



KARL-HEINZ FLORENZ
MITGLIED DES EUROPÄISCHEN PARLAMENTS

COMMITTEE OF ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
THE CHAIRMAN

Robert Madelin
European Commission
Health and Consumer Protection GD

1049 Brussels

Brussels, 8 June 2006

Patient Safety

Dear Mr. Madelin,

I have met recently with representatives from the Iatrogenic Europe Unite (IEU) Alliance. This is an organisation which represents patient safety groups on EU level, such as organisations from Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands and Denmark. Combined, those groups have the aim of pushing forward the interests of patients suffering from medical errors.

Although the IEU consists mainly of honorary members (often themselves iatrogenic patients), they work very professional and the meeting with them has impressed me very much. The outcome of this meeting showed that improvement is still required in the area of patient safety, especially in the field of medical errors. Current law in the Member States does not satisfy the necessary requirements to ensure the rights iatrogenic patients should be granted. In today's time, an official system of registration of medical errors is still lacking. Even more, a medical error does not have to be reported and can therefore be denied by the responsible health professional. For fear of litigation, victims of medical errors usually do not receive follow-up genuine diagnostic tests or genuine remedial medical care.

Since I have been informed that you are the chairman of a Commissions High Level Group dealing with "Patient Safety", I approach you with this letter. I am of the opinion that the IEU could provide important help concerning the development of patient safety in Europe. Thus I would like to mediate between you and the IEU Alliance and would like to propose a meeting, with all parties concerned, to be held in the near future; a further step towards a patient friendly Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Karl-Heinz Florenz, MEP