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HFE (Health First Europe) meets MEPs in European Parliament in Brussels

Brussels (Belgium), 29.11.2011

Examining drivers of innovation in healthcare

In line with the European Commission's programme to make innovation a priority subject under the Europe 2020 Strategy, with a special focus on health, HFE has organised a meeting with MEPs in the European Parliament in Brussels.

HFE underlines that the implementation of innovative solutions in healthcare is very important with a view to improving the treatment and quality of life of patients. However, it notices that every region in Europe does not enjoy the same level of innovation in healthcare. In order to overcome barriers to the introduction of innovative solutions, research is necessary, in particular on recognising drivers of innovation.

HFE calls on the Commission to undertake such research by concentrating on some key areas such as patient safety and the exchange of best practices between Member States.

In particular, it seeks the European Parliament's support on examining drivers of health innovation and creating a budget line for this purpose within the Horizon/Health 2020 Programme.

Bert Van Caelenberg, secretary general of Eurofedop, attended the meeting and expressed the position of Eurofedop.

Eurofedop subscribes to the advantages of introducing ICT in healthcare, but wishes nevertheless to draw attention to the need for addressing the following issues: the patients' literacy or illiteracy to deal with the introduction of ICT in their treatment, the need for protection of the patients' privacy, the need for protection of older workers (whose tasks should not be limited to the mere "bedside tasks"), the need for preserving the quality of healthcare (the reduction of staff numbers can put this quality at risk) and the need for fighting against the introduction of innovative solutions in one but not the other region of the European Union.