

Dear participants in the workshop,

I am satisfied that such important topics as "European Planning and forecasting of human resources in health care" will be discussed at today's meeting in the framework of the Joint Action of the European Union, that this meeting is held under the auspices of the Commission on Health 42 at the National Assembly and the organizer of today's discussion is the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" in Varna in cooperation with the Sofia National Center for Public Health and the analysis, in the presence of representatives of professional and patients' organizations.

I would like to declare my own satisfaction, not by courtesy, but because the battle for better health care, normal working conditions for nurses and elimination of stress in the system has been going on for years. It has affected the processes associated with the movement of health professionals, their training and professional qualifications. It is associated with the efficient allocation of resources in health care, with the possibility of equal access to medical care for different populations and ultimately to patients' satisfaction.

Recently, we have been talking more and more about a phenomenon that sociologists calls "brain drain" - capable, qualified, young doctors leave Bulgaria to work in different countries. But what material incentive drives them to such a decision? Is there another important reason such as inability to fast professional development in our own country, unfair competition, restrictions imposed by outdated laws and regulations?

I believe that the decisions which will be taken in today's forum will provide answers to pressing questions. I hope that these solutions will accelerate the positive changes in the hotspots of the health sector (emergency care, organ transplants, mental health care and drug supply) and will actually guarantee the quality and accessible medical care.

My greatest hope is that it will increase Bulgaria's chances that her most capable, highly qualified doctors, after studying abroad return home to live and work in their homeland and receive satisfaction from their medical work for the care they provide to their patients.

Dear participants in today's meeting, I wish you a successful work in your noble initiative for the efficient allocation of resources in the health care and development of human potential!

Sofia

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Dr. Tania Andreeva

Minister of Health