



PRESS RELEASE

March 24, 2015

HHA met the minister of Health and Social Security and discussed about the remaining 'open issues'

The Hellenic Hospital Association met yesterday, March 23rd, with the Minister of Health and Social Security, Mr. Panayotis Kouroublis, and discussed about the serious problems in the Private Hospitals Sector.

The meeting was attended also by the deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Andreas Xanthos, the Chairman of EOPYY's BoD, Mr. Dimitris Kontos and other Ministry's key personnel.

The accumulated problems that lead private healthcare sector to extinction and its employees to unemployment were again at the focus of the talks.

With respect to the results of the audit, conducted by Private Auditing Companies and the clearing of the invoices for year 2013, HHA stated that its members have settled outstanding debts, and that EOPYY should put pressure on the rest medical units to settle their debts in order to settle their debts also.

It was also proposed to EOPYY to constitute mediation and conciliation Commission that will exam all objections.

Following the previous meeting (09.02.2015) HHA brought up the issue of overdue debts for the years 2006-2011, that remains unsolved for

many years. EOPYY owes 65.000.000 euros to the HPHA's members for services provided during that period.

EOPYY's Chairman, Mr. Kontos informed the attendees that legal obligation of payment for the debts of the aforementioned period has expired since 31.12.2014, without the completion of the clearance of invoices by the health insurance funds. Due to the lack of legislation the payment of those debts is impossible.

The Minister of Health and Social Security made clear that the non completion of the clearance of invoices is due to the incapability of the insurance funds and that the Private Healthcare Providers bear no responsibility for this situation. He also stated that he will do everything to solve the matter as soon as possible.

Regarding the contracts between EOPYY and Private Hospitals, that will expire on March 31,2015, it was agreed to be extended until May 15, 2015. It was also agreed to establish a special committee, composed by representatives of the EOPYY, the HPHA and the Ministry, in order to talk about the perspective of a new agreement and its terms. There were also talks about the payments for 2015, with Mr. Kontos assuring that the debts will be paid in the next few days.

Finally, HHA informed Mr. Kouroyblis that Mr. kontos had assured the former leadership of the Ministry that real time audits could be possible from 01.01.2015, as HHA had proposed. Though it is March, 2015 this measure has not yet been introduced. Mr. Kontos stated that real time audits will be possible only after the recruitment of doctors by the EOPYY.

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.