



## **EHFG: Key Role in International Health Policy**

- **The WHO prepares for the ministerial conference in Tallinn at the EHFG**
- **The EU Commission has closing workshop on the Services Directive**
- **“Reward for a decade of persistent, rigorous work”**

**European Health Forum Gastein 2007, Austria.** At its 10th anniversary the European Health Forum Gastein has been established more than ever as an international health policy platform which plays a key role in the preparation and presentation of new activities. The event, which took place this year in Bad Hofgastein from 3 to 6 October, is the most important health policy event in the EU. More than 600 high-profile experts took part in nearly 30 individual events.

What is remarkable is that the forum, this year to an especially large degree a forum solely for panel discussions, served as a presentation platform for important measures for the future:

- The WHO took advantage of the attendance of numerous leading health policy representatives of the European Union and other European countries in order to prepare for the important WHO European Ministerial Conference on the subject of “Health Systems, Health and Wealth.” The conference is taking place from 25 to 27 June 2008.
- The EU Commission used the EHFG for a final round of panel discussions concerning the details of the new EU regulations for healthcare services which are to be presented in a few weeks. They will represent one of the most important foundations of future EU health policy.
- The “European Health Technology Institute for Socio-Economic Research” was also introduced for the first time at the EHFG. Supported by the renowned London School of Economics (LSE), Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin) and the Università Bocconi (Milan), the institute will provide the scientific foundations for the desired improvement in the framework for medical technology research.

“This transformation into a presentation platform for a variety of institutions is the reward for a decade of persistent and rigorous work,” says EHFG President Günther Leiner.

### **Press Service**

#### **Further information:**

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*Further press information and photographs of the EHFG can be found at [www.ehfg.org](http://www.ehfg.org).*