



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



We have to be actively involved in the development of e-health both nationally, at European and at Global level. E-health has a huge impact on the way we are organising our work, and I am sure the importance of e-health will increase in the future. As nurses we have a special obligation to secure that development of e-health will not lead to worsen inequalities in health but will benefit also the weakest groups.

E-health must build teamwork and continuity of care, and must not lead to fragmented treatment and care. It is also vital that all groups have the proper education and training regarding all aspects of e-health.

At the EFN General Assembly to be held on 1-2 October, I hope we will adopt a policy paper on this vital issue.

I am looking very much forward to seeing all the representatives from the European Nurses Associations in Stockholm later this week.

Grete Christensen
EFN President

News from EFN

EU Project on E-health - CALLIOPE

The EFN participated in the CALLIOPE meeting that took place in September 2009, along EU Member States, and other health stakeholders such as EPF, CPME, PGEU, and UEMS. The meeting focused on the European Commission e-Health Interoperability Recommendation and likely response to the Commission, and in Calliope project deliverable: a "Common European eHealth Interoperability Road Map". This EU project is setting up a stakeholder forum for discussions and direct input to Secretaries of State concerning eHealth. As member of the project, the EFN is asked to participate in this Forum as a strong political actor. The EFN will discuss this issue during the next EFN General Assembly to take place on 1-2 October 2009, in Stockholm, Sweden.

Nurse Forecasting EU Project - RN4CAST

The EFN participated in the first meeting of the EU project RN4CAST consortium, held in September 2009. Funded under the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), this three years project aims to link workforce planning and forecasting models in nursing, with nurse and patient outcomes in 11 European countries: Belgium, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and the UK; and three countries outside Europe - Botswana, China and South Africa. The main work of this consortium will be to collect data to explore the impact of the nursing work environment and deployment of nursing staff on nurse recruitment, retention, productivity and patient outcomes (patient safety), in order to support workforce planning in nursing, and the value of nurses in providing efficient, quality, and safe care. It also aims to demonstrate the importance of education and good working conditions for effective nursing practice while adding to the skill mix/skill needs debate. The EFN and its members may use this strong evidence towards supporting investment in Nursing and informing health policy at EU and national levels. The next meeting will take place in Madrid on 21 May 2010.

59th WHO Regional Committee meeting

The EFN participated in the Fifty-ninth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in September 2009. The delegates from the 53 WHO European Member States discussed and agreed on: a declaration on protecting health in times of economic crisis: the role of health systems (including social determinants of health) (Resolution EUR/RC59/R3); starting a discussion on the governance of health within the WHO European Region; supporting health workforce policies in the WHO European Region, including the support for a global code of practice for international recruitment of health personnel (Resolution EUR/RC59/R4); and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the WHO European Region (Resolution EUR/RC59/R5). Furthermore, elections took place and Ms Zsuzsanna Jakab, from Hungary, has been nominated as the new WHO Regional Director for Europe (She should take up her new role in January 2010).

The WHO's European Forum for National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA) drafted a statement which underlines its support to Governments seeking to obtain sustainable workforce policies as part of the debate on health workforce policies. Addressing to the meeting, Ms. Lillian Bondo, representative of EFNNMA Steering Committee, stated that "It is necessary to have a strong focus on the negative impacts of an uneven and ongoing emigration of well trained health professionals. It is unbearable for a country to put energy and economy into training nurses, midwives, doctors and all personnel necessary to guarantee provision of accessible and equitable health services, hereafter to send these same professionals off, leaving behind a gap with detrimental health effects."

Patient Safety & Quality of Care Working Group (PSQCWG) & Working Group on the European Workforce for Health

The EFN participated in the PSQCWG meeting, held on 24 September 2009, where the European Commission briefed the members on the patient safety achievements at the EU level (and set out the future work plan) as well as the latest EUNetPaS project developments; and presented a draft reflection paper on quality of care issues and possible EU added value and actions in this area. Furthermore, Austria shared its experiences of setting up a national patient safety platform, and DG Employment

Index

Table with 2 columns: Index and Page No.
President Message 1
News from EFN 1-2
News from the EU 2
Agenda 2
Publications 2

AGENDA

[6th EHFCN Annual Conference "Cross-Border Healthcare in Europe: A Gateway to Fraud and Corruption?"](#)

6-7 October 2009, Edinburgh, Scotland

[32nd WENR Workgroup meeting](#)

8 October 2009, Athens, Greece

[2nd WENR Symposium "Patient Safety"](#)

9-10 October 2009, Athens, Greece

[Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council](#)

12 October 2009, Luxembourg

[Lobbying the EU: How to represent and defend your interests in Brussels?](#)

12-13 October 2009, Brussels, Belgium

[Conference "Public Procurement of Innovations - a driver for future health in Europe"](#)

13 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

[What does gender and equality mean for economic growth and employment?](#)

15-16 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

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

16 October 2009, Brussels, Belgium

[Conference on "Healthy ageing in Europe - Lessons learnt and ways forward"](#)

22-23 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

explained its work on quality within the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on Social Protection and Social Inclusion. In the meeting of the Working Group on the European Workforce for Health, also held on 24 September, the members were informed on: the state of art of the green paper on EU Workforce for Health; the EU project PROMETHEUS; the EU project Mobility of Health Professionals; and the development of WHO code of practice.

Nordic Nurses' Federation conference

The EFN participated in the Nordic Nurses' Federation conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 24-25 September 2009, on the theme "Trends and developments in Europe with an impact on health services, nursing education, nursing practice and working conditions for nurses". As keynote speaker, the EFN General Secretary made two presentations: «[Directive 36 and Bologna process](#)» and «[Nursing Practice in Europe with focus on Patient Safety](#)» and stated that: "The upcoming Implementation Report on Directive 2005/36/EC, by 2012, should be seen as unique opportunity for strategic and focused lobby actions. We need to ascertain that "Fitness to Practice" continues to be a priority within future policy developments since clinical outcomes should not be separated from academic level of achievement", and that "There is an urgent need to explore the current context of professional preparedness in Europe with the emphasis on evidence based practice and assessment of outcomes in relation to established EU standards in terms of education, practice and outcomes".

News from the EU

José Manuel Barroso – re-elected as President of the European Commission

The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso [was re-elected](#) for a second five-year term, by 382 votes in favour, 219 against and 117 abstentions. Mr. Barroso promised changes in the Commission structure, with the appointment of commissioners for justice, fundamental rights and civil liberties, internal affairs and migration, and a "scientific adviser for research and innovation".

New FP7 Calls for Proposals

The European Commission published [new Calls for Proposals](#) in various thematic areas under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). Six of these Calls for Proposals have been published under the Health theme: [Health-2010](#), with a total budget of 620.5 million Euros. The deadlines for proposals are in late 2009 and early 2010.

Online debate on consumers' health and safety at EU level

To mark the 10th anniversary of its creation the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) launched, on 14 September 2009, an [on-line discussion](#) on European health and consumer policy. This debate, open in all EU official languages until 9 October 2009, is providing the European citizens with a good opportunity to make their voices heard on health and consumer policy.

Influenza A (H1N1) 2009

As the pandemic is [spreading across Europe](#), the EU Member States are discussing [national plans](#) to develop a vaccination strategy for Influenza A (H1N1) 2009. In this context, the European Commission developed [a statement](#) on target and priority groups for influenza A (H1N1) vaccination, but reminds that it is the responsibility and mandate of each Member State to develop a vaccination strategy for Influenza A (H1N1) and to identify their national target groups. The [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#) has [recommended](#) to the European Commission the authorisation of two vaccines against influenza A (H1N1): Focetria & Pandemrix. Decisions on the granting of European Union-wide marketing authorisations for the vaccines by the European Commission are expected shortly. For further information: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/com/Influenza/novelflu_en.htm

New United Nations agency for women

The United Nations' General Assembly decided to create [a new United Nations \(UN\) agency for women](#), mandated to strengthen UN work on gender equality and women's empowerment by merging the four existing agencies that deal with women's issues into one main organization to promote the rights and well-being of women worldwide and to work towards gender equality.

Publications

ICN International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP)

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) released a new version of the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP), which includes more than 400 new concepts, and tries to describe and compare nursing across countries, cultures and languages. The ICNP Version 2 is available electronically at: www.icn.ch/icnp.htm.

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