



The Future of Hospitals and Healthcare



Mr Georg BAUM, Germany

President 2011 – 2014

Honoured Mrs President,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear colleagues and friends,

Last, but not least, it is my task as the youngest Past President to give you a report about the achievements which were realised during my presidency. It began in 2011 in Turku, Finland and ended in 2014 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. I was happy to host the HOPE Agora in that period in Germany, where we met in Berlin in 2012.

During my turn, the full impact of the economic and financial crises became visible to almost every EU Member State with the effect, that public budgets were shortened massively. Healthcare systems were amongst the sectors which suffered the cuts most, also affecting the capability of HOPE member organisations to pay their fees for a European organisation. Despite these negative circumstances we managed to maintain the capacities of our hospital federation. And we are proud of not only safeguarding the number and composition of member organisations during that difficult time, but even to raise the number of affiliates. Three new full members from Croatia, France and Poland have been incorporated and a new observer member from Serbia associated.

To end up with the organisational achievements I also should mention, that it was me who signed the notarial contracts for the sale of our former offices and for the purchase of the new premises. You can imagine that it was a new and exciting experience for me to sign my first international real estate contract. Since then, our HOPE office is located very next to the European Parliament in the heard of EU Brussels.

During the time of my presidency, a lot of legal work was going on in the last years of the very active former Barroso-Commission. Amid a long list of important initiatives I take the example of the directive on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications. While John Cachia was active on the borderless mobility of patients, I dealt with the free movement of healthcare workers which was enabled by updating the training requirements for doctors and nurses. It is the showcase of this period, in which HOPE and its member organisations managed to successfully lobby the EU institutions by uniting its political forces despite different perspectives.

With regard to John Cachia's speech with the information to whom he handed over his presidency, I would like to mention at the end of my intervention, that I was the first HOPE president ever who handed over his function to a Lady, our today's president Mrs Sara Pupato Ferrari. I am happy to have my secured place in the HOPE annals as being that innovative and wise!