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EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
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ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
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ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΙΑΪΙΑ ΝΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΝΗΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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PANHELLENIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. ANASTASIOS VASIADIS
Member of Greek delegation

Mr Chairman

Mr President of European Association of Senior
Hospital Physicians

Mr President of Portuguese Medical Association

Dear colleagues,

Distingue participants,

As member of the Greek delegation to this meeting, I would like to convey our best wishes on behalf of all Greek doctors including Greek Hospital physicians and especially of Dr Kalokerinos, President of the Panhellenic Medical Association, who wasn't able to participate in this meeting for reasons beyond his will.

The European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians, at its Lisbon meetings, opened the dialog on their involvement in hospital management and the quality of healthcare therein.

Physicians are the main players in hospital care, and they play a key role in hospital management and hospital policy. Key concerns include service provision, employment, and education.

However, Greek State Hospital Managers are appointed by local governments. Policies applied are often unsafe for medical practice and do not safeguard an appropriate level of healthcare. The following Greek experience should make us reflect and reconsider.

By Law, State Hospitals in Greece are headed by Managers appointed by the Minister of Health and by managing Boards the majority of which are appointed by the Minister of Health. Since medical personnel representatives also represent nursing and administrative personnel, their presence on a board where other appointments are of a political nature are diluted, and thus physicians' role in decision making and policy formulation is severely curtailed.

Now to be fair, it should be pointed out that State Hospital managers appoint a Physician as Director of the Medical Service with the competency to make recommendations. A Scientific Board is also provisioned by law with the competency to make recommendations and its members are elected from the ranks of medical personnel. Finally, in each hospital a committee is elected with the competency to make trade-union decisions.

And so, when proposals by the medical body are adopted by the managing board, doctors' role

does become decisive in the administration practice. Moreover, there are cases where doctors play an increased role in hospital management. For example, when a hospital is on duty, the hospital manager is substituted by the head doctor on duty.

But unfortunately real life tells a different story. First, even though there is a local medical association in each region, its Board is not represented in the hospital managing board. Second, experience shows that non-medical management personnel takes decisions on scientific medical issues and medical care issues without heeding proposals made by Medical Bodies, but according to instructions placed by the Ministry of Health instead, most of which are dictated by political and economic conjuncture. A typical example in daily practice is the scheduling of medical on-duty staff, which often disregards proposals by competent Medical Bodies.

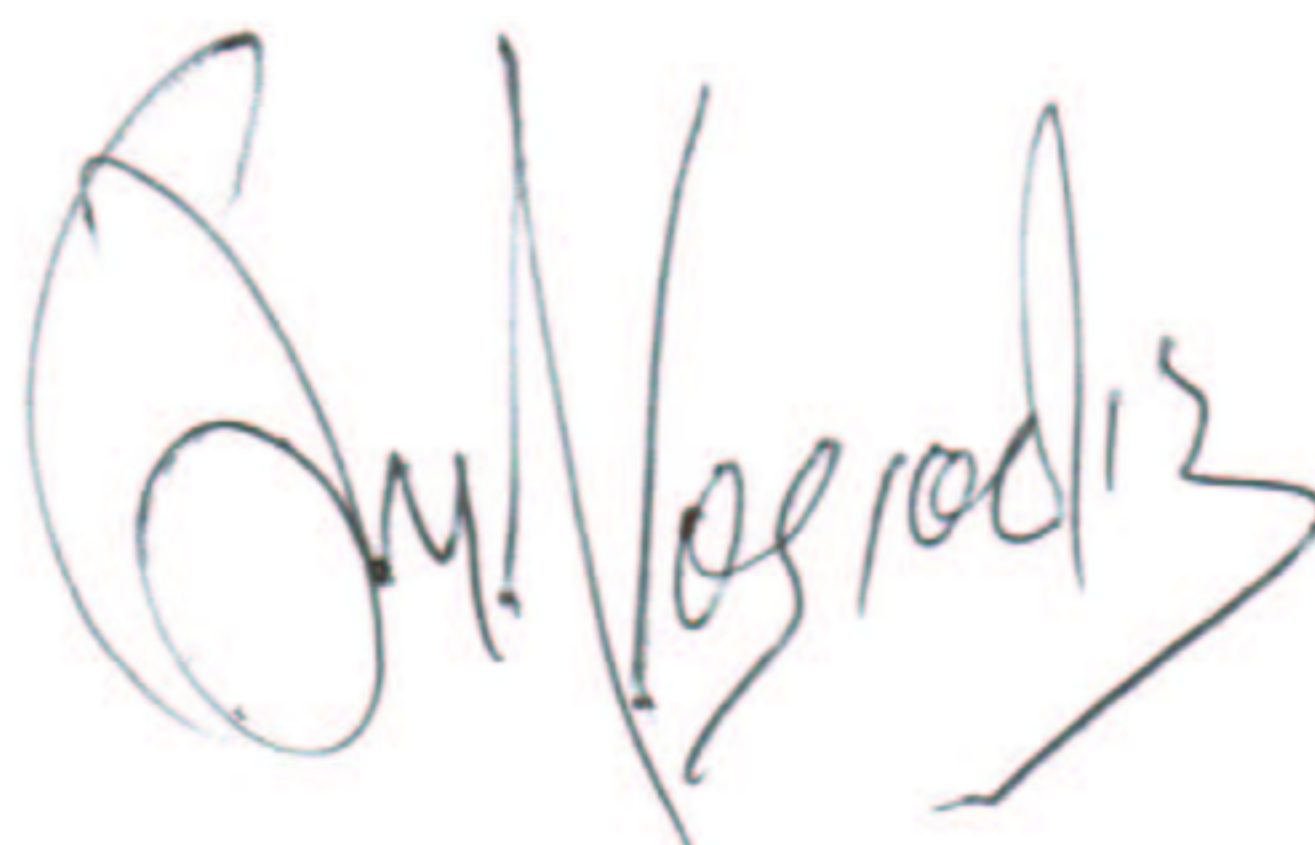
The Panhellenic Medical Association and all the local, regional Medical Associations have repeatedly placed claims for a more essential involvement of physicians in administrative decisions in hospitals and for more essential representation of local Medical Associations in

hospital management. These demands have not been accepted by the Ministry of Health.

These demands are forwarded to the General Assembly of European Association of Hospital Physicians with the view to forming a common position which will be forwarded to the competent Bodies of the European Union, so that it can be integrated as a directive in the legislative frames of member states.

We consider that the essential involvement of physicians in Hospital Management will ensure the best possible results for the well being of patients, hospitals and physicians.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Vasradis". The signature is stylized with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.