



European Commissioners, the Latvian Minister for Health, the Estonian President and the CEO of HIMSS kick off eHealth Week 2015

"Me and my Health – Transcending Borders" Officially Opens the Three Day Conference

RIGA, Latvia, 11 May 2015: More than 1200 eHealth experts and 81 exhibitors from the 28 EU Member States have gathered in Riga to exchange knowledge and share best practices as part of the annual eHealth Week conference and exhibition. The event kicked off this afternoon with a VIP Press Conference and Exhibition Floor Tour, led by three representatives: Dr.Guntis Belēvičs, Minister for Health of Latvia, Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis and H. Stephen Lieber, CAE President and CEO of HIMSS, who then went on to take part in the "Me and my Health – Transcending Borders" session, together with Toomas H. Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia, officially opening the show.

Commissioner Andriukaitis highlighted the timely release of the [Digital Single Market](#): "We must seize the Digital Single market opportunities to fulfil a vision for healthcare in the 21st century – a vision of a single, universally accessible, sustainable and high quality, eHealth single market for the benefit of all European citizens and healthcare professionals".

He also highlighted the importance of eHealth Week: "By coming together at events such as this and by sharing experiences in the Member States and at EU level, we will drive forward the case for eHealth".

Lieber presented a number of awards on stage, including this year's HIMSS [EMRAM Stage 6 & 7 Award recipients](#), he said: "HIMSS recognises the challenges hospitals are facing, and through HIMSS Analytics EMRAM, we join forces to support hospital management in their quest to become paperless, and to optimise the usage of IT in delivering better healthcare. I am confident that the best practices shared during eHealth Week will help us move forwards in the right direction".

Lieber also presented the HIMSS Europe Leadership Award, which was handed to Morten Elbæk, CEO and Founder sundhed.dk, currently the largest patient portal in the whole of Europe. Jorge Gonzalez, Managing Director of TIC BioMed also came on stage to award six finalists of the [EU SME Competition](#), an initiative that rewards the best eHealth solutions produced by European SMEs which is organised by TIC BioMed and has the endorsement of the Health and Wellbeing Unit of the European Commission.

During eHealth Week, conference delegates will benefit from several sessions which provide in-depth expert presentations from around the world, including: the Joint Plenary Green Paper on mHealth: "Conclusions and Actions", which will provide an overview of the results of the public consultation in the context of the Commission's Green Paper on mHealth and sessions addressing current eHealth challenges, like "Privacy and Data Protection in Healthcare".

Editors' notes

Please contact Inés Burton (iburton@himss.org) for more information, to arrange an interview or to register for the event as press.

About eHealth Week and WoHIT

eHealth Week 2015, combined with the World of Health IT (WoHIT), is the main eHealth event in Europe, to be held in Riga, in May 11 – 13, as part of Latvia's Presidency of the EU Council. It is organized by the European Commission, the Latvian Ministry of Health and the international non-governmental organization HIMSS Europe. During eHealth Week 2015 over a thousand international experts from the fields of IT and healthcare, public institutions, professional and patient organisations will visit Latvia.



is organised by:



Ministry of Health
Republic of Latvia

