



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



The General Assembly in Romania was a great success. The constructive discussions and decisions brought us forward and pinpointed the many exiting tasks we face in the time to come.

The EU workforce for Health is very high on the European agenda – and for a very good reason. The scope was originally to cope with the ageing workforce, but as the financial crisis has turned into a very severe economic crisis in all European countries, it is now very important to see the development of health workforce of tomorrow in the light of cut back in the Health sector.

The EFN will, at the next General Assembly in October 2010, in Brussels, have a "Tour de Table" on the cut down in finances for nursing and nurses – as this is a major threat for patients, patient safety, for nurses and for the future Workforce for health. Therefore, the EFN will follow the development of the economical crisis very closely over the summer.

Grete Christensen
EFN President

News from EFN

EFN Spring General Assembly, Romania

The EFN organised its 92nd General Assembly, in Bucharest - Romania, on 15-16 April 2010, where the members discussed, shared their experience, and provided their views on key issues, such as: the Directive 36 and the challenges in opening it; the EU Workforce for Health; Sharp Injuries and the upcoming EU Summit organised by the Spanish General Council of Nursing, an EFN member, on 1-2 June 2010, in Madrid - Spain; the European Nursing Research and the main conclusions of the survey "Nursing Research in Europe: reaching a consensus on strategic priorities" developed by EFN members (Germany, Portugal & UK) – The EFN members approved the EFN Policy & Position Statement on Nursing Research; the EU Projects: eHealth Joint Action (to be approved by the European Commission), and EUNetPaS WP2 (Education and Training) Patient Safety Education guidelines, and WP1 (Patient Safety Culture) Patient Safety Culture Indicators (PSCI) catalogue and recommendations; as well as the review of EFN Constitution to fit future challenges within the nursing community. The next EFN General Assembly will take place in Brussels on 28-29 October 2010. For further information: www.efnweb.eu

EU Workforce for Health

The EFN participated in the meeting of the Working Group on Healthcare Professionals organised by EPHA on 6 April 2010, with a focus on the development of strategies on the EU health workforce, building on past work on the mobility of healthcare professionals in the European Union. The meeting provided the healthcare professionals an opportunity to discuss the objectives for a European Parliament Declaration on EU Workforce in relation to the upcoming Belgian EU Presidency. The healthcare professions present agreed to work closely with each other when drafting policy documents and exchanging best practices, leading to empowered and successful EU Presidency policy outcomes.

The EFN also participated in the Policy Dialogues organised on 26-30 April 2010, in Leuven, Belgium, by the European Commission's Directorate General of Health and Consumers and WHO European Observatory - on behalf of the Belgian Ministry of Health - as a follow up of the consultation on the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health. The aim objective of these policy dialogues, that brought together delegates from the EU Member States, selected candidate countries and European Economic Area countries as well as European stakeholder organizations, was to gather evidence around specific aspects and raise policy options as regards EU workforce, and to initiate reflections and pave the way for the conference "Investing in Europe's health workforce of tomorrow: scope for innovation and collaboration" that will be held on 9-10 September 2010, during the Belgium EU Presidency, which should create the momentum and produce the concrete policy options to be translated in the Council conclusions.

eHealth Users Stakeholders Group meeting

As member of the eHealth Users' Stakeholders Group, the EFN participated in the meeting organised on 23 April 2010, in Brussels. The participants were briefed on the latest outcomes of the eHealth Conference held in Barcelona, on 15-18 March 2010. On 6 May 2010, the chair of the users group, Michael Wilks and the patient representative – the European Patients' Forum (EPF) -, will attend a meeting with the Belgian Ministry of Health to discuss users stakeholders input to the Joint Action, specifically on the topic trust. Furthermore, Flora Giorgio from DG INFSO presented the 'Digital Agenda', part of the European Commission Work Programme 2010, focusing on patient and citizens engagement. Finally, EHTEL presented the project ETHICAL (Promoting international debate on ethical implications of data collection, use and retention for biometric and medical applications) and the members were invited to give their opinion on some relevant topics, in order to identify the main issues where the group should be focusing on for further action and developments. The next meeting will be held on 17 September 2010.

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## AGENDA

### [37<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Nursing Congress](#)

3-6 May 2010, Sithonia Chalkidiki, Greece

### [EPHA Policy Coordination Meeting](#)

5 May 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [EPHA Special Interest Group on health systems meeting](#)

5 May 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [International Nurses Day](#)

12 May 2010

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

15-18 May 2010, Zagreb, Croatia

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

19-23 May 2010, Zlatibor, Serbia

### [EU Health Policy Forum](#)

20 May 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [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

### [International Symposium "Clarity and Quality: Transforming the Cross-Border Healthcare System in Europe"](#)

27 May 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [1<sup>st</sup> European Congress of Private Hospitals "Towards a Europe for Health : free choice, efficiency and quality of healthcare"](#)

27-28 May 2010, Paris, France

### [EFN Executive Committee meeting](#)

31 May 2010, Madrid, Spain

### [EU Summit on Sharps Injuries](#)

1-2 June 2010, Madrid, Spain

### [EPHA Policy Coordination Meeting](#)

2 June 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Patient Safety](#)

3-4 June 2010, Madrid, Spain

### [European Commission "Open Information Day" & "Brokerage event on FP7 Health research"](#)

8 June 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [Fourth Global Health Policy Forum](#)

10-11 June 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [EPHA Annual General Assembly](#)

17-18 June 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [Open Health Forum "Health in All Policies"](#)

29-30 June 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [2010 EHMA Annual Conference "Managing radical change in health: quality, efficiency, equity"](#)

30 June - 2 July 2010, Lahti, Finland

## News from the EU

### European Commission Priorities 2010

On 31<sup>st</sup> March, the European Commission adopted its [working programme for 2010](#), which reflects the Commission's determination to bring Europe out of the economic crisis and to implement policies that directly benefit its citizens. The [work programme 2010](#) translates the priorities of President Barroso [political guidelines](#) into concrete actions. The emphasis is put on: putting the Europe 2020 Strategy into practice to build the basis for exiting the economic crisis and creating sustainable growth and jobs; enhancing the rights and security of European citizens; and strengthening Europe's role on the world stage. In order to facilitate dialogue, provide predictability and ensure transparency, the European Commission also adopted a list of 34 strategic priorities to be implemented before the end of the year, as well as a list of 280 major proposals to be looked into in 2010 and beyond.

### Global Health

With the 2015 deadline for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) appearing on the horizon, and the increasing political pressure to live up to commitments made a decade ago, the [European Commission adopted](#), on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, proposals to enhance the EU's role in global health. The objective is to make Europe's contribution more effective to better accompany developing countries in getting back on track towards achieving health-related [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#). Four areas for action to improve healthcare worldwide, were presented: the establishment of more democratic, better coordinated world governance; incentives for collective work towards universal healthcare and access for all to these services; increased coherence between the various Union policies that are linked to healthcare; better coordination of European research with regard to world healthcare and greater access on the part of developing countries with regard to new knowledge and new treatment. This new policy framework aims to be a turning point in promoting the right to health and better addressing global health challenges.

Furthermore, in moving the political agenda forward, a number of nurses' organisations in Europe, members of EFN, and active within the global health context, are following up this political process, and working in partnership with colleagues in the developing world to strengthen civil society organisations, and advocating for health improvements and for the health workforce needs to be delivered on the ground. Also, the European Commission is organising a major [conference on global health](#), in Brussels, on 10-11 June 2010. The EFN will be represented by the [Norwegian Nurses' Organisation](#), having a rich experience in working in this field in the developing countries (Malawi, Zambia, and Uganda), and working with other national nursing organisations in Europe, including the Royal College of Nursing (UK), to help shape the EU's strategic direction in global health.

### European Citizens Initiative

Seen as an important new tool to bridge the large and growing gap between citizens and the EU, the much heralded "[European Citizens Initiative \(ECI\)](#)" to change EU laws has been given a [cautious welcome by MEPs](#). Under the scheme - a major innovation of the Lisbon treaty - one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States can call directly on the European Commission to bring forward an initiative of interest to them in an area of EU competence.

### Publications

#### Patient Safety and quality of healthcare

The European Commission Eurobarometer published a survey on "[Patient Safety and Quality of Healthcare](#)" which reveals that almost 50% of the Europeans responding to the survey fear they could be harmed by healthcare and over 25% claimed that they or a member of their family had experienced harm (an adverse event) in a healthcare setting. Many of these events go unreported and one third of respondents did not know which organisation was responsible for patient safety in their country. Action to improve patient safety at European level was stepped up last year through better EU coordination, more reporting of incidents, increased patient involvement and training of staff.

#### Health Systems Governance in Europe

[WHO European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies](#) published a study entitled "[Health Systems Governance in Europe: The Role of EU Law and Policy](#)", that looks into different areas of EU policy and law-making that have an impact on national healthcare systems. It provides policy-makers with a compelling and rigorous analysis of the real and potential impacts of EU integration on the organisation of healthcare provision and the protection of public health, highlighting the need to balance economic and social imperatives.

