



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **HHA (SEK) reveals the extinction plan of the private Healthcare sector in Greece**

The intended and coordinated attempt of the extinction of the Private Hospitals in Greece from EOPYY (National Organization for the Provision of Healthcare Services), was revealed by the Hellenic Hospital Association, in a Press Conference that took place today. The Chairman of HHA, Mr. Vasilis Bardis held a detailed presentation of the chronicles of the foretold death of the private healthcare sector, a sector that supports directly and indirectly more than 55,000 jobs, covering at the same time the 39% of the country's healthcare services.

Specifically, HHA released evidence showing that EOPYY, from the first moment of its foundation undermines the audit procedure of the Private Hospitals' charges, in order to hinder its completion and of course to avoid paying what they owe.

The data presented by Mr. Bardis reveal the true intentions of EOPYY and show the magnitude of the attempted deception of the public opinion. A number of excuses, unfulfilled commitments and fake barriers to the completion of the audit, that would seem funny if they didn't jeopardize the future of thousands employees, make EOPYY accountable for the dead-end in which the Healthcare Sector's businesses are today.

Among others, it was highlighted that HHA was the first to propose an audit, from independent Private Auditing Firms that would fulfill EOPYY's criteria, also undertaking the full auditing cost. After a lot of pressure, that reached even the

Prime Minister, HHA's proposal was accepted but only for the clearance of invoices concerning 2013.

At the Press Conference, Mr. Bardis reminded that overdue debts of EOPYY towards the private healthcare providers for the period 2007-2011, have not been cleared yet. HHA's Chairman highlighted that, even though there are European Funds of €1.5 billion for the payment of the beneficiaries, the money remain bound by the state with the risk of being lost. The absurdity is truly unparalleled, with businesses currently suffering rebate and claw back for money that they have not received.

"Today is made clear to everybody that the dead-end we have reached, is not only a result of incompetence, but also a manipulative method whose goal is the extinction of the private healthcare sector" stated Mr. Bardis. It is characteristic that a preliminary finding that someone gave to the Press, without informing the stakeholders, i.e. Private Hospitals, seems to seek the approval of EOPYY in order to specialize the audit.

Finally, Mr. Bardis, on the occasion of the preliminary investigation ordered by the Public Prosecutor based on the above findings, said that the HHA fully trusts the Greek Justice and pointed out that the Hellenic Hospital Association will be the first to denounce those proven to have harmed the country's public insurance. Yet, he underlined that the vague charges and aphorisms for an entire sector, do not affect those who break the law, but the majority of the companies, that operate responsibly and with complete transparency.

#### SEK (HELLENIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION)

The Hellenic Hospital 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.