



The EAPTC (European Association of Patients and Users of Thermal Centers): activities and programmes

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Secretary General**

www.eaptc.net

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1. THE ORIGINAL IDEA

- the legal reference:
directive 2011/24/eu**
- the organizational
background: FEMTEC**

2. PRESENTATION AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**1 December 2015,
Brussels: meeting of the
MPs intergroup on
european patients' rights
and cross-border
healthcare**

3. THE BY-LAWS: THE AIMS

- to disseminate information and data regarding the prevention of EU citizens' diseases and the social promotion also by means of natural treatments especially thermal water and sea water (thalassotherapy);**
- to protect European consumers who are willing to access thermal and thalassotherapy treatments so as to make them able to benefit from the right to health care services according to the principles set out in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and by the WHO in the field of health and environment;**
- to foster healthy life styles also through information activities concerning primary and secondary prevention of persons;**

- to act as to remove those bureaucratic and legal barriers that are still preventing EU citizens to access health care services;**
- to assist European citizens with the processing of their applications forms to start and access a thermal and thalassotherapy treatment provided for by their national health systems;**
- to train new health and wellness professionals also by using innovative methods connected to the use of thermal and sea water;**

- to support the establishing of a European excellence network of authorised thermal SPAs and thalassotherapy centres, which is aimed at:**
 - a) managing the exchange of information and best practices concerning prevention and treatments;**
 - b) sharing the confirmed experiences as well as the outcomes of the scientific research carried out with reference to therapeutic activities;**
- to support the start-up of new thermal and health SPAs centres;**
- to organize training courses, seminars, conferences also in partnership with universities and research centres across Europe.**

4. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President:

Natalia Tchaourskaia (Russia)

Vice President:

Fausto Bonsignori (Italy)

Member:

Francesco Padrini (Italy)

5. THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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- **Dr. Federico Gelli**, MMG, Vice-President Health Commission, Chamber of Deputies, Italian Parliament
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- **Pr. Olga Sordu**, University Ovidius, Constanta, Romania
- **Pr. Marco Vitale**, University of Parma, Italy/ Scientific Coordinator of FORST (Italian Foundation for Thermal Medicine)

Co-ordinator:

Pr. Umberto Solimene, President of FEMTEC (World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy), State University of Milan, Italy

6. THE ACTIVITIES:

- contacts with other patients' organisations in the eu**
- signing up of a partnership agreement with active citizenship network**
- research project on the profiling of patients and users of health spa centres**
- definition of the health spa centres' regulation and standards**

7. THE FUTURE

- to become the reference network for patients and users of thermal centres in Europe**
- to support the scientific validation of thermal treatments**
- to act as an effective lobby to ensure citizens the right to health**
- to promote health spa treatments as preventative medicine**
- to enhance specific training programmes**

8. WHAT ROLE FOR PATIENTS AND USERS?

As to the single person:

- to be active in the service and accordingly to use it in a proper manner;**
- to activate resources as to:**
 - a) protect his/her health and life styles**
 - b) to promote his/her own wellbeing.**

As to the health system:

- to take part in the decision making process;**
- to bring in improvements;**
- training programs on proper use of services to create partnerships.**