

# The European Health Insurance Card: an integrated process

Marc Berthiaume

European Commission, DG Employment

*EHTEL, 2 June 2004*

# From the EHIC to the e-EHIC

- How was it designed ?
- June 1st: launch of the second phase
- The way forward: toward an e-EHIC



# An integrated process

- ▶ **A political momentum:** Barcelona and the “Action Plan on Skills and Mobility”
- ▶ **A strong legal basis:** freedom of movement of persons
- ▶ **The three-stages approach: finding a balance within a changing context:** countries with large-scale deployment/with no infrastructures, various choices regarding technologies and functionalities, ongoing projects

# Where do we stand

- June 1st: 13 Member States kicked off the roll-out of the EHIC
- The roll-out is organised on a decentralised basis: each country has decided on the practical arrangements and the responsible bodies
- 12 Member States have availed to transitional periods up to the end of 2005

# Where do we stand

- The launch of the EHIC has helped achieving a modernisation of the legal framework
- The card is replacing all forms previously used for temporary stays (travels, studies, job search, posting), and not only the « E111 »
- Procedures have been streamlined and simplified

# Paving the way to an *e*-EHIC

- **All** Member States have committed themselves to phasing in an **e**-EHIC
- Information has been standardised (7 data)
- "Back office" (billing) is being enhanced
- Data can be used as keys to access secure on-line services
- Data can be used to develop other applications (e.g. personal identification number can be used as a patient's identifier)

# The road to an e-EHIC

- With 13 Member States rolling out the EHIC, a « critical mass » can be built upon
- An e-card should be justified by other functionalities than cross border mobility, and should be associated with national functions
- An e-EHIC should adapt to the wide disparities between countries regarding availability of readers, of infrastructures,...
- It should combine on-line and off-line solutions