



# *Ministry of Health*

Department for Prevention and Communication  
Directorate General for EU and International Affairs. Office V-Bilateral Agreements

## **MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL MEETING BETWEEN ITALIAN AND EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS**

### **1) PRELIMINARY REMARKS**

During the Italian-Egyptian meeting held in Rome on 19-20 October 2010, with the purpose of giving the appropriate relevance to bilateral relations, the respective Ministers of Health met on 19 October to discuss topics of mutual interest and review future steps of the collaboration.

To this purpose, in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of health and medical specialty sciences signed in Cairo on 26 September 2004, an action plan on the programme for cooperation in the sectors of health and medical sciences for the years 2010-2012 was signed.

On 19 October 2010 the two Ministers of Health, underlined some aspects of the cooperation and agreed on the following:

#### **a) EUROMED INITIATIVES**

The respective Ministries of Health undertake themselves to support Health in UfM (Union for Mediterranean) initiatives **so that "Health" may be considered as a new priority in the EUROMED program.**

Once the Italian Minister has informed the French co-presidency, the Egyptian Side will verify with the competent political bodies if this position could be endorsed and supported at the EU Commission organs and in the context of the future European meetings on this subject.

#### **b) CANCER**

The Ministers agreed on the priority area of cooperation reported in the Action Plan and decided to start focusing efforts in the field of cancer.

The Egyptian Minister informed that new well equipped Health Centres are being built in Egypt in the last years and by the next month of August a new 240 beds paediatric oncology Hospital will be opened in Cairo.

*Said Saleh*

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c) TRAINING

Training of health professionals, specially physicians, nurses and health technicians would be very appreciated by the Egyptian Side. Both residential and on the job training could be performed to improve management of health facilities and organisations.

d) ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

Training on organ transplantation activities and helping the development of an Egyptian National Transplant Centre, especially for the organizational and clinical aspects, should be carried out.

Moreover the Ministers discussed other relevant topics and the Italian Minister offered health care and medical assistance for Egyptian patients (including paediatric) in Italian Research or University Centres of excellence and cooperation in the management of the Egyptian Oncology Paediatric Hospital in Cairo.

e) VISIT TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (ISS)

On 19 October in the afternoon the Egyptian Minister of Health with the two delegations met the President of the ISS, Prof. Enrico Garaci, and some directors of the Departments.

A presentation of the different activities was provided with particular emphasis on CNESPS (National Centre for Epidemiology Surveillance and Health Promotion) and EPISOUTH projects. A specific interest for control and surveillance of viral Hepatitis C was stressed by the Egyptian Side. The ISS will identify a contact point on this matter.

Prof. Garaci mentioned the availability to perform training courses for Egyptian medical doctors and health professionals at the ISS.

Sad Raheb

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## 2) TECHNICAL MEETING

On 20 October 2010 a technical meeting between the two delegations took place in order to deepen the operative aspects of the cooperation.

### ITALIAN DELEGATION:


- Dr Giuseppe Ruocco, Director General DG for EU and International Affairs
- Dr Pietro Malara, Director Office V DG for EU and International Affairs
- Dr. Egle Parisi on behalf of Dr Giovanni Leonardi, Director Office VII DG Human Resources and Health Professions
- Dr Achille Iachino, DG Human Resources and Health Professions
- Dr Paola Di Ciaccio, National Transplant Centre
- Dr Valentino Martelli, Director General Mediterranean Institute of Haematology
- Dr Pasqualino Rossi, DG for EU and International Affairs
- Dr Patrizia Parodi, Office V, DG for EU and International Affairs
- Dr Fabrizio Sparaco Office I, DG for EU and International Affairs

### EGYPTIAN DELEGATION:

- Prof. Saaid Rateb, Assistant Minister for curative medicine.
- Prof. Mohamed Hany Hafez, Director General of the Commission for Medical Specialization
- Mrs. Kawthar Mahmoud, Head of the Central Department for Nursing.

The following items have been discussed:

- a. **Cancer**, in particular training and guidelines with regard to diagnosis and treatment, prevention and screening, and cancer registries. The Egyptian Delegation suggested arranging a visit for a team of experts to Oncology Paediatric Hospital in Cairo, to assess the possibility of future cooperation. Arrangements for the visit will be followed up by both teams.
- b. **Organ transplantation**: in order to improve the organ donation and transplantation system in Egypt, cooperation activities will be carried out in the following fields:
  - analysis and elaboration of a networking model of medical structures involved in the donation and transplantation process run by a prospective National transplant center (ICUs, immunology testing labs, nephrology, gastroenterology and other organ-specific departments, surgical transplant centers) including logistics and transportation;



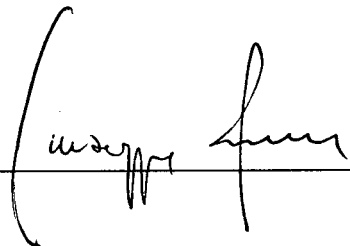
Saaid Rateb

- training of surgeons, medical doctors, nurses and local transplant coordinators on identification of organ donors and relationship with donor families.
  - The Egyptian Delegation suggested arranging a visit for a team of experts to the National Transplant Centre in Cairo, to assess the possibility of future cooperation. Arrangements for the visit will be followed up by both teams.
- c. **Infectious diseases**, in particular hepatitis, encephalitis and other viral infections, epidemiology and epidemiologic surveillance: with reference to what is reported under paragraph 1.
- d. **Haematology**, especially thalassemia, stem cell transplantation and blood bank: an exchange of documents and information between the Egyptian Ministry of Health and IME about the Sardinia experience on health education campaign.
- Bone-marrow transplantation expertise will be offered to the new Oncology paediatric hospital in Cairo.
- e. The **other areas of cooperation** included in the action plan will be implemented, where possible, in the framework of EUROMED projects (e.g. celiac disease, congenital heart diseases).

Taking into account the experience gained so far, the Parties will identify for each area mentioned in the previous paragraphs specific "focal points" who will be responsible for activity implementation and for sending periodic information to the respective Ministries on the ongoing projects, on possible critical aspects, and on suggestions to overcome them.

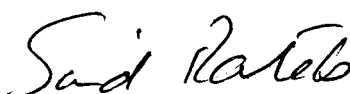
Done in Rome, on 20 October 2010

FOR THE ITALIAN DELEGATION



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FOR THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION

  
20.10.2010

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