



Hearing on “Tools and methodologies for assessing the performance of primary care”

Residence Palace, Brussels (Belgium), 03.10.2017



The hearing was organised by the European Commission Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health (EXPH), chaired by Jan De Maeseneer (in the centre of the photo), family physician, emeritus professor of the University of Ghent.

Professor De Maeseneer gave a presentation on the Opinion which the Expert Panel had prepared on the above-mentioned subject as part of its continued work on innovation in care.

The EXPH states that indicators which are nowadays used for the assessment of primary care are too much restricted to the functioning of GPs/FPs and that broadening the scope to the interprofessional Primary Care Team is essential. It is important that the European Union strengthens its goals and activities in the field of (primary) healthcare in order to secure for all citizens, access to relevant, high-quality, cost-effective and sustainable service delivery.

In healthcare, and particularly in primary care, one of the main assets determining quality of care is related to human resources. Actions oriented at creating good working conditions avoiding professional burnout are therefore needed. Performance assessment systems should be designed, aiming at not eroding the professional motivation.



The hearing brought together an audience from various sources. Bert Van Caelenberg, secretary general of Eurofedop, attended the meeting as representative of a non-governmental organisation.

He made an intervention in which he spoke about education and specialisation. Nurses in first line care are still too much considered 2nd rank nurses. All specialisation goes to departments in hospitals.

He also spoke about the European project to create a social pillar. Who will be responsible for assuring the coordination between the activities of different DGs, on the one hand the DG SANTE and on the other hand the DG EMPLOYMENT?

The remarks will be included in the report which will soon be published on the website of the DG SANTE. The expert group will further work on the publication of recommendations, on the basis of this report, still before the end of 2017.