

Amsterdam, 21 December 2016

Dear members of the EAHL,

With the end of the year approaching, this will be the last 2016 EAHL President letter.

You may by now have noticed that preparations are well under the way for the 6th EAHL conference on health rights entitlements/health care regulations and the distribution of healthcare (Bergen, Norway, 28-29 September 2017). In case you missed it, and for your convenience, the conference flyer is in attach. Via eahl2017.org you will find the welcome/invitation letter with detailed information on the theme of the conference as to its purpose and scope. The conference aims to address every aspect that contributes to a distribution of healthcare that is just and in accordance with human rights standards in times of scarcity and high-cost innovations: healthcare (prevention included) that is safe, cultural sensitive, cost-effective, with respect for patients' rights and human rights obligations.¹ Eahl2017.org also provides information on the conference venue, pre-events, and important dates. Information on hotel facilities and payment details will soon follow. You may put the flyer of the conference on your website (if any) and use it for distribution to colleagues.

The EAHL General Assembly will also take place during the conference (more details will be communicated later). Your presence at the meeting will show the interest you take in the EAHL. Amongst other issues, the performance of the EAHL will be on the agenda. There will also be elections of new Board members.

As to performance: the Board feels that the Association could mean more to its members than organising biannual conferences. In line with the aims of the Association we want to develop into a more continued, real forum of discussion on subjects of interest to health lawyers. One of the Board's intentions is to open a special section for PHD-students on the EAHL website, providing for the possibility to make known their phd-work (research- subject, stage of development etc) and allowing for exchanges of views. The Board foresees to discuss this issue at the occasion of the EAHL conference, when a special meeting with PHD-Students is planned on the 27th September (the day before the start of the conference).² Please send us declarations of interest in participating in such an interactive website prior to the conference; related suggestions are also welcome.³

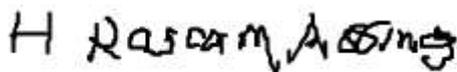
Another intention of the EAHL Board is to create room for members on the Association's website, so they can make known their publications in the field of health law and health law research they are involved in. This would provide an opportunity for exchange of views, development of new common research projects etc. etc.

For a start we plan to publish relevant information in the EAHL newsletter, which is sent around at regular intervals to the Association's members and also put on the EAHL website. In the news-letter and on the website you will also find information on new health law related rules and policy documents and about coming events.

We count on you to continue to send us relevant information, directly or through your national contact person.⁴ You may by now also be aware of the fact that the Board particularly welcomes the creation of interest groups under the aegis of the Association. Next to the official presentation of the interest group on biobanks during the 2017 conference in Bergen, there may also be an update on the interest group on data protection in health care (Jean Herveg). As a spin-off of a conference recently organised by EAHL member Stefania Negri (university of Larno),⁵ the creation of an interest group on 'Public Health and Health Law in the European context' is also envisaged. The clear link between European and international public health law and health policies has already instigated EAHL member Birgit Toebe of Groningen University to take the initiative for an interest group on health law and tobacco (in continuation of the WHO framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 2003, an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health). Members interested in one of these groups or in creating one, please contact our secretariat.

The Board sends you the best wishes for 2017. We are looking forward to a fruitful EAHL conference.

Henriette Roscam Abbing
President of the EAHL



¹ See also the last para. of the President letter of 22/10/2016.

² 28-29 September 2017.

³ To be addressed to EAHL administration.

⁴ The list can be found on the EAHL website.

⁵ Public Health and International Law : Challenges and Priorities in Health Security, Environmental Safety and Food, 12-13 December 2016. organised at the occasion of the presentation of the Jean Monnet Chair in European Health, Environmental and Food Safety Law.