

Jean-Philippe Huchet's Press meeting Speech	
Date & place of the press meeting	4 December 2013, 13:00-14:00 DAK-Gesundheit Zentrale - Nagelsweg 27 – 31, Hambourg Room C 4/19
Topic	Last chance : improve the safety of medical devices – European wide

1. AIM Values and principles

- Since 1950, AIM is the umbrella organisation of health mutuals and health insurance funds (mainly national federations) in the world. AIM gathers 50 organisations in 28 countries, mainly in Europe, but also in Africa and Latin America.
- Our organisations provide compulsory, complementary health insurance and/or manage health facilities for 230 million people (160 million in Europe).
- AIM objective is to “develop and defend an access to high quality and affordable healthcare and social protection for all, based on solidarity and democracy.”
- AIM members share the same values:
 - **Solidarity:** We provide access to quality healthcare for everyone without risk selection, independently of our members' health status, age or income. All our members are not for profit.
 - **Democracy:** the people participate in the definition of our services and of the member fee, under the principle one man = one vote.
- Our role:
 - We tend to improve our knowledge thanks to exchanges between our members.
 - We promote our values towards the EU institutions: we lobby in favour of a European mutual Statute, in favour of safer medicines and medical devices, etc.

2. Why AIM is so important in Europe?

- With globalisation, our economies are linked more than ever. This interdependence is even stronger at the European Union level, where the market has been freed, and where the EU reduces progressively the scope of the Member States by adopting regulations in the field of social protection.
- Our citizens see Europe as the Europe of standards and financial markets.
- In this context, where citizens express their discontent, Mutual benefit societies and social insurers are key stakeholders to take into account. AIM job is to represent the interest of European citizens in the Health sector!
 - Why? because thanks to our governance (our leaders are elected among our members), our members are not only “clients”. They express their needs and they define the services of our organisations. **We are not profit-driven but only “members-driven”.**
 - Because we create link between the citizens, we respect the interests of the patients and we promote a safer health.
- For us, health is not consumption good. On the contrary, it is a fundamental human right and we strive to defend it.