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### E-Health Standards and Interoperability

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Under the auspices of Member of the European Parliament Milan Cabrnoch, MD, a Seminar on e-Health Standards and Interoperability was held on October 15 at the European Parliament, Brussels.

In his opening speech, Dr Cabrnoch stated that only efficient and interoperable e-Health tools and services could fulfill needs and demands of European citizens. Furthermore, he expressed a sincere appreciation for the contributions offered by the Bio- Health project in promoting standards, which are favourable to the development of innovative tools and services in the field of e-Health.

While the first session of the seminar focused on basic information about history, current status and the future of BioHealth project activities, its second was dedicated to the presentation of reports offered by projects and activities relevant for the development and use of e-Health standards and interoperability.

Marc Lange (EHTEL), for example, approached the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and presented the broader, legal, economic and political contexts of e-Health interoperability. Tomáš Mládek, from the the Czech web-based health record system IZIP, focused on interoperability aspects of the Internet patient record as well as the TEN4 Health Project. Another participant, Noel Nader from Sesam Vitale, presented the project NETC@RDS, a move to pave a way towards an electronic European Health Insurance Card.

The seminar on e-Health Standards and Interoperability represented a good opportunity for participants to share experiences and views on how to concentrate efforts to enhance e-Health usability by users, politicians, administrators, experts, developers and healthcare providers.

"You have to see it to believe it" is often heard when describing telepresence. But telepresence is not "Star-Trek" technology of tomorrow- it is available and in use today. Telepresence meetings make remote participants life-size, with fluid motion, accurate flesh-tones, eye-to-eye contact, and flawless audio. The experience feels remarkably natural for almost any size meeting, from two people to large classrooms. Telepresence solutions are easy to use and surprisingly handy for collaborating on spreadsheets, slide decks, documents, or even physical objects.

Medical Telepresence, which makes use of advanced communication technologies such as high speed networks, high definition video and audio, and large, high resolution displays to produce realistic, interactive experiences, has great potential as a medical tool for remote diagnosis, training and surgery. Many hospitals and medical facilities already use telepresence for remote training, efficiency of service, and continuity of care.

Telepresence World 2008 London, which will take place 18-19 March, 2008, at the city's internationally acclaimed ExCel London Exhibition and Conference Centre, will showcase this amazing technology and is the only place where attendees can experience first-hand telepresence demonstrations from leading vendors all under one roof.

Attendees at Telepresence World 2008 London will be able to:

- Understand how telepresence can facilitate continuity of care for your patients, even when you are out of town
- Discover how medical residents and fellows can receive training and mentoring from experts in their fields
- Learn how telepresence can speed communications in military or disaster-related environments
- Comprehend how telepresence is making it possible for patients and physicians to consult with the best possible specialists, whether day or night
- Identify how telepresence can help the collaborative process, whether it is used for research, clinical, or diagnostic purposes
- Hear how customers have used telepresence to grow and enhance their business and find out how this technology can help yours!

For further information on Telepresence World 2008 London, including the latest conference agenda and complete registration details, please visit: <http://www.telepresenceworld.com>

