



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



First of all I want to thank all the EFN members for re-electing me as President of the EFN for the coming 2 years. I will strive to live up to the confidence you have shown me.

As you can see in this Update a lot is happening in the field of our core business: both on e-health, patient safety, and quality and safety standards, but also regarding mutual recognition of professional qualifications. In addition to this, the Swedish EU Presidency has worked out a revised suggestion for a directive on crossborder healthcare. Also in this field the EFN office and the member organisations will work hard to do the best for all nurses and citizens in Europe.

With suspense, we are awaiting the upcoming appointment of the new EU Commission as well as the new Commissioners' future footprint on health related issues.

At the last EFN General Assembly we agreed to strengthen our economy to ensure that we also in the future can work as a professional and important player on the European stage and I am sure we will succeed in this.

Grete Christensen
EFN President

News from EFN

EFN Autumn General Assembly, Sweden

The EFN organised its 91st General Assembly, in Stockholm, Sweden, on 1-2 October 2009, where the members discussed on: EFN/ICN membership & Constitutional changes; Green Paper on EU Workforce for Health; Directive 36; Quality and Safety Standards; EUNetPaS and CALLIOPE EU Projects; and the EFN Budget 2010-2012. The EFN Members also shared their national experience on e-health, and were informed on the first results of a survey developed by EFN members - Germany, Portugal & UK - "Nursing Research in Europe: reaching a consensus on strategic priorities", which aims to identify/develop research evidence to underpin European Union lobbying for the benefit of nurses and nursing; Increase awareness of research funding and training opportunities; and Monitor the impact of nursing research on health and social care policy across Europe. The EFN Members also approved two Policy & Position Statements: on E-health and on EU Quality and Safety Standards, and re-elected the following members of the Executive Committee: President - Ms Grete Christensen (Denmark); Treasurer - Mr. Pierre Théraulaz (Switzerland) and two members of the Executive Committee: Mr. Thierry Lothaire (Belgium), and Dr. Peter Carter (UK). Finally, a CNO-EFN meeting was organised on 2 October 2009, and the EFN members had the opportunity to discuss with their national Chief Nursing Officers on their key concerns regarding nurses and the nursing profession.

For further information: www.efnweb.eu

EU Health Policy Forum (EUHPF)

As a member of the EUHPF, the EFN participated in the meeting organised on 16 October 2009, in Brussels. Aiming to bring together umbrella organisations representing stakeholders in the health sector to ensure that the EU's health strategy is open, transparent and responds to the public concerns, Mr. Andrzej Rys, DG SANCO Director, reminded the participants on the EUHPF membership renewal process, running until 23 October. Furthermore, the participants were briefed on: the European Court of Auditors' report on the European Union's Public Health Programme (2003-2007), detailing conclusions and recommendations on the programme design, implementation and project management; DG INFSO reported on eHealth, highlighting lack of usability as the main barrier to uptake of eHealth applications, especially by health professionals, thus encouraging further stakeholder involvement in High Level Governance; DG Sanco gave an overview of H1N1 actions and encouraged further stakeholder input, and comments were made on the importance of prophylaxis (EPhA), scepticism on the effectiveness of vaccines (CPME), and on the impact on the workforce (EFN, PGEU); and DG Research announced a Call for establishing a Social Platform on Sustainable Lifestyles. For further information: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\_overview/health\_forum/events\_health\_forum\_en.htm

EUNetPaS EU Project - WPs meetings

The EFN participated in the EUNetPaS WP2 meeting and WP4 & WP10 telephone conferences held in October 2009. The WP2 (Education & Training) discussed, on 9 October, the progresses made in the development of the Patient Safety Education and Training Guidelines. The final version of the document should be presented at the High Level Working Group on Patient Safety & Quality of Care, in December 2009, and to the EUNetPaS Coordination meeting, in January 2010. Also on 9 October, the WP4 (Field Testing) discussed the implementation of the seven good practices (Bed dispensation 1; Bed dispensation 2; Safety vest "Do not disturb"; Medication reconciliation at admission and discharge; Medication reconciliation at discharge; Discharge medication list for patients; Sleep card). Most of the countries involved in the project have started and/or are almost finishing the implementation of the seven good practices. The evaluation tool, which will serve as a basis for drafting the recommendations on medication safety, should be filled in by the participating hospitals by the end of the year. On 19 October, the WP10 (Evaluation of the Project) discussed on last developments of the Impact Assessment questionnaire, and on the current state of the progress evaluation report.

TAIEX workshop on nurses' education

Invited as experts, Paul de Raeve, Gerlinde De Clercq & Tom Keighley participated in the event organised in Croatia, on 15-17 October 2009, by the European Commission's DG Enlargement & the Croatian Nurses Association (an EFN member) within the framework of the TAIEX Instrument, to discuss the mutual recognition of nursing diploma in Croatia. The main objective of these meetings is to create and deliver a curriculum to comply with the EU Directive (DIR36); to bring know-how and information to the region on this particular issue; and to get the Ministry of Education to address the education reforms in the pre-training period so as to achieve compliance with the EU Directive. Paul de Raeve made a presentation on "Synergies between Bologna and Directive 36", and Ms. Beata Cholewka, from Poland, on the implementation of the Polish Bridging courses, currently discussed by the European Commission & the Member States. Finally, the representatives from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia, also present in this meeting,

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## AGENDA

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

4 November 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on Information Technology for Patient Safety \(ITPS\) 2009](#)

5-7 November 2009, Larnaca, Cyprus

### [Exploratory Process for Medical Device meeting](#)

9-10 November 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [Seminar "Innovation – Paving a New Way to Patient-Centric Healthcare"](#)

12 November 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [2<sup>nd</sup> CALLePSO workshop and CALLIOPE meetings](#)

12-13 November 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [Health First Europe Annual General Meeting](#)

17 November 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [eHealth User Stakeholder Group meeting](#)

23 November 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [FNIB Annual Congress "Nurse Responsibility"](#)

26 November 2009, Liège, Belgium

### [Welcomeurope training session - "How to manage a project funded by the European Commission?"](#)

2 December 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [Meeting of the Patient Safety and Quality of Care Working Group](#)

2 December 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [FINE workshop "Identifying and measuring best practice for quality and innovation in European Nurse Education"](#)

2-4 December 2009, Namur, Belgium

explained what are the problems and similarities in their regions.

## Educating Nurses through Bridging Courses

The EFN participated in a conference organised on 30 October, in Warsaw, Poland, on 'Educating Nurses through Bridging Courses', as part of the project "Professional Education of Nurses and Midwives through Bridging Courses" co-financed by the European Social Fund. The meeting brought together presidents of public and private universities providing Bachelor, Master and Bridging Course for nurses and midwives. As keynote speaker, the EFN General Secretary expressed EFN's view on the meaning of "professional education of nurses and midwives in the EU" and stated that bridging courses are important to give prior educated nurses an opportunity to get a bachelor level and have their qualifications recognised across the EU.

## News from the EU

### European Commission Open Consultation on EU Role in Global Health

The European Commission DG Development launched an [online consultation on the EU role in Global Health](#), which has gradually taken a priority space in the areas of foreign policy, national health strategies, development partnerships and global public goods. The dimensions of equity and the global factors affecting health are challenged by the globalization and require an enhanced, inter-disciplinary and coherent approach of internal and external policies and strategies. In view of these challenges, there is a need to better identify the role and strategy of the EU in the present global health challenges. Therefore, it is important to gather the views from the relevant EU stakeholders regarding the rationale, scope and strategic objectives for an EU role in global health. The Consultation is running from 14 October 2009 to 9 December 2009, and is open to all interested stakeholders. Individuals, organisations and countries that wish to participate in the consultation process are invited to reply to the questionnaire annexed to the [issues paper](#).

### European Commission Communication on Health Inequalities

Meeting on 20 October 2009, the European Commission announced a series of actions to help the EU Member States to tackle the gaps in health which exist between and within the EU countries. A new communication on health inequalities "[Solidarity in Health: Reducing Health Inequalities in the EU](#)" was published, identifying actions for improving knowledge on this issue, better monitoring and data collection, more assessment of how EU policies can tackle health inequalities and work with countries, regions and stakeholders.

For further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1550&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

### Health and financial crisis

While the Members of the European Parliament just set up a [special committee on the financial and economic crisis](#) with 45 members and a 12 months term of office (starting on 8 October 2009) to assess the extent and impact of the crisis on Member States and to propose measures to rebuild stable financial markets, the EU Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou, is urging Health Ministers not to slash public spending on health care. Speaking at the [12<sup>th</sup> European Health Forum Gastein \(EHFG\)](#), in Austria, Ms. Vassiliou stated that there is a serious risk that health standards will decline in the wake of the financial crisis. Demand on public services is likely to increase in the short term, and governments should look for technology-driven efficiencies rather than cutting back on service provision. The EU executive supports cooperation at national level in evaluating new technologies, and further development of [eHealth](#) solutions will usher in significant productivity increases.

### "Europe kit" for French officials

The [French government is preparing a "Europe kit" for Ministers and MPs](#) to help them in their work with the EU Institutions after the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. The kit is designed to help French officials understand how the Treaty of Lisbon will change the distribution of powers and the relationship between the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU Council. Indeed, the [Lisbon Treaty](#) will bring many changes: the number of MEPs will go up to 750 (plus the President) from the current 736; the "Co-decision" of Parliament and Council on various policy instruments is symbolically renamed to "ordinary legislative procedure" to underline that equal say for the parliament is, in fact, to be the normal way of operating; the Parliament will have equality with Council on budgetary decisions; and in the future national parliaments will have the power to have a say at a very early stage, before a proposal is considered in detail by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

## Publications

### 'A guide to effective Lobbying in Europe 2009'

Burson-Marsteller published a new report entitled "[A guide to effective Lobbying in Europe 2009](#)", which aims to shed light over how senior officials perceive the lobbying efforts of interest groups and the business community. Based on 500 interviews carried out over Europe with senior officials, politicians, national civil servants, and government officials, the survey sends a clear message to all lobbyists that their EU interlocutors care whether they are transparent about the interest they represent. Indeed, an average of two-thirds of those interviewed state that the degree of transparency does influence the decision whether to speak to a lobbyist. Over 70% of officials are also open to talk to lobbyists if the topic is in their field of expertise and interest.

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