

Facing patient mobility in Europe

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Motivation and historical background

- ECJ rulings on patient mobility
- Removal of health services from the services directive

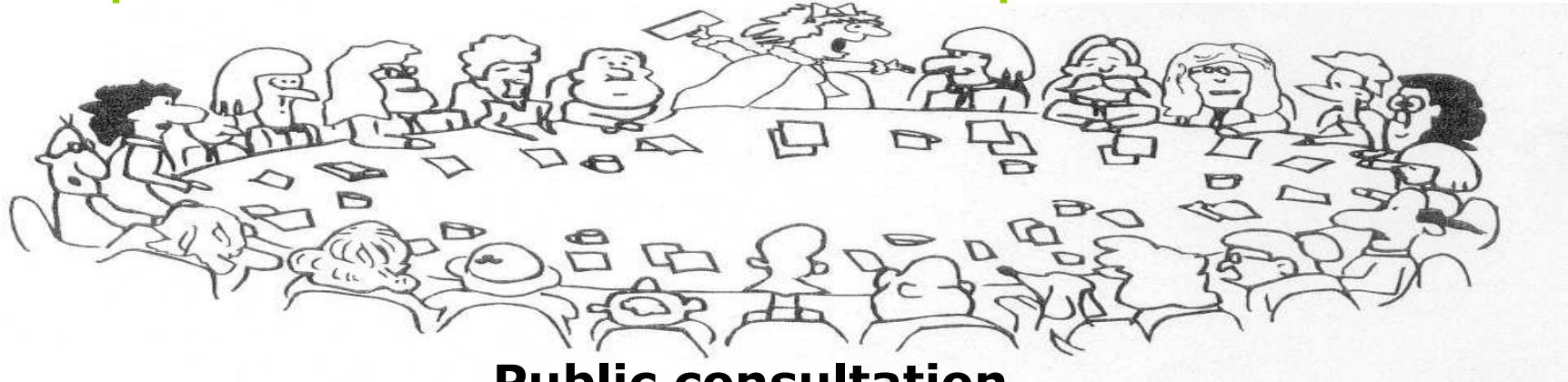
Size of cross-border healthcare

- 54% of EU citizens are open to travel to another EU country to seek medical treatment
- 1% of public expenditure on healthcare

Elements of the Community Framework for health services

- Common principles in all EU health systems
- Framework for cross-border healthcare
- European cooperation in health services

Intensive communication to define the problems and to develop solutions



Public consultation

- 270 replies from governments, regions, international and national organisations, social security institutions, universities, industry and individuals

Member States

- Informal ministerial meeting, November 2006
- Informal Council in Aachen, April 2007
- EPSCO Council, May 2007

European Parliament

- EP Resolution, March 2007
- 'Verghnaud Report', May 2007

Common principles for all EU health systems

- Fundamental elements for ensuring quality and safety of healthcare are in place
- Patients can make an informed choice between providers
- Clear rules and obligations exist to deal with harm arising from healthcare
- Continuity of care is ensured through transfer of relevant health data, and
- Patients from within and outside domestic systems are treated on a fair basis.

Framework for cross-border healthcare

- Clear entitlements of patients
- Limits that Member States can place
- Reimbursement

European added value through cooperation

- Cooperation in border regions
- Providing for medical recognition of prescriptions issued in another Member State
- Establishing European networks of reference centres for rare diseases
- Sharing assessments of new health technologies or techniques

European added value through cooperation

- Setting standards for the use of 'e-health' (information technology in healthcare, such as tele-radiology)
- Collecting data to enable comparable and comprehensive monitoring of cross-border healthcare, to allow its integration into the planning and management of health services overall

Coherence with other Community policies

- Regulations for coordination of social security schemes
- Framework for mutual recognition of professional qualifications
- Community framework for the protection of personal data
- E-health

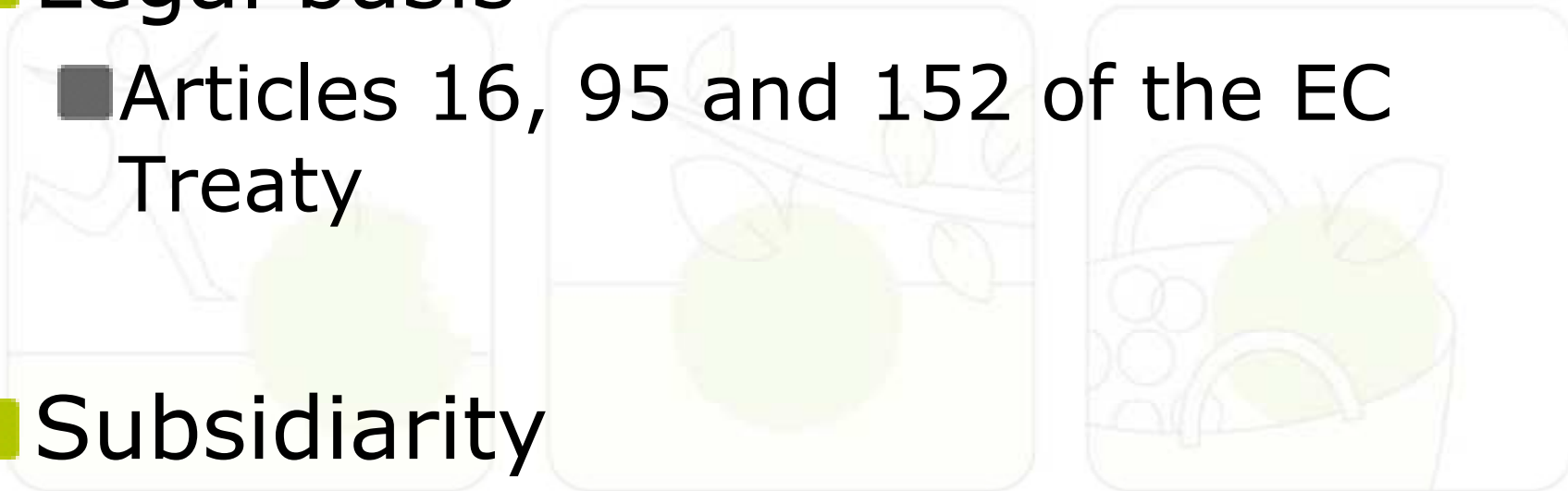
Legal Aspects

■ Legal basis

- Articles 16, 95 and 152 of the EC Treaty

■ Subsidiarity

■ Proportionality



Thank you for your attention!

