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<td>Dr Raymond Lies</td>
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NATIONAL REPORT OF LUXEMBOURG 2010

Last year in August after the elections, the government between the socialists and the social-christian party was reconducted and very soon the Ministry of Health organized meetings between the stakeholders of the Luxemburgish healthcare system in order to take decisions to keep the balance in our national heath system.

In front of the economical crises, Luxemburg has to reconsider the financing of the healthcare and here the hospital sector affording more than 50 % in the costs has to be adapted to the new situation.

After having organized seven working groups among the stakeholders and the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs the meeting of the quadripartite hold on 27th March 2010 issued the following guidelines and principals which will be the bases of a new law about the reform of the whole healthcare sector. The general guidelines are based on the strengthening of the hospitals budgets and the strengthening of the so called liberal status of the hospital physicians.

The aim must be the balance of the finances in 2011 by reducing the expenses and by reviewing the investments. At the long term the financing of the healthcare sector and especially the hospital sector must be evaluated very closely in order to fulfil the conditions of a “high quality at lower expenses” (actually a rather international slogan).

Proposals

- Primary care
  Introduction of a reference doctor (GP) orienting the patient to a specialist without going so fare as in the U.K. : the liberty of free choice continues to be the rule in Luxemborg

- Financing of the hospital sector, the budget will be established for 2 years
  - revision of the standards of the staff
  - DRG’s for certain specialities
  - Revision of different investment plans

- Development of the hospital sectors especially in ambulatory surgery
  - numerous clauses for the hospital doctors for 2 years
  - revision of the missions of the medical council and of the coordinator in the different departments

- Introduction of competence centers
• Federation of medico-technical services in the hospital services: IT, laboratory, pharmacy and sterilisation

• Revision of the naming list
• Introducing of the electronic files
• Revision of the status of the medical control in social security
• Introduction of a no fault system
• Regulation of transborder activities

and so on

**Agenda for the future**

Actually the discussions about the follow-up of the financial crises have raised in Luxembourg also the spectrum of a political crises and in the time we are here in Lisbon it may be that in Luxembourg the international well known consensus policy will fail. We all hope that the politicians consider more the interests of the country and the healthcare sector than their own. Normally if this government continues his activity there will be a new law about the healthcare sector at the end of this year and I’ll continue to inform you about this.