

**AIM Extraordinary General Assembly meetings (Casablanca, 20-22 October 2010)**

The presentations of the meetings and the conference and the photo gallery are available on [www.aim-mutual.org](http://www.aim-mutual.org).  
(Login: aim – Password: aimmut50)

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## EU INSTITUTIONS

### EU COUNCIL

#### BELGIAN EU PRESIDENCY (7-12/2010)



[www.eutrio.be/](http://www.eutrio.be/) - [Belgian EU Presidency programme](#)

#### FORUM ON SOCIAL SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

The Belgian Presidency organised on 26-27/10 the **third Forum on Social Services of General interest**. It offered a chance to conduct a wide-ranging discussion on SSIG, and the role they play in various European countries, particularly during this time of economic crisis and budgetary restrictions. At this Forum, 15 concrete recommendations were adopted. Documentation and presentations are available [here](#). [More](#)

On the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum **AIM co-signed a European manifesto** "In favour of a new EU approach on social services of general interest (SSGI)" calling on for an institutionalised European policy to be put in place to recognize, promote and develop SSGI of high quality. [More](#)

#### EXPLORING THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Within the framework of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, a conference was organised on 21-22/10 on "Environmental health and social vulnerabilities"

During this event, European specialists debated how to encourage the development of a second European Environment and Health Plan and to encourage the actors in environmental health to systematically take socially vulnerable populations into account in policies, research, training, etc. In fact, although environmental health and social inequalities are well known as separate problems, the connections between the two have become subjects of interest only recently. [More](#)

#### INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR CHRONIC ILLNESSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

The Ministerial Conference on Innovative Approaches for Chronic Illnesses in Public Health and Healthcare systems was held on 19-20/10. In addition two pre-conferences on Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases and on Respiratory Illness were organised. All events focused on innovative, patient-oriented and collaborative initiatives in the area of prevention and care. AIM delegates, in particular Dr. Philippe Swennen and Jan van Emelen made presentations at the event. [More](#)

#### SOCIAL ECONOMY CONFERENCE

On 27-28/10, the Belgian EU Presidency organised a conference on "The social economy and the European 2020 strategy – Local values and territorial roots". Several AIM delegates attend the event. [More](#)

#### EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (EPSCO) COUNCIL (21-10-2010)

At their meeting on 21 October, the Employment and Social Affairs Ministers adopted new guidelines and conclusions on the governance of the European Employment Strategy in the context of Europe 2020. The Ministers were briefed on the Commission communication concerning the flagship Initiative Youth on the Move. The Ministers also approved the opinion of the Social protection Committee on the social dimension in the Europe 2020 strategy. [More EN](#)

### EU COMMISSION

#### GENERAL AFFAIRS

#### COMMISSION ADOPTS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2011

The European Commission has adopted its work programme for 2011 which reflects the Commission's determination to lead Europe out of the crisis and towards a future of prosperity, security and social justice.

The priorities for 2011 fall under five main headings:

- Sustaining Europe's social market economy out of the crisis and beyond
- Restoring growth for jobs
- Pursuing the citizens' agenda
- Europe pulling its weight on the global stage

- From input to impact: making the most of EU policies

**Following initiatives are concerning AIM member organisations:**

**Health and pharma sector**

- Revision of Transparency Directive regarding pricing of pharmaceuticals
- Revision of clinical trials Directive (2012)
- Revision of medical devices Directives (2012)

**Social policy**

- Revision of the Directive on Working Time
- Green Paper on the Professional qualifications Directive

**Services of general interest**

- Communication on a quality framework for services of general interest (2012)
- Revision of the State aid rules applicable to services of general economic interest (non-legislative initiative)

**Pensions**

- White Paper on Pensions
- Review of Directive concerning Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision

**Company law**

- Proposal for a Regulation on a European Foundation
- Consultation of European social partners on the Directive regarding the European Company Statute as well as the European Cooperative Society with regard to the involvement of employees
- Revision of Directive regarding the European Company Statute as well as the European Cooperative Society with regard to the involvement of employees (2012)
- Revision of Regulation on the European Company Statute (2012)

**Internal Market**

- Communication on the implementation of the Services Directive
- Green Paper on a framework initiative on corporate governance
- Social Business Initiative

[More](#)

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**INTERNAL MARKET**

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**EUROPEAN SINGLE MARKET: 50 MEASURES TO BOOST GROWTH AND ENHANCE CITIZENS' RIGHTS**

The European Commission sets out a series of concrete solutions in two reports published on 27/10 to boost the single market. In the **EU Citizenship Report**, the Commission proposes measures to make peoples' lives easier when they exercise their EU rights to get married, buy a house or register a car in another EU country. To boost growth, competitiveness and social progress, the **Single Market Act** calls for action to make the lives of all market participants – companies, consumers and workers – easier. Among the initiatives, the Commission proposes to come up in 2011 with a:

- Social Business Initiative
- Public Consultation (Green Paper) on the implementation of the Regulation on the Statute for a European Cooperative Society
- **Study on mutual societies to examine in particular their cross-border activities**

[More – FAQ EN](#)

All interested parties are invited to submit their views on the initiatives proposed in the Single Market Act. The deadline is 28 February 2011.

**COMMISSION PUBLISHES REPORTS ON HOW PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE WORKS IN PRACTICE**

This report, undertaken by the Commission's Internal Market department, identifies areas of concern such as Member States' reluctance to allow temporary mobility of professionals. The Commission is publishing simultaneously more than 170 reports on recognition of professional qualifications from Member State authorities. One main conclusion of these reports is that automatic recognition of qualifications is overall a positive achievement for professionals and for authorities but a number of issues merit further consideration such as extending the implementation of the proactive alert mechanism on malpractice between Member States and the training requirements in general. The next steps are: an extensive public consultation on the rules that are in place (to be launched by the end of this year), an evaluation report (in autumn 2011) and a Green Paper (in 2012). [More](#)

**CONSUMERS AT HOME IN THE INTERNAL MARKET"**

The Scoreboard ranks consumer markets by looking at indicators such as comparability, consumer trust, consumer satisfaction, problems, complaints, the ease of switching providers, prices, etc. The purpose is to identify the markets that appear most at risk of malfunctioning and to carry out in-depth studies in order to analyse problems and identify solutions. For the first time, the Scoreboard ranks as many as 50 different markets – from food to domestic appliances to car repair – in all EU countries. In the light of the findings, the Commission is launching follow-up studies for the markets of *internet service provision and meat*. [More](#)

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**PENSIONS**

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**CONFERENCE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON PENSIONS**

On 29 October 2010 the Commission organised a conference on the Green Paper on Pensions which was adopted on 7 July. With this Green Paper the European Commission launched a Europe-wide public debate on how to ensure adequate, sustainable and safe pensions and how the EU can support the efforts of Member States. The consultation period will run until 15 November 2010. Mr Henrique Pégas participated on behalf of AIM in the event. [More – Commissioner intervention](#)

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**RESEARCH**

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**R&D AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS: TOP EU FIRMS CUT INVESTMENT LESS THAN US RIVALS, BUT EUROPE STILL WELL BEHIND**

The European Commission's 2010 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard shows that R&D investment by top EU companies fell by 2.6% in 2009, even though sales and profits fell much more, by 10.1% and 21.0%

respectively. [More](#) As regards R&D investment in the **pharmaceuticals sector**, it continues to rise whereas the automobile and IT hardware sectors show a substantial decrease. The pharmaceuticals sector consolidated its position as the top R&D investor, increasing R&D by 5.3%. It is also one of the few sectors that managed to increase sales during the crisis (6.4%). Moreover, large pharmaceutical companies are reinforcing their position by increasing their R&D capacity through mergers and acquisitions, often involving biotech firms. [MEMO\\_EN](#)

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### PAID MATERNITY LEAVE: EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO WORK ON BALANCED COMPROMISE TO ADVANCE MOTHERS' RIGHTS, FOLLOWING EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTE

In a first reading, the European Parliament voted on 20/10 on the European Commission's proposal to reform the 1992 Maternity Leave Directive ([Directive 92/85/EEC](#)). The Commission had proposed an increase in the minimum period of maternity leave from 14 to 18 weeks and to pay women 100% of their salary during maternity leave, giving Member States the option to set a ceiling at the level of sick pay ([IP/08/1450](#)). The European Parliament wants to give women full pay for 20 weeks of maternity leave and to introduce two weeks of fully paid paternity leave. This goes beyond the Commission's proposal. The next step is for the Council of Ministers to take a position in first reading on the Commission's proposal. [More](#)

## SOCIAL ECONOMY

### COMMISSIONER TAJANI ANNOUNCED THE REALISATION OF A STUDY ON MUTUAL SOCIETIES

On 13/10 at a meeting organised by two political groups in the European Parliament, S&D and EPP, on the topic "*From Words to action: European Scholars in Support of Social Economy Enterprises*", Mr Tajani, Vice-president of the European Commission in charge of Industry and entrepreneurship, announced the realisation of a study on mutual societies in 2011. The study will analyse the situation of both the mutual insurance sector as well as the situation of mutual health insurance sector. The study should mainly focus on:

- the mapping of relevant and existing legislation on mutual societies in all Member states
- The identification of obstacles and barriers
- Recommendations

Further information is available at the AIM Secretariat.

### REPORT ON THE APPLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY STATUTE

End October, DG ENTR published a study on the implementation of the Regulation 1435/2003 on the Statute for a European Cooperative Society (SCE): [Executive Summary and Part I: Synthesis and comparative report](#) ; [Part II: National Reports](#)

This report is focusing on 30 countries and the conclusions will be submitted to public consultation. The report provides information on rules applied to the SCE, on national legislation on cooperatives,

and the impact of the Statute on the national legislation and the promotion of cooperatives in EU countries as well as recommendations for future legislation. The final results of that consultation will be presented at a conference in 2012 and if appropriate, the Commission will come up with proposals for amendments of the Regulation on the European Statute for cooperatives.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### PATIENT MOBILITY

On 27/10, the EP ENVI committee adopted its draft recommendation for second reading on the Council position regarding the proposed Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare (rapporteur: Françoise Grossetête). The EP position diverges greatly from the Council common position on key aspects [More](#) - [more](#) The EP will no start discussions to find a common agreement with the Council. The vote in plenary session is foreseen in January 2011.

### WRITTEN DECLARATION ON EUROPEAN STATUTE FOR MUTUALS, ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATIONS

On 10 November, 5 MEPS – Marc Tarabella, Regina Bastos, Renate Weber, Pascal Canfin, Marie-Christine Vergiat – will launch a written Declaration calling on the European Commission to provide European Statutes for mutuals, association and foundations. The Written Declaration can be co-signed by the MEPs until 17.2.2011. **AIM** is at the initiative of this written Declaration and will support it with several lobbying campaigns towards MEPs.

### EP APPROVAL FOR NEW RULES AGAINST LATE PAYMENT

On 20/10, the European Parliament voted in favour of a new directive on combating late payment in commercial transactions. The directive will give better protection to creditors, in most cases SMEs, while respecting the freedom of contract. Public authorities will have to pay within 30 days, or else pay an interest rate of 8%. This measure is expected to result in an extra €180 billion of liquidity being available to businesses.

The new provisions of the directive include, among others a harmonisation of period for payment by public authorities to businesses: Public authorities will have to pay for the goods and services that they procure within 30 days or, in very exceptional circumstances, within 60 days. [More](#) – [More on Council agreement](#)

### HEALTH MUTUALS IN AFRICA NEED OUR SUPPORT

Health aid in Africa is more vital than ever, but its effectiveness has to be called into question, declares the S&D Group in the European Parliament. The report by S&D Vice-president, Belgian Socialist MEP Véronique De Keyser examines the health mutual initiatives which are growing in many African countries today. "The European Union must coordinate, support and develop these initiatives," said the MEP. [More](#)

## EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### EESC – NEW PRESIDENT

The EESC, an EU advisory body, held its inaugural session from 19 to 21 October. Of the 344 EESC members, 102 are sitting on the Committee for the first time. Sustainable green growth, solidarity with the

developing world and more civil society involvement at the EU level – these are the three priorities flagged up by **Staffan Nilsson**, the newly elected **President** of the EESC. Staffan Nilsson's term of office (two-and-a-half year) will run until April 2013. He will be supported in his work by two vice-presidents, **Anna Maria Darmanin**, a Maltese member now in charge of communication, and **Jacek Krawczyk**, a Polish national responsible for budgetary affairs at the Committee. [More](#)

## EU COURT OF JUSTICE

**No 97/2010 : 5 October 2010** [Judgment of the Court of Justice in Case C-512/08 Commission v France](#) ([es](#) [cs](#) [de](#) [el](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [hu](#) [pl](#) [pt](#) [ro](#) [sk](#)).

Freedom to provide services: French legislation concerning reimbursement for planned healthcare treatment in another Member State is compatible with EU law.

However, regardless of the setting, hospital or otherwise, in which it is installed and used, it must be possible for the major medical equipment exhaustively listed in the Public Health Code to be the subject of planning policy. Consequently, having regard to the dangers both to the organisation of public health policy and to the balance of the financial social security system, the requirement of prior authorisation for that kind of treatment is, as European Union law now stands, a justified restriction.

**No 93/2010 : 30 September 2010** [Opinion of the Advocate General in the case C-236/09 Association Belge des Consommateurs Test-Achats and Others](#) ([es](#) [de](#) [el](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [nl](#) [pl](#) [pt](#)).

Principles of Community law: In the opinion of Advocate General Juliane Kokott it is not compatible with EU fundamental rights to take the sex of an insured person into account as a risk factor in insurance contracts

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

## STAKEHOLDERS

### ALLIANCE OF THE MUTUALS OF AMERICA (AMA)

#### INTENSE ACTIVITY OF THE MUTUALISM IN ARGENTINA AND THE AMERICAN CONTINENT

Two important events recently took place in Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, which are well described in the following weblinks: [www.famsa.org.ar](http://www.famsa.org.ar) and [www.amamutualidades.org](http://www.amamutualidades.org).

#### 1. VI World Meeting of mutual in social economy

On 30 September and 1 October, AMA. CAM. FAMSAs and FEMUSS with the collaboration of AIM organised the VI. World Meeting of Mutuals in Buenos Aires. It was a big success with more than 1.500 participants from all American countries. Besides the CAM and FAMSAs, a delegation of 6 AIM member representatives from Africa and Europe and 1 of the secretariat, attended the meeting and spoke at the conference. The event was a great opportunity for the participants to exchange on experiences, reinforce the movement and be a window for the mutual movement.

#### 2. First Meeting of Health Cooperatives and Mutuals

This event was organised in Buenos Aires on 15 October by FAMSAs and FAESS and jointly supported by INAES and the OPS.

#### AGREEMENT WITH AMA AND PAHO

At the occasion of the VI World Meeting of Mutuals in Buenos Aires, AMA signed an agreement with PAHO (PanAmerican Health Organisation) for the development of scientific and technical activities, assistance and health promotion.

#### “EDUCATION AND SOLIDARITY NETWORK”

On 28-29/9 in Buenos Aires, took place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ibero-American meeting of the “Education and Solidarity Network” took place, with participation of MGEN and AIM secretariat, as well as universities and training centers for Cooperatives and Mutuals. They agreed on 4 programmes with universities to develop training modules for mutual and cooperative leaders and train them, as well to continue the ongoing e-learning process.

## GENERAL NEWS

### HEALTH INSURANCE/SYSTEM

#### HEALTH CARE RATIONING

#### RATIONING IS NO OPTION – SECURE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The rationing of health services is not a theme in Austria nor, essentially, in the European aggregate, according to the Austrian Ministry of Health in a speech in 13th European Health Forum Gastein. An important condition is that health care systems remain sustainably financeable. On the sustainable financing of outpatient health care services, throughout Europe, existing models of financing and reward in the health service sector are being more broadly scrutinized in wake of the economic crisis. Innovative new models are being developed. Experiences with them are being exchanged and their potential transferability across health systems

assessed. “More than ever, we ought to be copying good solutions from each other in Europe, instead of constantly reinventing the wheel,” said the Minister. He called for better coordination of the multitude of projects and programmes at the EU level and for optimizing their practical results. [www.ehfg.org](http://www.ehfg.org)

#### HEALTH EXPENDITURE

#### SUSTAINABILITY OF IRISH HEALTH EXPENDITURE

At a health budget conference in October, the authors found the following issues associated with the sustainability of Irish health expenditure over the last decade.

- While Ireland spent a similar proportion of national income on health as other EU countries in 2007, the recent decline in national income has meant that this ratio has increased sharply in the last two years.



- The proportion of public expenditure devoted to health in Ireland has remained relatively stable over the last decade.
- Shifting the cost of health services to patients (via increased user charges) may reduce the exchequer cost of healthcare but it does not ensure long-term economic sustainability.
- Sustainability is best maintained by the continued implementation of measures which seek to enhance efficiency (e.g., increased use of day case surgery) and reduce input costs.
- One of the fastest-growing components of public health expenditure in Ireland is expenditure on pharmaceuticals and payments to community pharmacists, which amounted to 13.6% of total public health expenditure.

[Slides from presentation](#)

## SPECIFIC NEWS

### HEALTH REFORM IN CHINA

#### CHINESE HEALTH COVERAGE IN RURAL AREAS: INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS

After the market based economic reforms since 1978, the health sector in the rural area was left predominantly to private practices that operated on fee for service. This resulted in a massive loss of access to care among rural residents, especially the poor and more than 90% of the rural population had no health insurance coverage and had to pay out of pocket for almost all health services. Since 2003, a New Rural Cooperative Medical Scheme (NCMS) was launched to provide health insurance to 800 million rural citizens, which is a government run, heavily subsidised voluntary insurance programme with its main policy focus on reducing the risk of catastrophic health spending for rural residents. Recent evaluations showed inconsistent findings on the impact of the NCMS, which is confronted to soaring health costs, lack of quality health services and rapidly growing number of elderly people. The China's health reforms over the past 30 years may offer valuable lessons for other developing countries namely, that a market driven laissez faire approach to healthcare reform is not a panacea. [More](#)

### HEALTH PRIORITIES

#### HEALTH PRIORITIES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE CRISIS

"We must not allow the aftermath of the financial turmoil to contribute to social inequalities in health. Instead we must use this opportunity to reform and

improve our healthcare systems", says the Norwegian Health Minister, chair of the OECD Health Ministerial Meeting in October. Prevention, strong primary care and increased co-ordination are keys to meet changing demographics and new disease patterns. [More - Final Communiqué of the OECD Health Ministerial Meeting](#)

### PREVENTION

#### OECD SAYS GOVERNMENTS MUST FIGHT FAT

Since the 1980s, obesity has spread at an alarming rate. Changes in food supply and eating habits, combined with a dramatic fall in physical activity, have made obesity a global epidemic. Across OECD countries, one in 2 adults is currently overweight and 1 in 6 is obese. Rates are highest in the US and Mexico and lowest in Japan and Korea. Children have not been spared, with up to 1 in 3 currently overweight. Severely obese people die 8-10 years sooner than those of normal-weight, similar to smokers, and they are more likely to develop diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. Obesity is a burden on health systems, with health care expenditure for an obese person at least 25% higher than for someone of normal weight. Prevention strategies would avoid hundreds of thousands of deaths from chronic diseases every year. It would cost from USD 10 to USD 30 per person, depending on the country. [More](#)

### SUSTAINABLE AND QUALITY HEALTH CARE

#### HOW TO GET SUSTAINABLE AND QUALITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

In a collective report, ten of the leading health and social care organisations in the voluntary sector in UK have identified the five key themes that the health and social care system must embrace to be sustainable and to ensure quality. The themes are: co-ordinated care, patients engaged in decisions about their care, supported self-management, prevention, early diagnosis and intervention, emotional, psychological and practical support. The methodology was that each organisation submitted evidence to The King's Fund, which independently analysed and assessed each submission and worked with the organisations to establish a common position. [More](#)

## READERS' DIGEST

### NEWSPAPER

#### EURO HEALTH

- New Eurohealth: "[Measuring the quality of Long Term Care](#)", European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. This issue of Eurohealth looks at measuring the quality of long-term care in Austria, England, Finland, Germany, Hungary the Netherlands and the USA. Also covered are the topics of health financing in Azerbaijan, Health Technology Assessment in

Slovenia, and improving performance while recovering from a financial crisis in Estonia.

#### HEALTH POLICY SUCCESS STORIES

- Best practices: The OECD has gathered some examples of health policy initiatives which have met with considerable success within our member countries. [More information](#).

**BOOKS - REPORTS – LINKS****HEALTH PERFORMANCE**

- “[Value for Money in Health Spending](#)”, OECD. Health spending continues to rise inexorably, growing faster than the economy in most OECD countries. Most of this spending comes from the public purse. Given the recent economic downturn, countries are looking for ways to improve the efficiency of health spending. This publication examines current efforts to improve health care efficiency, including tools that show promise in helping health systems provide the best care for their money.

**HEALTH WORKFORCE**

- Policy brief from the Belgian EU Presidency Ministerial Conference on “Investing in Europe’s health workforce of tomorrow”, Sept 2010.  
[“How to create conditions for adapting physicians’ skills to new needs and lifelong](#)

[learning](#)” HEN-OBS joint policy brief No. 14 (2010)  
[“How to create an attractive and supportive working environment for health professionals”](#)  
 HEN-OBS joint policy brief No.15 (2010)  
[“Assessing future health workforce needs”](#) Policy summary 2 (2010)  
[“Using audit and feedback to health professionals to improve the quality and safety of health care”](#)  
 Policy summary 3 (2010)

**PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR**

- “[PHIS Hospital Pharma Report](#)”, funded by EC. The report provides updated information on hospital drug purchasing in EU countries, as well as the first results of a survey on prices conducted in 25 hospitals, 6 countries and 12 products.

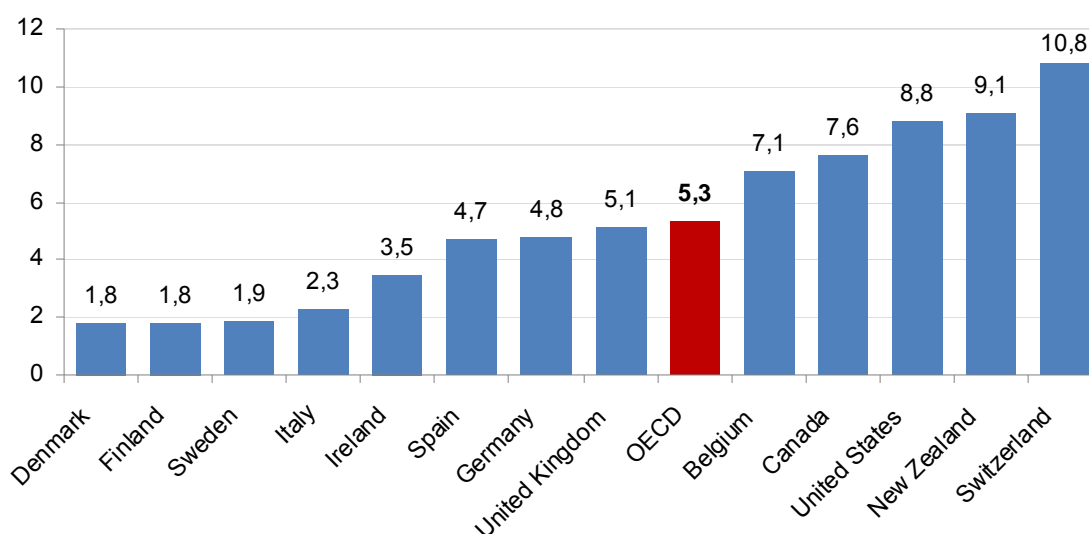
**TELEHEALTH**

- “How can telehealth help in the provision of integrated care?” New joint policy brief. European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

**GRAPH OF THE MONTH****Preventable adverse events: a priority**

Better quality can save money by avoiding unnecessary procedures, not to mention some costly mistakes (see below). Health care errors occur in over 10% of hospital stays in OECD countries, nearly half of which can be prevented or avoided.

**Foreign body left in after procedure, rate per 100 000 discharges, 2007**



Medical errors have probably killed more people in the US than traffic accidents. 40% of UK hospital emergency admissions could be avoided if better primary care is provided.

Source : OECD Health Care Quality Indicators Database 2009

**EVENTS****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/](http://www.eutrio.be/)

- 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)

### OTHER EVENTS

- 30 March – 1 April 2011, Vienna, Austria, "*Hospital Pharmacists in a changing world – opportunities and challenges*", congress organized by EAHP- European association of hospital pharmacists. <http://www.eahp.eu/Congresses>

## AIM

### AIM WORKING GROUPS

All presentations are available on the AIM Intranet.

#### PENSION GROUP

On 20 October, Henrique Pêgas (UMP, P) chaired the AIM Pension Expert Group meeting which took place in Casablanca. Following presentations:

- Henrique Pêgas on the Green Paper on Pensions
- David Eatock, European Commission, on the Green Paper on "*Towards adequate, sustainable and safe European pension systems*"
- Valérie Meftah, CCMSA (F) on the Pension reform in France
- Alain Hernandez, UMR President (F) on Proposals from Union Mutualiste Retraite (UMR) regarding the Pension reform in France
- Said Ahmidouch, General Director, Caisse Nationale de la Sécurité Sociale (CNSS), on the Moroccan pension system

#### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

On 20 October, the ICC, chaired by Alain Coheur (UNMS, B) discussed the following items.

- Mutuels in Morocco after the 2004 health reform and prospects, Aziz Alami, OMFAM, MO
- Universal health coverage and role of the mutual in Burkina Faso: lessons learned by ILO/STEP, Olivier Louis dit Guerin, ILO/STEP
- Social Mutual of the workers of the road transporter sector in Senegal, Olivier Louis dit Guerin, ILO/STEP
- The mutual in Mali in time of universal health coverage, Babassa Djikiné, UTM President, Mali
- State of the Concertation, Alain Coheur, Coordinator of the Concertation
- Education and Solidarity Network : follow-up of the activities, Jean-Philippe Huchet, RES President
- Report of the European Parliament on health care in Subsaharian Africa, Alain Coheur, ICC Chairman
- Follow-up of the EU policy « EU in global health » and news of the EU for Africa, Philippe Swennen, AIM

- Results of the World Mutual Meeting in Buenos Aires 30 Sept-1 Oct 2010, Philippe Swennen, AIM

#### EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

On 21 October, the Committee met under the chairmanship of Jean-Philippe Huchet (FNMF, F). Following presentations were made:

- Report on European developments, Rita Kessler
- Cross-border healthcare and patient rights, Christian Horemans, MLOZ (B)
- Commission requests Slovenia to comply with EU rules on complementary health insurance: Vzajemna point of view, Dušan KIDRIC, Chairman of Vzajemna Board, Slovenia
- A new law on mutualities in Belgium, Jean Hermesse, ANMC (B)
- European statute for mutuals, Pedro Bleck da Silva, UMP (P)
- Health and environment: environmental diseases - time to act, Geert Messiaen, UNML (B)
- SEE Europe and EP social economy intergroup, Alain Coheur, UNMS (B)

#### EXTRARODINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The main topics of both meetings, chaired by Willi Budde, AIM President, were: Adoption of the revision of the AIM Constitution and Internal Rules to include associated partners and necessary adaptations, Presentation of CMIM (MO), Changes of AIM member delegations in Board of directors, Report of the Presidium and approval of the new AIM Vice-President Paul Van Rooij (ZN, NL), Activity report of the Secretariat and the European Affairs and International Commission, Follow-up of the action plan of the Future of AIM (Task force public relations/communication and Contacts associate partners and new members), Report of the Treasury, Decision on new Membership applications, withdrawals and radiations, approval to send an AIM motion to Greek Ministers to support the mutuals in Greece.

The Board of Directors ended by a Round table on "Budget constraints on health financing: lessons learned from countries and challenges". The panel, moderated by Paul Van Rooij (ZN, NL), was composed by Abdelaziz Adnane (CNOPS, MO), Arielle Garcia (FNMF, F), Stefan Kaufmann (santesuisse, CH).

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The conference on 22 October organised by AIM and CMIM, on “statute of mutual and governance” was inaugurated by the Ministry of Employment and Professional training, Rhmani Jamal and A. Alaoui, CMIMC president and AIM Vice-President. There presentations on:

- The statute of the mutual movement and governance in Morocco, Abdelaziz Adnane, DG CNOPS, Morocco
- Belgium: the law on mutual benefit societies, the challenge of governance and Europe, Jean Hermesse, SG ANMC/LCM, B
- Lebanon: statutes, democratic management and governance of mutuals, Ghassan Daou, President UTML, Lebanon
- France: the French mutual code and governance, Jean-Philippe Huchet, FNMF Secretary General, MGEN Vice- president, AIM Vice- president, F

- Mali: mutuals, their governance and the WAEMU regulation on social mutuals, Babassa Djikiné, President UTM, Vice- president UAM, MA
- Slovenia: voluntary mutuals benefit society, statutes and governance, Dušan Kidrič, CEO Vzajemna Board, SLO
- Principles of governance and their implications within the framework of solvency II, Marie-Laure Dreyfuss, Deputy Director, Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel ACP, France

The conference ended with a round table moderated by Alain Coheur (UNMS, B) and composed by Abdelaziz Adnane (CNOPS, MO), Babassa Djikiné (UTM, MA), Ghassan Daou (UTML, LB), Dušan Kidrič (Vzajemna, SLO).

**AIM****AIM AGENDA (MAIN ITEMS)**

- Health reform working group (open to all) (Berlin, 9 November 2010)
- European Affairs Expert Panel: Brussels (Brussels, 6 December 2010 and 31 January 2011)
- Pharmaceutical expert group (Brussels, 20 January 2011)

*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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