

ALEC Conference

Cross border Challenges and opportunities, February 4th 2010 at 0900

Introduction by moderator Lena Furmark Löfgren

Ladies and gentlemen, dear eHealth friends,

There are certainly many borders to cross before we achieve seamless eHealth-services for all European citizens. It seems that for every step we take forward we meet a yet greater challenge to overcome.

These challenging borders consist of different things. Different languages, legacy, standards, working procedures. These borders are geographical, cultural, legal and ethical, Last but not least there are borders created by differences in the mindsets of decision makers and healthcare professionals.

In order not to lose hope when dealing with all these obstacles we must look back to notice all the things that we actually are achieving. 15 years ago, cross border care was rarely on the agenda. Today we see many efforts in this area.

I have the pleasure of being part of the Swedish management team of EpSOS. As you all know, this long term EU-project aims at establishing e-prescription and patient summary services in all the twelve participating member countries.

A key task is to establish a so called National Contact Point in each country. The NCP's can be described as technical as well as legal clearing house to create possibilities to send medical data in a secure way, when citizens need treatment abroad.

These NCP's will be piloted during 2011. Once they are in place we do have a starting point for a European infrastructure for cross border eHealth services. This work will of course take many years to complete and the Commission has already launched a second call for proposals regarding an extension of the project until 2014. This second phase aims at inviting more member states to participate and is also adding new eHealth services to the scope, such as a common emergency phone number. All these services are made possible by

the creation of the NCP's. This is a very challenging but truly inspiring joint mission.

This session will deal with cross border challenges and opportunities. I warmly welcome our distinguished panel