

The European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy



November 5, 2006

Honorable
Mr. Margaritas Schinas,
Chef of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Health and Consumer
Protection, Markos Kyprianou, European Commission

Dear Mr. Schinas,

I would like to thank you for meeting with the representatives of the European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy (ENHCC) and me in Brussels on the 17th of October. Your warm greeting and the interest you showed in our work has encouraged us in many ways. All the participants have been informed of our meeting and a special letter concerning this will be put on our web site. When this letter is put on the Web (with the picture we took together) I will inform you.

Now that I am back home and settled, I will begin working on the palliative care project. As you suggested, I am planning to call Mrs. Akkelidou so she can inform me of the associations with which she came into contact. Along with this, we, as the "European Network", will begin examining the possibilities of those who can attend a preliminary meeting. Hopefully I will be able to have all this information very soon so that we can call a meeting in spring of 2007, as you suggested.

In closing, allow me to comment on your presentation at the Dialogue Seminar. It was very promising that you, as Director of the Commissioner's office of Public Health, spoke. There were two aspects of your talk that made an impact both on me and others that attended. The first was that you saw the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to health. The second is that you are concerned with the quality of health care. These two points are

supported by those who belong to the ENHCC. We strongly believe in the concept of the therapeutic team within health care settings. We also believe that quality care can be achieved by establishing and maintaining a high level of standards for the care each of us provides. The ENHCC insists on a high quality of spiritual care in healthcare settings, expressed in the Standards of Health Care Chaplaincy and in the Palliative Care Statement made in our recent Lisbon Consultation. The fact that you referred to these two points reassures us that the Office of the Commissioner will work towards their implementation.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to have a close working relationship with your office. On behalf of all the participants in the ENHCC, please give my warmest regards to Commissioner Kyprianou.

With best wishes,

Rev. Dr. Stavros Kofinas

**Coordinator of the European Network of Healthcare Chaplaincy
(Representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Email: coordinator@eurochaplains.org
or kofinas@otenet.gr

Address:
Lycias 3
171 24 Nea Smyrni,
Greece

Phone: +30-6944 57 3625
Fax: +30 – 210 93 74 217

Cc: To all the participants of the ENHCC