



*Press communiqué*

**Trade Council Health Services  
Luxembourg, 10—IX—2003**

The annual session of the Trade Council Health Services of Eurofedop was held on 10/09/2003 in Luxemburg. The participants (40) were trade union delegates from the health care sector from different European countries. Among them, for the first time, an Italian trade union was present. The agenda included several interesting items, the discussion of which is briefly reported hereafter.

*“Volunteers in the Health Care Sector”*

In various European countries, work is done by volunteers in health care. Their work should be complementary to the work done by the personnel who are paid for what they do. However, this is not always the case. In the next year, we will look for studies which have already been performed about volunteers' work in Europe. This will result in a position we will submit to the European Parliament and the responsible Commissioner for discussion.



*Dolores Martínez Marquez (SAE, Spain)*

*“Humanisation of health care”*

The chairwoman of CICIAMS had come to give explanation to the trade council, about the translation of humanisation into quality thinking. Quality is what has to count, both for the patient and the help provider, but the effects will be different with both groups. The Trade Council wants to raise this point to the Council of Europe. There is a joint declaration by which CICIAMS and Eurofedop commit themselves to stimulating the quality of service in the health care sector.

*“Research project : Analysis of the attractiveness of the health care sector as employer”*

The Trade Council has decided to perform a comparative study on salaries in various European countries. During this trade council, the concept of the study was discussed. A further elaboration of the concept is necessary. The project will be submitted to the European Commission for financial support.



*Diederik Van Noten (PricewaterhouseCoopers), An Verlinde (CICIAMS),  
Janette Pannekoek (CNV Publieke Zaak, The Netherlands)*

*“Prevention of needlestick injuries”*

100,000 needlestick injuries happen each year and this is only the tip of the iceberg. Needlestick injuries can have serious consequences. Various European organisations, among which Eurofedop, have signed a joint Manifesto with regard to the prevention of needlestick injuries. Moreover, this immense problem has been mentioned to the European Parliament. More information can be found on the EUCOMED website [www.eucomed.be](http://www.eucomed.be).



*Kenneth Strauss, Albert Scius (Eucomed)*

*“European health insurance card”*

As from 2004, 1 European health insurance card will be introduced. As from 2008, this card will also be available with a chip. Eurofedop welcomes this European initiative and asks that health care providers would be informed in advance on the aim and use.



*SATSE Delegation (Spain)*