



2<sup>nd</sup> symposium

# EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS



Brussels, 28 September 2007

On 28 September next, as part of its agreement with RIZIV/INAMI, the Observatoire social européen vzw will be holding a second symposium dealing with the impact of European integration on national healthcare systems. The aim of the symposium is to inform the actors involved in the Belgian healthcare system about recent developments and to stimulate debate. The symposium will be preceded by a workshop bringing together the authors of a book entitled *"Health Systems Governance in Europe: The Role of EU Law and Policy"*. It will be written under the guidance of Professor Elias Mossialos and has been commissioned by RIZIV/INAMI and the Belgian public authorities. We are delighted to welcome the presence and active participation of internationally renowned experts in this specialist area at the symposium.

The day's proceedings will be introduced by Professor Tamara Hervey who will present a legal and political analysis of the European framework, covering the relevant stipulations laid down in the Treaty, regulations, Court rulings and "soft law". She will also outline the background against which recent developments are taking place. Afterwards, the gathering will examine in greater depth the impact of European integration in two specific areas: e-health and voluntary health insurance.

European privacy legislation and the way it is implemented in the Member States within the Union determines to a large extent the way in which patient data is protected and electronic patient records can be used. Other topics covered in the e-health session include electronic communication, such as implantable medical devices; telemonitoring; telemedicine; the electronic health card and Internet advertising.

The impact of European law on voluntary and supplementary health insurance is currently a burning issue in Belgium. In many of the Member States of the European Union, the role of health insurances supplementing or for some population group replacing compulsory social security coverage in order to guarantee adequate protection against health risks is growing. Governments are often taking action to regulate and subsidise this sector to ensure access is available to this insurance. However, the application of European legislation relating to insurance cover – in particular the Third European non-life insurance directive – is creating great uncertainty, more specifically about the extent to which governments can provide guidance and promote the social nature of the provisions in this area.

An introduction will be presented on both themes by an academic speaker who is one of the authors of the book mentioned above. This will be followed by a presentation of the view of the European Commission, an explanation about developments in another Member State, plus an illustration of the situation in Belgium.

The final session will look ahead and examine the extent to which – and how – the European Union can create a regulatory framework that acknowledges the specific nature of the healthcare sector in applying internal market rules. The legal options will be looked at as part of the introduction, after which Belgian Members of the European Parliament will be invited to clarify their point of view in this particular area.

## PROGRAMME

9.00-9.30 REGISTRATION

9.30-10.10 **EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS**

Chair: **Jo De Cock**, General Manager, RIZIV/INAMI

- **Welcome address**  
Jo De Cock, General Manager, RIZIV/INAMI
- **Health care and the EU: a legal and policy-making perspective**  
Tamara Hervey, Professor of Law, Sheffield University, UK

10.10-11.45 **EU LAW AND E-HEALTH**

Chair: **Jo De Cock**, General Manager, RIZIV/INAMI

- **Academic introduction**  
Stefaan Callens, Associate professor, Interfaculty Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, K.U. Leuven, Belgium
- **The point of view of the European Commission**  
Luba Hromkova, Legal Officer, 'ICT for Health' Unit, Information Society and Media DG, European Commission
- **Developments in Denmark**  
Niels Rossing, Consultant, MedCom, Danish Centre for Health Telematics, DK
- **The Situation in Belgium**  
Frank Robben, General Manager, Crossroads Bank for Social Security, Belgium

Questions and debate

11.45-13.15 LUNCH

13.15-14.50 **EU LAW AND VOLUNTARY HEALTH INSURANCE**

Chair: **Edouard Descampe**, Chairman of the General Council of RIZIV/INAMI

- **Academic introduction**  
Elias Mossialos, Professor of Health Policy, Co-director, LSE Health and Social Care and Co-director, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, UK
- **The point of view of the European Commission**  
Karel Van Hulle, Head, Insurance and Pensions Unit, Internal Market and Services DG, European Commission
- **Developments in Ireland**  
Brian Turner, Part-time Lecturer, Department of Economics, University College Cork, Ireland
- **The situation in Belgium**  
Christian Langendries, General Manager, Control Office of the mutual health funds and the national unions of mutual health funds, Belgium

Questions and debate

14.50-16.00 **POLICY DEBATE: TOWARDS AN EU LEVEL FRAMEWORK ON HEALTH SERVICES?**

Chair: Edouard Descampe, Chairman of the General Council of RIZIV/INAMI

■ **Introduction**

Marianne Dony, Professor, Institute of European studies, ULB, Belgium

■ **Viewpoints from Belgian Members of European Parliament**

- Anne Van Lancker, Socialist Group in the European Parliament
- Pierre Jonckheer, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
- Marianne Thyssen, Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats

■ **Questions and answers**

■ **Closing speech**

Jo De Cock, General Manager, RIZIV/INAMI