



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



I am very much looking forward to the 92nd EFN General Assembly in Bucharest in April, as so many of the important issues for the nursing community in Europe are on the agenda.

In the resolution about the 2020 strategy the European Parliament adopted in March, the Parliament stressed that to combat high and growing unemployment, the EU must implement its ambitious social agenda, which includes fighting poverty, discrimination and social exclusion, keeping people at school longer and promoting lifelong learning. As nurses, we are looking forward to see the social agenda being reality to benefit the citizens of Europe and to secure lifelong learning for nurses whom will have a key role in securing a more social Europe for all.

The European Commission 2010-2014 has made a poster with the commissioners Policy commitments. The EU Health Commissioner John Dalli states that he will push to restart Council discussions and promote compromise on the proposal on cross-border healthcare, and address the challenge of Europe's ageing population. Two very important issues that we will follow closely in EFN.

Grete Christensen
EFN President

News from EFN

DG Internal Market – Evaluation Directive 36

The EFN participated in the conference organised on 17 March 2010, by DG Internal Market, to discuss the evaluation process of DIR36. The European professional organisations present were informed on several key points, namely that: the evaluation should take up to 2 years; data on indicators will be collected; the EU stakeholders and their networks will be involved, as well as people on the ground; and that experts will be appointed to do the evaluation. During the discussion several questions were raised, particularly on: mobility; impact of educational reforms and technological advancements; the role of professional bodies; and the automatic recognition of the sectoral professions (nurses (EFN), midwives (EMA), doctors (CPME), pharmacists (PGEU), dentists (CED), veterinary doctors (FVE), and architects (ACE-CAE)) – the participants highlighted its importance in enabling mobility and simplifying the recognition process. Bologna process was also discussed and identified as not facilitating mobility of existing professionals, but rather focussing on students. Mr. Jürgen Tiedje, from DG Internal Market, noted that the principles of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) (education & training) are different from the Directive 36 (mobility), having different aims and different focus. Therefore, the two need to remain separated for serving their distinct roles. The 5 sectoral health professions (EFN, CPME, PGEU, CED, EMA) will follow-up the discussions and set a common position.

Conference on "Nursing Career and Nursing Education"

The EFN was invited to participate in the conference on "Nursing carrier and nursing education" organised on 19 March 2010, in Slovenia, in collaboration with the Slovenian Nursing Chamber, the Ministry of health, and WHO Office in Slovenia. The conference focussed on DIR36 & Workforce. In Slovenia, too many non qualified nurses (70%) form the health workforce, in contrast to the registered Nurses (30%). In comparison with many other EU Member States, Slovenia starts having unemployment numbers for both categories. From WHO presentation, Slovenia has 735 nurses per 100.000 population, putting Slovenia safely in the middle of the benchmark average. Knowing that "DIR 36 NURSES" are 30%, the graph will change and this addresses again the issue of comparable data! In its presentation on "Implementation of DIR 36, Workforce and Quality/safety", the EFN General Secretary stressed the importance of focusing on patient outcomes: pressure scores, medication errors, infections, patient complaints, to measure quality and safety.

News from the EU

New EU legislation to reduce injuries for healthcare workers in Europe

The EU Employment and Social Affairs Ministers adopted, on 8 March 2010, a Directive to prevent injuries and infections to healthcare workers from sharp objects such as needlesticks - estimated to cause 1 million injuries each year. The new Directive, which implements in law a framework agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector signed in July 2009 by the European Public Services Union (EPSU) and the European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association (HOSPEEM), aims to: achieve the safest possible working environment for healthcare workers, as well as for patients; prevent injuries to workers caused by all types of sharp medical objects (including needlesticks); and set up an integrated approach to assessing and preventing risks as well as to training and informing workers. The EFN welcomes the adoption of this Directive, as a demonstration of the positive practical impact of the European Union. As a concrete follow-up, the Spanish General Council of Nursing, a member of EFN, is organising an EU Summit on Sharps Injuries on 1-2 June 2010, supported by the Spanish EU Presidency, focusing specifically on the way to implement the Directive at national, regional and local level.

EU 2020 Strategy

On 10 March 2010, the MEPs adopted a resolution on the EU strategy for 2020 (by 462 votes in favour, 140 against, and 58 abstentions). MEPs consider that the EU 2020 Strategy must provide an effective response to the economic and financial crisis. They also believe that the Lisbon Strategy failed due to the absence of efficient incentives and binding instruments at EU level. For this reason, they urge the European Council to abandon the "Open Coordination Method" based on the "exchange of best practices" and to use the Lisbon Treaty to coordinate better the economic reforms and action plans of Member States. The MEPs also stressed that to combat high and growing unemployment, the EU must implement its ambitious social agenda, which includes fighting poverty, discrimination and social exclusion, keeping people at school longer and promoting lifelong learning. Finally, the European Parliament is asking the European Commission to propose new measures, and possible sanctions, to deal with Member States that do not implement the EU 2020 Strategy, as well as incentives for those that do so.

Index

Page N°

President Message 1
News from EFN 1
News from the EU 1-2
Agenda 2
Publications 2

AGENDA

[World Health Day 2010](#)

7 April 2010

[EPHA Policy Coordination Meeting](#)

7 April 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[18th International Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals & Health Services](#)

14-16 April 2010, Manchester, UK

[EFN General Assembly](#)

15-16 April 2010, Bucharest, Romania

[Geneva Health Forum 2010: "Globalization, Crisis, and Health Systems: Confronting Regional Perspectives"](#)

19-21 April 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

[eHealth Users Stakeholders Group](#)

23 April 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[RCN Congress 2010](#)

25-29 April 2010, Bournemouth, UK

[EFNMA 14th Annual Forum](#)

29-30 April 2010, Bulgaria

[37th Panhellenic Nursing Congress](#)

3-6 May 2010, Sithonia Chalkidiki, Greece

[EPHA Policy Coordination Meeting](#)

5 May 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[International Nurses Day](#)

12 May 2010

[4th Croatian Nurses Association Nursing Congress "Nursing: The scope of differences"](#)

15-18 May 2010, Zagreb, Croatia

[Stakeholders meeting and Symposium on "Nurse staffing and its impact on patient safety: towards a better forecast of human resources needs in nursing"](#)

21 May 2010, Madrid, Spain

[Congress of Nurses-Technicians and Midwives of Serbia](#)

19-23 May 2010, Zlatibor, Serbia

For further information: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/006-70324-067-03-11-901-20100310IPR70323-08-03-2010-2010-false/default_en.htm

Education - Bologna process

The European Commission presented a report entitled "[Focus on higher education in Europe 2010: impact of the Bologna process](#)" which reveals that, ten years after the launch of the Bologna Process aiming to reform the European higher education to make it more compatible, comparable, competitive and attractive for students, 46 countries participating in the Bologna Process still encounter some difficulties in modernising their higher education. According to the report, this process has largely met its initial objectives, thanks to a joint approach. The three-cycle degree system and higher quality standards are now the norm across Europe, although recognition of qualifications is still a problem in some cases. For further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/246&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quillanguage=EN>

MEPs call for equal pay between men and women

The continuing pay gap between men and women in the EU, the difficulties in reconciling private and professional life, violence against women, and more female MEPs, were some of the issues raised in the European Parliament on the occasion of the International Women's Day, on 8 March 2010. Recalling the [Women's Charter](#) presented on 5 March 2010, which aims at a gender equality plan for next 5 years, several MEPs criticised the fact that the European Commission presented this new plan without having consulted civil society first. Swedish MEP Eva-Britt Svensson (GUE/NGL) also concerned about the weak content of the Charter, proposed to use time until next Women's Day in 2011 to discuss with the European Parliament and the civil society on the proposal. For further information:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament/public/staticDisplay.do?language=EN&id=75>

European Commission 2010-2014 - Policy commitments

The 2010-2014 European Commission is the first college to take office under the Lisbon Treaty. Burson-Marsteller Brussels has released a [poster](#) summarizing the main policy commitments made by the new commissioners during their hearings before Parliament in early 2010. Thus, you can follow and evaluate their progress in matching their words with deeds throughout the term of the Barroso II Commission.

Common Health Terminology

The [International Council of Nurses](#) (ICN) and the [International Healthcare Terminology Standards Development Organisation](#) (IHTSDO) announced a collaborative agreement to advance terminology harmonization and foster interoperability in health information systems. Nurses need to be able to access and share patient information in a standard way, to ensure safety, improve quality of care across the health care delivery system and communicate with other health professions. Optimal healthcare terminologies in health information systems support the goals of improved quality of care, enhanced patient safety processes, and valid data-based decision support for clinicians and policy development. Therefore, the ICN will be an active participant in the work of the IHTSDO and will facilitate involvement of the nursing community through the IHTSDO Nursing Special Interest Group and ICNP programme activities. For further information: http://www.icn.ch/PRO4_10.htm

Publications

Planning Europe's healthcare revolution



[Friends of Europe](#) published a [report](#) on the European high level Summit on healthcare reform, organised by Friends of Europe in partnership with Microsoft and Novartis. The debate focused on issues such as the possible benefits of e-health and other innovative technologies, in particular with regards to reducing healthcare inequalities. Europe's healthcare system is undergoing a revolution, with e-health leading the way. Advances in the information and communication technologies (ICT) industry mean knowledge can move quickly and services can

be offered more efficiently. With this in mind, the EFN will participate in the EU project "Joint Action on European e-Health Governance Initiative" which aims to create a platform for Member States coordinated action at Decision Makers level, in order to ensure quality, continuity, safety and efficiency of healthcare built upon ICT.

Implementing Nurse Prescribing

The [International Council of Nurses](#) (ICN) released the third revised version of the ICN monograph on "[Implementing Nurse Prescribing](#)", which reflects the significant developments in nurse prescribing policy and practice that have taken place in the last five years, describes the current practice and gives examples of new developments.

Notes on Nursing: A Guide for Today's Caregivers

The [International Council of Nurses](#) (ICN) also released a new version of Florence Nightingale's "[Notes on Nursing: A Guide for Today's Caregivers](#)". This special book is meant as a 'gift' from nursing to the patients and caregivers of today.

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NURSES ASSOCIATIONS



EFN Brussels Office
Clos du Parnasse 11a
B-1050 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 512 74 19
Fax +32 2 512 35 50
E-mail efn@efn.be
Web www.efnweb.org
Registration Number
NG00476.356.013