

Ancient Findings and modern rules

28.01.2020 – Ayurveda Day hosted at the European Parliament

Dear Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

as the **Vice president** of the **European Ayurveda Association** and Board member of **Santulan Veda** I want to spend a **few words** today on **Ancient findings** and **modern rules**.

Health issues are **deeply rooted** in the European legislation.

But the transformation of this principle is **corrupted** in the case of Ayurveda. The limitation in current rules **especially affects the use of herbal medicinal products**, and the **admission of Ayurveda qualification** achieved outside of the European Union at Universities in India.

Modern rulings in the area of health are based on **standards of modern medicine**. Those standards are defined by the **state of the art as the result of research and the appropriate findings**. **Great developments** have been made and it is possible now for example to **access the DNA** or to **scan the human body** up to very small particles.

If we compare the **possibilities of today** with the **possibilities of 1920**, we may call them **limited - even underdeveloped**.

Now if we **imagine the view of health scientists in 2120** – what will **they** say about the state of art in 2020, that means **of today**?

Ayurveda goes back surely **more than 4.000 years**. It represents a health system that covers **all areas of modern medicine** considering the **basic elements of human existence**. And the **recipes endured till today**.

The so called **scientific prove** relies on tests **according to modern science**. *Modern* in a legal sense means **excessive tests**, chemical, biological, microbiological, toxicological and pharmacological as well as clinical trials. It puts **an immense burden on already proved and tested remedies** and produces **high costs** for **traditional small** and medium sized enterprises.

Ayurvedic medicines have been used **for thousands of years**, they have **stood the test of time** and they are **dispensed successfully - longer than any medicinal product** used in the European Union today.

Modern Medicine often **proves helpless** when it meets **modern diseases**, while **Ayurveda offers treatments**.

We therefore **challenge the doubts** that modern rules raise concerning Ayurveda.

What are the doubts based on?

Why is **herbal medicine** known to treat certain disorders **effectively for centuries not qualified** to be called **medicine**?

Why are people **highly educated** and **willing to give guidance** in questions of Ayurvedic treatment faced **with extreme hurdles** before being **admitted as practising physicians** in the European Union?

The western medicine system of today is **limited in its perception and methods** - as was the medicine system in 1920 – because **it doubts a system that we do not understand** from a so-called **scientific point of view**. In the name of **public health** chances of benefitting from **ancient findings are neglected and victimised** in the name of **modern rules**.

People practicing Ayurveda are here **to ask the European parliament for help** because **Ayurveda is ready and capable of helping** with a **holistic system** established for **thousands of years**.

We are asking the authorities **to listen and to meditate on chances** towards – and I am quoting the treaty - **improving public health, preventing physical and mental illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to physical and mental health**.

Ayurveda was created **long ago precisely for this**.

We are ready to introduce **recommendations** regarding the formation of rules that can be called **modern** while considering **ancient findings**.

We **offer to work on amendments to the corresponding directives** and we **invite critics** to satisfy themselves that Ayurveda **really** offers solutions.

Please **visit authentic Ayurvedic centres in Europe** and feel **encouraged to visit India** to explore the **abundance of Ayurveda** - the **knowledge of life**.

Thank You for Your attention.

Annotations

- Art. 12 of the **European Social Charter** states that
With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to protection of health, the Parties undertake, either directly or in cooperation with public or private organisations, to take appropriate measures designed inter alia:
 - to remove as far as possible the causes of ill health
 - to provide advisory and educational facilities for the promotion of health and the encouragement of individual responsibility in matters of health;
- Art. 168 paragraph 1 of the **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union** states that Union action, which shall complement national policies, shall be directed towards improving public health, preventing physical and mental illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to physical and mental health.
- According to the **agenda of the European commission**, released in 2014 Healthcare needs to be accessible for everyone, capable of coping with the challenges that lie ahead and achieve this while remaining cost effective.
- According to Art. 8 paragraph 3 (i) of the **directive 201/83/EC**, physio-chemical, biological or microbiological tests, toxicological and pharmacological tests and clinical trials are necessary
- WHO definition of Health:
Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (unchanged definition in the Constitution of the WHO, adopted by the International Health Conference held in New York from 19 June to 22 July 1946, signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States, among them representatives of Belgium, India and the UK.