



The Future of Hospitals and Healthcare



Mr Gérard VINCENT, France

President 2002 – 2005

Mrs President, Dear Colleagues,

Let me first warmly thank Sara Pupato Ferrari, President of HOPE, and Pascal Garel for inviting me and the former Presidents whom I am happy to meet again, together with Kris Schutyser who was Secretary General when I became a member of the Board in 1998.

The exchange programme did not exist when I was in a position that could have allowed me to apply for, I mean before I became a CEO.

I have always been convinced that we learn more from other countries than in one's own where it's often difficult to enlarge one's vision.

I was happy to welcome participants of the exchange programme when I was director of a hospital in Paris in the eighties.

I was lucky to become HOPE President in 2002, three years before becoming President of the International Hospital Federation. HOPE was a good education and I learned a lot besides my colleagues of the Board of Governors.

I met a lot of colleagues in charge of great responsibilities in their countries and I discovered health and hospitals through the European prism, with its challenges, opportunities but also its bureaucracy.

The enlargement of Europe to a great number of countries between 1995 and 2013 was a challenge for Europe of course, but for HOPE as well and it was not always easy to convince national hospital federation or Ministries of health to join, for financial reasons sometimes but also because not all saw the interest and the importance to become a member of a European hospital community.

It is why I would like to thank Professor Kris Schutyser and Pascal Garel for the job they did to promote HOPE and through HOPE health and hospitals at European level at that crucial period.

What I would like to say this evening in a few words is that beyond the exchange programme, which is a real success, HOPE is important for the health and hospitals in Europe. I can find two reasons for that.



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The first is that in the open world in which we are living we need as health and hospital professionals expertise and exchange of experience. Information is easy to get nowadays but expertise and exchange of experience are more valuable. HOPE is bringing that. You are her to prove it.

The second is that in what we use to call the modern world advocacy and lobbying are absolutely necessary even to protect and defend public or general interest. In every country through organisations that can be rather different, hospitals are represented and their federations use to say that governments what is good or not. This is advocacy and lobbying. Why should it be different at European level?

It is true that Europe has not a great power on government as far as the funding and organisation of health and hospitals are concerned. But Europe's power is growing and one can think that more integrated European healthcare system is a target for the future.

It's why according to me hospitals must be present to prepare the changes that will come, especially at the European Parliament and European Commission levels.

I am sure that you are convinced! But it is up to you now to convince your colleagues when you come back home that health and hospitals are major issues for the future of Europe.

The role of hospitals that will evolve of course over time as it has significantly evolved since HOPE was created in 1966 is crucial for the future of Europe, as Europe is crucial for the future of our children.