



E.A.N.A. MEETING IN DUBLIN, IRELAND, NOVEMBER 19-20, 2010

COUNTRY REPORT FROM SPAIN BY ASPROMEL

EVOLUTION SINCE OUR LAST COUNTRY REPORT

During the Spanish EU-Presidency our Government proposed a compromise text of Cross-Border Health Care, trying to preserve the Public Health System from the urgent modifications to reach sustainability and Euro-compatibility.

More than 20 years ago the former Government commissioned an independent working group, to analyse the NHS and to identify the weak points of the system, as well as to establish the necessary adaptations. In its "Informe Abril Martorell" this working group established about hundred necessary adaptations whereof only 4 or 5 have been realized up to date. In June 2010 the former Health Minister Bernat Soria, a physician himself, announced that he will establish, by means of a new working group, a list of priorities of adaptations to make the NHS sustainable on a long term.

The Autonomous Community of Madrid has introduced this year free choice of doctors in Madrid's Public Health System. Catalunya has opened together with France the first cross-border hospital in Europe situated in Cerdanya.

In the private health sector, the IDIS Institute for the Development and Integration of the Health System, was founded in June 2010. It represents the initiative of the main private hospital groups together with the main private insurance companies.

Concerning the medical profession itself, the Forum of Medical Profession has been founded last year. Dr. Patricio Martinez presented this Forum during the EANA – meeting of last November in Madrid. Following the idea of the European Doctors'House in Brussels, we discussed about during our Luxemburg meeting, we are reinforcing our presence by means of the Spanish Doctors'House giving it a status of legal person.

As you see, initiatives for integrating the different health sectors into a new National Health System, based on public-private partnership, come from different corners. The only immobile actor is the Government itself.

Regarding our young and modest professional association ASPROMEL, we are noting that our point of view and our programme of integrated medicine are catalyzing the integration process. Only a year ago nobody talked about integrating public and private sector into a new health system. When we started to talk about integration, following the European Health Systems, we met ignorance and disorientation. Now everybody starts to talk about integration. On the one hand we hope that our discourse really catalyzes the process, on the other hand we can't deny completely the impression of being copied and hacked by others, because our offers of collaboration are not answered accordingly and for the moment everybody talks about National Health Pact and integration , but the discourses are not followed by facts.

So let's be patient, humble and hard-working.

Madrid, November 14, 2010

André Bolliger M.D.
President of ASPROMEL