

6. European Health Forum Gastein **Health & Wealth – Gesundheit und Wohlstand in** **Europa**

Opening speech – 1 October 2003

To save by all means?

Big theme: the results to saving measures in the health sector at the sixth European Health Forum Gastein

Prim. Dr. Günther Leiner, EHFG-President, Austria
Dr. Maria Haidinger, Regional councillor Salzburg, Austria
Dr. Juozas Olekas, Health minister, Lithuania
Maria Rauch-Kallat, Minister for Health and Women, Austria
Dr. Girolamo Sirchia, Health Minister, President of the EU Health Ministers, Council, Italy

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Today, Wednesday, October 1, an illustrious company of members to the EHFG inaugurated the opening series of speeches:
Prim. Dr. Günther Leiner, EHFG-President, Austria
Dr. Maria Haidinger, Regional councillor Salzburg, Austria
Dr. Juozas Olekas, Health minister, Lithuania
Maria Rauch-Kallat, Minister for Health and Women, Austria
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550 Participants from 43 Nations

The internationally renowned Health Summit that yearly takes place in the Gasteinertal region of Salzburg, in Austria, has started this year, attracting more than 550 decision makers and experts from many sectors and the major European institutions interested in the relevant health-policy issues. Politicians, scientists, and representatives from the business and industries, but it also attracts individuals representing sectors of patients and consumers that makes a total of 43 countries. Among them are leading personalities of the health-related policy issues. Among them are also present, the Health Commissioner of the EU, David Byrne and Regional Director of WHO, Marc Danzon and ten Ministers of Health and Secretaries of State from all over the world: Chien-jen Chen (Taiwan), Secretary of State Dorjan Marusic (Slovenia), Juozas Olekas (Lithuania), Maria Rauch-Kallat (Austria), the Undersecretary of Health, Jiri Langr (Czech Republic), Undersecretary Viktor Maslowski (Poland), Secretaries of State Zsuzsanna Jakab (Hungary), Girolamo Sirchia (Italy), Secretaries of State Reinhart Waneck (Austria) and Secretaries of State Jozika Maucec



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Zakotnik (Slovenia). As well as the present chairman of the EU Health Council and Health Minister, Dr. Girolamo Sirchia, Italy, that would never allow himself not to be present to the inaugural ceremonies of the EHFG.

The growing interest of this congress was poignantly expressed by Günther Leiner as related to the burning actuality of the issues discussed this year. He declared that: "Europe as a whole has been challenged by the same problem: an over-aged society, the spiralling coStaatssekretär of a spiralling health system that is constantly sky-rocketing in an alarming way. The hopes and expectations of the consumers have to be met with innovative means."

Many therefore in the EHFG are counting with stimulus and tangible directives and formulations, that allow certain issues, seeing as from a whole European panorama, be constantly investigated to the solving of problems related to the Health system. In order that a platform could be offered for the variety of interest and concrete directives, and these formulations can be put to discussion, they have to be translated to an EU level.

Health Expenditures that should not exist

One of the issues that particularly touches Europe is the raising over-ageing of its population. A shrinking employing population should in the future take care of its citizens in retirement, likewise grow the health expenditures. Dr. Girolamo Sirchia, representing the Italian EU-presidency in office, only invisions forced measures as far as the health prevention is concerned. He says "A new sort of consciousness has to be created among the citizens, how the own health an be kept and maintained. A quarter of the Italians smoke, 20 million are over weighted. The coStaatssekretär derivate from the wrong eating habits and/or drug consume shouldn't have the right to exist.

The industrial concerns have to provide the stimulus to promote that men attain an advanced age. "Men tend to be sick and physically infirm, as soon as they are not physically challenged," says Dr. Sirchia. That is the reason why he rejects the early retirement. Likewise of the same opinion is his colleague, the Austrian Minister Rauch-Kallat. She is convinced, that prevention is the best doctor and not without resentments indicates the flaws of the new health campaign that disregards the handicapped. They should know better how to implement theories into facts. "We only want to support man, really to change his conduct. It should be simple and glamorous and it be funny."

The Generational Contract Financially Undermined

EHFG-President Dr. Günther Leiner in his opening speech for sees a threatening development in the present health issues debate. It seems as though the generations contract actually be financial undermined. We should depart from such "full-insurance" concepts. Everybody should participate eventually. But we all must carry our social and personal responsibilities." Demanded EHFG President Prim. Dr Gunther Leiner at the opening of the 6th European Health Forum.

To save means to apply the resources efficiently

The Austrian Health Minister to the Health Dept. Maria Rauch Kallat criticized a policy of the extreme cutting edges in the Health policies, that threatens the quality services to the citizens: "To save does not mean to cut the means to the health services, rather those means and resources apply them in an efficiently way." It should not be thought what could or could not be financed for the patients, rather changes should be structured as to furnished a better distribution of beds in the hospitals and so on.

The efficiency capacity of the system, in an international comparison at the top of the line, rather under the presented quotas. Although there are countries, like Holland and Sweden, that a lot less expenses are furnished per capita, likewise the increased in expensed are smaller. "That means that between the health expenses of a society and the health condition of its people has to exist a loose relationship. Shorted expenses can only mean a surplus in health and vice versa", so said Haidinger.

Dr. Juozas Olekas, Health minister in Lithuania, from his own experiences confirms certain health strategies that could be implemented to prevent the raising coStaatssekretär in the people's health. "Children's mortality and the life expectancy have risen". In Lithuania since 1991 a great deal has been done to rise the quality standards at the nurseries personnel and the doctors and to master cost of the health sector.

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