



Brussels, June 2010

## **2010-06-29 SME UNION Working Lunch on “Harmonizing cross border Health Care in European Regions”**

The European Academy of Sciences and Arts and the European Institute of Health together with SME Health initiated a working lunch on the topic of „Harmonizing cross border Health Care in European Regions” on the 29 June, 2010 in the European Parliament. Raul RÜBIG MEP opened the event with a warm welcome to the speakers and the participants. He emphasized the importance of braking down borders and harmonizing health care for all citizens of the European Union, so that equal access and quality can be achieved. The keynote speech was held by Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. Felix UNGER, President of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. He stated the position that the medical industry should be left to function like a free market participant so that a patient-centered environment can be achieved. Furthermore the EU is a leading market with near 500 million clients. This is a preposition for a change in the financing of health, making medical providers act like a company by receiving contributions directly. Prof. UNGER identified that the diverse systems across the Member States make regulations hard to implement, however, he proposed that harmonization should be done on a regional level so that people from different countries but in relative geographical proximity can use the same hospitals, allowing more efficient distribution of resources. This way, EU regional funds can also be utilized. Susanna KOCHSKAEMPER, Dipl. Vw., from the Institute for Economic Policy at the University of Cologne, made an impulse statement posing two major questions – how can health care be financed and what can the EU do to help reform. She strongly welcomed the EU Directive 9948/10 as a move in the right direction but also asked for further measures especially on the national level. The lunch ended by a lively discussion between the speakers and the audience.

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**SME UNION** (Small and Medium Entrepreneurs Union) of the EPP (European People´s Party) is the network of pro-business Christian-Democrat, Conservative and Liberal politicians and political organizations. Its main objective is to help in shaping EU policy in a more SME friendly way. [www.sme-union.org](http://www.sme-union.org)