



WHAT'S NEW

October 2008

General Interest

Healthcare Services across Europe

WHO publishes final report Commission on Social Determinants of Health

The WHO report on the social determinants of health is entitled "Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health". [Download the full report.](#)

EU French presidency organizes conference on health policy

The French EU presidency is organizing a conference on 13 October in Paris, France. The event aims to present the added value of EU-led action in the field of health, regarding safety, quality of care and the promotion of patients' rights. [Read more...](#)

National Health Service European office

The NHS European Office was set up to inform NHS organisations of key EU developments and to promote the priorities and interests of the NHS to the European Institutions. The Office is funded by the 10 Strategic Health Authorities and is part of the NHS Confederation. [Read more...](#)

Brussels unveils Small Business Act for Europe (SBA)

In the EU most jobs are provided for by Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) - companies that consist of 250 employees or less. For these companies to be able to unlock their full potential, the European Commission unveiled on 25 June 2008 its "Small Business Act for Europe", an ambitious plan to make Europe more entrepreneurial and thriving. The SBA is based on 10 principles and suggests several policy actions to be taken by both the Commission and Member States. [Read more...](#)

How Europe can foster its competitive edge

On 5 June, at a conference organised in Poznan, Poland by the Dublin Foundation, Roberto Suarez Santos, vice-chair of BUSINESS EUROPE's Social Affairs Committee, took part in a panel discussion on "competing for investment: Ensuring a win-win outcome". He reaffirmed a series of principles which need to be observed if Europe is to foster its competitive edge in a globalized economy. Structural reforms, the completion of the single market and long-term investments in innovation, research and education are crucial to promote and attract company investments. [Read more...](#)



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NICE committee meetings open to public

From June 2008 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will be opening its standing committee meetings to observers from the public and press. Holding committee meetings in public supports the Institute's commitment to having processes for developing guidance that are rigorous, open and transparent. It will also allow consultees and stakeholders to understand the basis for the acceptance or rejection of the various forms of evidence that are considered and illustrates how the committees take account of the evidence submitted by stakeholders and consultees. The dates for the first Committee meetings to be open to the public are listed below: Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee – 12 June 2008; Public Health Interventions Advisory Committee – 11 July 2008; Technology Appraisals Advisory Committee – 18 September 2008. [Read more.](#)

UK: Payment by Results successfully implemented?

The Right Result? Payment by Results 2003-07, published by the Audit Commission on 14 February 2008, examines the impact of four years of PbR in the NHS. PbR has had major implications for commissioners and providers and has required changes in financial, information and risk management arrangements. [Read more.](#)

New Health Economics Network launched

Social Science Research Network (SSRN) launches new Health Economics Network (HEN). It will provide a worldwide, online community for research in all areas of Health Economics, following the model of other subject matter networks within SSRN. [Read more.](#)

New website for health promotion videos launched

DG Health and Consumers of the European Commission has launched a website for health promotion videos produced in Europe. The aim is to share ideas and best practice and to show what has been done in public health campaigns on issues such as addiction prevention, communicable diseases, cancer or nutrition and physical activity. [Read more...](#)

Roland Berger presents study on German healthcare market

Germans want a different healthcare system. 93% want individualized services and are prepared to pay for them. Health insurance companies, doctors and hospitals are expanding their range of products and services, such as additional services for self-pay patients or preventative measures. This is the conclusion of



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a study by Roland Berger Strategy Consultants on strategies of providers in the German healthcare system and their acceptance by the public. [Read more.](#)

Commission adopts proposal for directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

As part of the Renewed Social Agenda, the Commission adopts a proposal for a directive to facilitate the application of European patients' rights in relation to cross-border healthcare, as well as a Communication on improving co-operation between Member States in this area. Background information on the directive can be found on the Commission [website](#). In addition, Eurobarometer just published a new [survey](#) of Europeans' attitude towards cross-border healthcare. A top Commission official predicted "the beginning of a long row" as German diplomats warned they may challenge the legal basis of the draft directive. Read the [full article](#)

NHS Next Stage Review Final Report: "High quality care for all"

Lord Ara Darzi, Parliamentary Under Secretary of Health in the UK, releases the review of NHS and his proposals for reform to help ensure better access and better care for NHS patients. The report makes specific suggestions and highlights mechanisms to recognize and reward innovative technology within the UK health care system. [Read more.](#)

New WHO charter brings equity, performance and accountability to health sector

Ministers of health from the 53 countries of the WHO European Region sign a new charter on health systems, committing themselves to concrete and measurable action on strengthening health systems that will allow both their own people and the international community to hold them to account. "Health is the right of everyone and it has value in itself. It is in the interest of all governments to invest in the health of their populations, as improving the health of the population makes a material contribution to the wealth of the nation," said Dr Marc Danzon, WHO Regional Director for Europe, at the charter signing ceremony today. [Read more.](#)