



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



The European Commission launched the Green Paper on the EU workforce for Health in December 2008. I very much welcome this initiative as it is more and more important that we in a European perspective face the challenges of an ageing population and an ageing workforce in Health. I hope the Green Paper will result in initiatives that will strengthen the nursing profession to benefit the people in Europe. Therefore, I ask all our members to submit their views before 31 March 2009.

It is also very positive that the European Commission is working together with a wide range of organisations in the effort to implement the EU health strategy, and by that developing health in the European Union. The EU Open Health forum is a good example of how we as professionals can contribute to improve the health of the European population, in cooperation with other stakeholders.

Finally, I wish all the EFN members and collaborators a happy and prosperous New Year.

Grete Christensen
EFN President

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News from EFN

TAIEX Peer Review Experts' meeting

The EFN organised a successful meeting on 15 December 2008, in the EFN Brussels Office, with the EFN Members experts on the EU Nursing Education Accession Peer Reviews. The main objective of this meeting was to brainstorm on an "ideal model" for the accreditation of the Nursing Schools and Curricula within the EU, and to be a first step to provide input to the Revision Report of Directive 36 (DG Internal Market), before 2012, on how EFN and other stakeholders see ideally future developments in the area of nursing education, based on nurses views, ideas and experiences. It is important to identify the EU Members States basic needs in terms of Education & Curricula and see how different reforms, especially the Bologna process, have an impact on the education of nurses and as such on "fitness for practice".

Green Paper on the EU Workforce for Health

The EFN participated as [key note speaker](#) in the European Commission DG Health and Consumers Protection [conference](#), held on 10 December 2008, as part of the [Europe for Patients campaign](#), to launch the [Green paper on the EU Workforce for Health](#), aiming to increase the political visibility of the challenges facing health systems in Europe, and to engage stakeholders in the debate in order to have their views on a wide range of issues linked to the healthcare workforce and preparing for the care of an ageing population, and its consultation process, running until 31 March 2009.

For further information: <http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/index050109.html>

EU Open Health Forum

Cati Gulie (Romania), Unni Hembre (Norway), Susan Williams (RCN) and Paul De Raeve (EFN) participated in the EU [Open Health Forum conference "Developing and Implementing Health in the European Union"](#), held in December 2008. Organised in collaboration with the French EU Presidency, to inform and discuss on the current debate on the implementation mechanism of the new EU Health Strategy, the conference marked an important step towards strengthening the involvement of all stakeholders in contributing to the development and implementation of actions and activities to protect and improve the health of European citizens. Building on the progress made through structures as the EU Health Forum, the European Commission will work closely with stakeholders' groups, and with regional and local level bodies with a view to optimising their contribution to the implementation of the EU health strategy.

News from the EU

Czech EU Presidency



On 1st January 2009, the Czech Republic took up the EU Presidency from France for a six months period. Its motto "Europe without Barriers" expresses its will to remove the remaining obstacles between EU Member States, in particular in regard to the internal market – the free movement of goods, services, persons and capital, including the EU and national legislation. The main priorities of the Czech Presidency are: Economy, Energy and European Union in the World. In relation to health, the Czech Presidency will focus on: Exercise of Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare; Financial Sustainability of Healthcare Systems; and e-Health and Telemedicine. For further information:

<http://www.eu2009.cz/scripts/file.php?id=6226&down=yes>

AGENDA

[EHMA Roundtable on "Patient Safety and Quality of Health Services"](#)

22 January 2009, Brussels, Belgium

[Informal Meeting of Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs](#)

22-24 January 2009, Luhačovice, Czech Republic

[Meeting of Chief Nursing Officers](#)

4-5 February 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

[EUNetPaS WP4 meeting](#)

5 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium

[EHMA Roundtable on the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health](#)

13 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium

[Securing Europe's Healthcare](#)

17-18 February 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

[Workshop "Monitoring and Benchmarking e-Health in Europe and the World"](#)

18 February 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

[eHealth Conference 2009](#)

18-20 February 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

Working Time Directive

Meeting on 17 December 2008, the Members of the European Parliament adopted the [Report from Alejandro Cercas \(PES, ES\)](#) on the amendment of Directive 2003/88/EC regarding certain aspects of the organisation of the working time, with 421 votes for, 273 against and 11 abstentions. By doing this, the European Parliament expressed its disagreement with the Council (where a common position was adopted on 9 June 2008) notably regarding the "opt-out" and on-call time. The MEPs stated that there must be no exceptions to the 48 hours-maximum working time calculated over a reference period of 12 months and ask that the opt-out is ended (three years after adoption of the directive), and that any period of on-call time should be considered as working time. For further information:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/FindByProcnum.do?lang=en&procnum=COD/2004/0209>

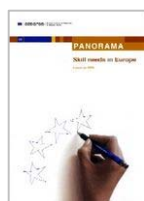
The European Parliament calls for a structured civil dialogue

The European Parliament adopted on 13 January 2009, by a large majority (519 votes in favour and 75 against), the report from the Polish MEP Genowefa Grabowska (PES), calling for a "structured civil dialogue" between the EU institutions and the civil society. The report aims to establish new inter-institutional agreements and improve methods for organising the consultation process and the funding of civil society, provided that the Lisbon Treaty enters into force in 2010. For further information:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2009-0007&language=EN&ring=A6-2008-0475>

Publications

"Future skill needs in Europe: focus on 2020"



Commissioned by the European government leaders in an effort to prepare the workforce for [tomorrow's jobs](#) and avoid some of today's mismatches, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) published a report on the future of the European job market, entitled "[Future skill needs in Europe: focus on 2020](#)", which states that by 2020, three out of four people employed in the EU will be working in services like insurance, healthcare and education; and that more jobs will require higher education and advanced skills in addition to generic analytical, communication, computer and teamwork abilities. At the same time, demand is expected to increase for some jobs requiring few or no skills.

Health Technology Assessment in Europe



The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies published a new book entitled "[Health Technology Assessment and Health Policy-Making in Europe - Current status, challenges and potential](#)", which gives an overview of the relationship between the Health technology assessment (HTA) and health policy from different perspectives, with a special focus on Europe. The purpose of this book is to transmit the value of HTA to a wide public in decision-making and healthcare management in order to increase their awareness of HTA activities and evidence-based decision-making.

Clinical Practice Guidelines - Management of Chronic Hepatitis B

The European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), the Europe's leading association of medical professionals dedicated to promoting liver research and care, published its first [Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Chronic Hepatitis B](#). These guidelines, which aim to be an update to the existing guidelines for the optimal management of chronic Hepatitis B, are intended to assist physicians and other healthcare providers, as well as patients and interested individuals in the clinical decision-making process, by describing a range of state-of-the-art approaches for the diagnosis and treatment of chronic hepatitis B.

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