Press Release

Maltese healthcare no 20 in European Union health consumer ranking

Brussels, 1st October 2007

Malta has the 20th most consumer friendly healthcare system in Europe, according to the 2007 Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI) launched today in Brussels. This places Malta just ahead of Slovenia and Greece.

The Euro Health Consumer Index for 2007, the annual survey of EU healthcare, ranked the Maltese healthcare service as 20th out of 29 for their public healthcare systems. Austria wins with a score of 806, followed by the Netherlands (winner in 2005), France (winner in 2006) and Switzerland, Germany and Sweden.

In five categories, covering 27 performance indicators, Malta scores 568 points out of a potential 1,000.

“Experience shows that small healthcare systems have the capacity to quickly change course and improve. An example of such an improvement in Maltese healthcare policy could be to speed up the bureaucracy which currently prevents new medicines rapidly entering the public subsidy scheme,” concludes Dr. Arne Björnberg Research Director for the Euro Health Consumer Index.

What more could be done in Malta

“Antibiotic-resistant infection rates in Malta need to be reduced; to learn how, look at the approach in northern Scandinavia and the Netherlands”, says the president of the Health Consumer Powerhouse Mr Johan Hjertqvist when analysing the index outcomes for Malta.

About the Index

The Euro Health Consumer Index is the annual ranking of national European healthcare systems across five areas that are key to the consumer: patients’ rights and information, waiting times for common treatments, care outcomes, the generosity of the system and access to medication. It was first published in 2005. The Index is compiled from a combination of public statistics and independent research and is presented in a consumer friendly matrix. The Index is produced by the (Brussels-based) analysis and information organisation Health Consumer Powerhouse. The Index takes a consumer-centred position.

To view/download the 2007 Index and the explanatory report: www.healthpowerhouse.com/ehci

About the Health Consumer Powerhouse: www.healthpowerhouse.com

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