



PRESS RELEASE

8 July 2014

SEK met with the Health Minister

During the meeting that was held on Monday, July 7th, with the Health Minister, the representatives of Hellenic Private Hospitals Association informed Mr. Voridis on the impasse that the private hospitals have reached and discussed with him about finding possible solutions. SEK expects clear answers from the Health Minister on how he intends to address the major issues of the Private Healthcare Sector.

Specifically, SEK put the issue of old and new debts and pointed out the devastating results by the implementation of 'claw back' and 'rebate' in Private Healthcare Sector.

It is remarkable that the Ministry of Health, officially acknowledged that some insurance funds are unable to proceed to the clearance of invoices regarding state debts for the period from 2007 to 2011. It is at least weird, that after so much time, and so much pressure for the modernization of State structures, the insurance funds can't proceed to the clearance of invoices that refer to... 5 years.

In 2013, Mr. Samaras addressing Directors of Insurance Funds, had stated: "Greece is like the desert that waits for a drop of rain. The overdue debts are this drop. Don't delay these payments". We are still waiting for this drop to fall and to breathe new life into Private Secondary Healthcare Sector, a sector that directly and indirectly provides more than 55.000 job positions.

It is recalled that the old EOPYY debts to the Private Hospitals, exceeding 530 million euros, were and still are scheduled to be paid from a special account. By agreement with the Troika the 1,9 billion euros account would be used for the partial payment of the debts toward Private Healthcare Providers. However, the payment was never executed.



SEK

The Hellenic Private Hospitals Association represents the largest private clinics which offer high-end healthcare services throughout the country. The members of SEK are among the largest employers in Greece and among the biggest contributors to the Greek economy, and are actively supporting the needs of the state healthcare system.

THE PRIVATE HEALTHCARE SECTOR IN GREECE

The private sector employs more than 25,000 workers, maintains more than 30,000 job positions through indirect collaborations and invests in the viable growth of new infrastructures, new medical protocols and new technologies. Covering 39% of the country's healthcare services, the private healthcare sector is averting the "brain drain" that's been plaguing our country during these times; by keeping valuable scientists here, it contributes significantly to the country's GDP and it is making Greece a destination for medical tourism. It supplements the public healthcare sector, but also performs hi-tech operations and medical procedures that the state is unable to provide, thus fulfilling a pivotal role in ensuring public health in Greece.