

## The European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy



October 1, 2006

The Honourable  
Markos Kyprianou  
European Commissioner of Health and Consumer Protection  
Rue de la Loi 200 / Wetstraat 200  
B-1049 Bruxelles / Brussel – Belgium

Your Honour,

As you know, the *European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy* held its 9<sup>th</sup> Consultation in Lisbon between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2006. The theme of our Consultation was “*Building Bridges – Growing Hope*”. Participating in this Consultation were 51 representatives from 26 European Countries and two guests from the United States of America, representing the American Association of Professional Chaplains. *The Deputy Secretary of State to the Minister of Health of Portugal, Ms. Carmen Pignatelli* officially opened our deliberations

Allow me to thank you for the greeting you sent to the participants of the Consultation. Your message was read to all the participants during our special discussion regarding the EU. It was a message that gave us all a sense of meaning so that we can continue our work in the area of health care. We have placed your noteworthy message on our website ([www.ewurochaplains.org](http://www.ewurochaplains.org)) so that others can benefit from your thoughts.

One of the “bridges” that have been built over the past two years has been with the EU. A special session of our Lisbon Consultation was devoted to our meeting with the Director of your office, Mr. Margarites Schinas and how we can continue developing our relations with your Commission.

One of the main areas of health care that concerned our Consultation was that of *palliative care*. Both in our meeting in June of 2005 and in several telephone conversations, Mr. Schinas and I discussed this area of care. As a result of our discussions, I met with Dr. Ntina Akkelidou, who was sent by your office to Athens, to discuss this area of concern with me. As a continuation of these

deliberations, a special session was devoted to *palliative care* in our Lisbon Consultation. At the conclusion of our discussion, a statement was adopted by all the participants, stressing the importance of spiritual care in relation to *palliative care*. (Attached, you will find a copy of this statement.)

Mr. Kyprianou,

Knowing your personal concern regarding *palliative care* in the *EU*, with all the physical, psychological, spiritual and socio-economic dimensions involved, we as the *European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy* would like to propose that you call a special meeting of the chief agents involved in this important area of care. The object of this conjoint meeting would be to see the various aspects of palliative care in Europe and how we can assist you within the realm of the Commission of the *EU* to face the challenges this care affords. Your coordinating efforts would give an incentive to all of us to work together within a European framework.

Allow me to thank you again for the interest you have shown in chaplaincy and your gracious willingness to work with our Network in the area of health care. We hope that we can continue working together toward the improvement of providing the care that is worthy and right for every European.

Sincerely,

**Rev. Dr. Stavros Kofinas**

**Coordinator of the European Network of Healthcare Chaplaincy  
(Representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Address:

Lycias 3  
171 24 Nea Smyrni,  
Greece

Phone: +30-6944 57 3625

Fax: +30 – 210 93 74 217

Email: [coordinator@eurochaplains.org](mailto:coordinator@eurochaplains.org)

Website: [www.eurochaplains.org](http://www.eurochaplains.org)