



NOTE TO HEALTH INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Subject: Commission membership European Observatory Health Systems and Policies

At the end of 2009, Commissioner Vassiliou signed the Amendment XIV to the Agreement on a Project called the Observatory on Health Care Systems, incorporating the European Commission as a Participating Organisation. This followed a complex process of drafting and adopting the Commission Decision C(2009)10213 on its incorporation as a Participating Organisation of the "European Observatory on Health Care Systems and Policies" project.

The signature of the Commissioner formalized, as the College decided, the participation of the Commission in the project of the European Observatory on Health Care Systems and Policies.

The participation of the Commission in this project was an important objective of our DG, in line with the European Health Strategy and with the Health Programme, and instrumental to improve the availability, comparability and quality of data on the European health systems.

This stable framework of collaboration will now help to extend the analysis, support and results of the technical expertise of the Observatory to all the Member States, and it will open up an additional reputed platform for the dissemination and institutional communication efforts of the Commission.

The European Observatory on Health Care Systems and Policies is a partnership project established between the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Governments of Belgium, Finland, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, the Veneto Region of Italy, the European Investment Bank, the World Bank, the French Union of Healthcare Funds, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (and now of the EC).

The Observatory supports evidence-based health policy-making through analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe. It has produced a vast number of in-depth studies describing the specifics of the Member States' health systems or other relevant topics such as health impact assessment, mental health, pharmaceuticals, human resources, chronic diseases, quality in healthcare or health in all policies. It is a repository of technical expertise, independent analysis and respected advice.

Action for the Committee:

X	For information
	For comments
	For agreement