: HIV & AIDS treatment gap widening in Africa](#)', the report (download here) builds on analyses made in eight sub-Saharan countries to illustrate how major international funding institutions such as PEPFAR, the World Bank, UNITAID, and donors to the Global Fund have decided to cap, reduce or withdraw their

spending on HIV treatment and antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) over the past year and a half.

EUROPEAN DATABASE ON HEALTH PROJECTS

- "[HealthCompetence](#)": This website includes all projects related to life science and health supported by the European Commission since 2004. It also gives access to the projects results in terms of technology offers, patents and publications, which, together with interactive search devices, will facilitate the identification of potential collaboration partners and the set up of partnerships between academia and industry in health research.

HEALTH OUTCOMES

- "[How does insurance coverage improve health outcomes?](#)", Mathematica Policy Research Inc. The brief shows that insurance coverage in the US is strongly related to better health outcomes for both children and adults when it makes health care affordable and helps consumers use care appropriately.

HEALTH PERFORMANCE

- [“Health Care Systems: Efficiency and Institutions”](#), OECD working paper. This set of indicators allows the empirical characterisation of health care systems and the identification of groups of countries sharing similar health institutions. It also helps to uncover strengths and weaknesses of each country's health care system and assessing the scope for improving value-for-money.

HEALTH REFORM

- [“Health reform in The Netherlands could inspire France”](#) (FR), Institut économique Molinari (IEM), 4p. Liberalization instead of accounting cost containment policy should be the core of the health reform in France, points out the Institut économique Molinari (IEM). France should draw the lessons of the Dutch health reform of 2006, which presents several interesting ideas, inter alia going to more competition between health insurances in a highly regulated market.
- [“Basing Health Care on Empirical Evidence”](#), Mathematica Policy Research Inc. The US health reform emphasizes the development of evidence-based practice to improve the quality and effectiveness of health care and reduce unnecessary spending. This brief reviews initiatives under way to put evidence into practice.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- [Millenium Devolpment goals in the WHO European Region. As situational analysis at the eve of the five-year counttdown](#), WHO Europe, 2010, 50 pages

PATIENT INFORMATION

- [“Evidence That Consumers Are Skeptical About Evidence-Based Health Care”](#), Health Affairs
The purpose of this study was to determine

how the concept of making health care decisions based on evidence of effectiveness could be translated into language that consumers would understand and embrace. Few consumers understood terms such as "medical evidence" or "quality guidelines." Most believed that more care meant higher-quality, better care. The gaps in knowledge and misconceptions point to serious challenges in engaging consumers in evidence-based decision making.

- [“Patients as Part of the Healthcare Team”](#), Canadian Health Services Research Foundation. From giving children a voice in their care to providing peer support for mental health patients, these articles tell the stories of four organizations that are successfully including patients and their families in the provision of healthcare.
- [“The communication toolkit: using information to get high quality care”](#), National Business Group on Health. A collection of free health care quality communication materials to use with your workforce about evidence-based health care and getting high quality care.

RISK EQUALISATION

- The Irish Health Insurance Authority (HIA) publishes a [consultation paper on risk equalisation](#) in the Irish private health insurance market. End of May the government announced its strategy for a stable community rated health insurance market. As part of this strategy, the government announced that it has decided to implement a new, robust risk equalisation scheme to support the core policy of community rating in the private health insurance market.

GRAPH OF THE MONTH

Structure of primary health insurance market

In the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland, basic primary health coverage is supplied by not-for-profit insurers. In Germany, private for-profit insurers supply basic health coverage to the wealthiest part of the population with the means to opt out of social insurance. In the Netherlands, plans can operate on either a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.

	Czech Republic	Germany	Netherlands	Slovak Republic	Switzerland
Number of choices for a typical insurance customer	more than 5	more than 5	more than 5	3-5	more than 5
Market share of the top insurer (%)	60	10	29	n.a.	12
Market share of the top 3 insurers (%)	80	28	75	100	31
Market share of the top 5 insurers (%)	89	39	94	-	43
Market share of the top 10 insurers (%)	100	56	100	-	66
Market share of not-for-profit insurers (%)	100	85	n.a.	100	100
Market share of for-profit insurers (%)	0	15	n.a.	0	0

Source: Survey on health system characteristics 2008-2009.

EVENTS

TRAINING

OBSERVATORY VENICE SUMMER SCHOOL 2010

"EU integration and health systems: challenges and opportunities for patients, professionals and policy-makers" (San Servolo, Venice, 25-31 July 2010), organised by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, jointly with the Veneto Region. Deadline for applying until 7th of June. The Observatory asked kindly the AIM members to disseminate the announcement and link where to find the application form to your contacts and members who might be interested in attending the Summer School. [More](#)

BELGIAN EU PRESIDENCY (SELECTION)

TRIO PRESIDENCIES

1/2010-6/2011: Spain, Belgium, Hungary

7/2011-12/2012: Poland, Denmark and Cyprus

BELGIAN EU PRESIDENCY (7-12/2010)



www.eutrio.be/

- 1-2 July, Brussels, [Health security: lessons learned from the A\(H1N1\) pandemic in 2009 – better management of future health threats](#)
- 5-6 July, Brussels, [Informal meeting of EPSCO Council on Health](#)
- 7-9 July, Brussels, [Informal meeting of the Ministers of Empl, Social, Health, Consumer Affairs](#)
- 2 Sept, Future of Independent Academic Clinical Research in Europe
- 3 Sept, Conference on Child Poverty
- 7-9 Sept, Liège, [Pensions rights and adequate social protection](#)

- 9-10 Sept, [Ministerial Conference: Investing in the health professionals of tomorrow in Europe](#)
- 14-15 Sept, Reinforced convergence of social policies
- 23-24 Sept, [Ministerial Conference "Innovation and Solidarity"](#) (how to improve access to medicines)
- 30 Sept, Making Europe Fit for Work
- 10-12 Oct, Brugge, [Quality of Life for ageing people at work](#)
- 14 Oct, Hepatitis B and C in Europe
- 19-20 Oct, Brussels, [Innovative approaches for chronic illness in healthcare systems](#)
- 21-22 Oct, Namur, [Environmental health and social vulnerabilities](#)
- 21 Oct, Luxembourg, [EPSCO Council](#)
- 26-27 Oct, Brussels, on Social Services of General Interest
- 27-28 Oct, [Social Economy Conference](#)
- 7-9 Nov, [Pharmacovigilance Working Party](#)
- 8-9 Nov, [Reducing health inequalities from a regional perspective. What works, what doesn't?](#)
- 8-10 Nov, ["New strategies to monitor and control infections, etc..."](#); [Environment and Public Health in Modern Society](#)
- 17 Nov, [Role of generic medicines for the sustainability of healthcare](#)
- 19 Nov, [Redesigning healthcare](#) (by People living below the poverty line)
- 25-26 Nov, [High-level conference on dementia](#)
- 2-3 Dec, [ENG Assessment of EU nutrition policy](#)
- 3 Dec, [21st Century Healthcare for Europe](#) ("How to reduce inequalities and promote innovation?")
- 6-7 Dec, [EPSCO Council](#)
- 8-9 Dec, [Diabetes prevention, people and politics – A grand Challenge](#)
- 9 Dec, Forensic Psychiatric Care in Europe
- 9 Dec, [A European Strategy for Chronic Conditions](#) (rare and serious diseases)

AIM

AIM WORKING GROUPS

SPECIFIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

On 1 June, some AIM members which have specific Disease Management programmes (DMP) met under the chair of J. Van Emelen (MLOZ, BE). DAK (D), Maccabi HC (IL) and MLOZ (B) presented the developments of DMP in their organisations. EHTEL presented the development on telemedicine in Europe and their collaboration with AIM. The next steps were discussed, inter alia the proposal to set up a kind of clearing house or center of excellence on DM, with the interested AIM members.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

On 2 June, the ICC, chaired by Alain Coheur (UNMS, B) discussed the following items. News on mutualities: the results of the International Congress of Gestar Salud in Cartagena, Colombia 29-31 Oct. 2009 and the development of the mutuality in Argentina. News of mutualist networks: the Sept 2009 forum of "La Concertation" in Cameroun and its new agreement; the Network Education and Solidarity; the activities of the AMA and World

Mutualist Meeting, Buenos Aires September 2010; the MASMUT Platform in Belgium. Lastly, some international challenges: Key points by the Commission on its communication on "EU and Global Health"; an initiative report on Social Economy in Africa by EESC; UN Social Protection Floor Initiative by ILO/STEP.

LONG TERM CARE WORKING GROUP

On 2 June, the joint AIM-AEIP working group on LTC met under the chair of Rachelle Kaye (Maccabi HC, IL). The following items were discussed: Key points on LTC of the 2010 Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, by the DG Social Affairs and Employment; innovations on LTC in The Netherlands by Vilans; Campaign on Intergenerational solidarity by AEIP; Summary of the Spanish EU Presidency Conference "active and healthy ageing" in Logroño, Spain, in April 2010, by AIM; Innovative experience on healthy ageing by Maccabi HC. A discussion panel on "Healthy ageing and the role of the mutuals and paritarian institutions" ended the meeting. The next steps of the working group were presented.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

On 3 June, the Committee met under the chairmanship of Jean-Philippe Huchet (FNMF, F). Presentations were made on the European Partnership to fight against cancer, the EU2020 Strategy with proposals regarding the health sector, activities on the European statute for mutual. Updated information were provided on new European developments as well as on activities of the AIM working groups on Solvency II, long term care and disease management. Activities of Social Economy Europe were also presented. Presentations are available on the AIM Intranet.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

The main topics of both meetings, chaired by Willi Budde, AIM President, were: reports of the praesidium, of the secretariat, of the financial situation and of the Internal Audit Committee, which were adopted. The main point of discussion was the proposal on the future of AIM which was adopted, as well as the holding of an extraordinary GA in Casablanca to take into account the proposal of

associate partners in the AIM statutes. The GA adopted the membership modifications, the financial accounts 2009, the new membership contribution scheme and budget 2011.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

AIM and the ML (Mutualité Libérale) held an international conference on "health and environment" on 4 June, with several passionate speakers, which ended by an interactive panel. At this occasion, a declaration on "Health and environment: time to act. Better health through a better environment - it's up to everyone", was adopted and is available on the AIM website.

PHARMACEUTICAL EXPERT GROUP

The pharmaceutical expert group met on 25 June in Brussels and discussed following topics:

- The pharmaceutical package
 - EUnetHTA Stakeholder Forum
 - German Health reform
 - Information on new European developments
- Documentation is available on the AIM Intranet.

AIM

AIM AGENDA (MAIN ITEMS)

- Task Force Public Relations & Communication (Brussels, 1 July)
- European Affairs Expert Panel (Brussels, 16 September)
- **AIM Board of Governors (Casablanca, Morocco, 20-22 October 2010)**
 20/10: *Morning*: Pension * – *Afternoon*: International Cooperation Committee *
 21/10: *Morning*: European Affairs Committee ** - *Afternoon*: Extra. General Assembly/ Board of Directors **
 Gala dinner
 22/10: Conference on "Statute of the Mutual and governance" **
** Simultaneous French, English and Spanish translation. - **Simultaneous French, English and German translation.*
- Health reform working group (open to all) (Berlin, 9 November 2010)

The monthly AIM Flash is compiled by Ph. Swennen and R. Kessler.

For more information on one of the topics mentioned above, please contact the AIM Secretariat.

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