



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



The election to the European Parliament has just ended. The composition of the European Parliament has changed in a more liberal direction. We welcome all MEP's to their new job and hope they will help us in the work we do in social dialogue and our work for a more social Europe.

Therefore, we must work hard to influence the health agenda on the European arena, and as National Nurses Associations we have to influence our national MEP's and governments, to achieve better conditions for citizens and better working and living conditions for Nurses in Europe. In other words, to achieve our common goals we have to use a lot of energy both at national level as well as at European level, to see the seeds we have sown bloom.

Regarding blooming, summer has come to Europe and I wish all of our members and readers a peaceful summer holiday where we can all recharge to face the many challenges in the times to come.

Grete Christensen
EFN President

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News from EFN

EU Project on ehealth interoperability



Involved in the 30 months [EU project on ehealth interoperability - CALLIOPE](#), the EFN participated in the plenary meeting held in Paris on 28 May 2009. The participants were briefed on the project work plan, major achievements, opportunities, risks and future steps. Initiated by 28 founding members comprising 17 organisations representing national governments and eHealth competence centres and 11 EU-level stakeholder organisations of health professionals, patients, health insurers and industry, the project aims to produce value for decision-makers for national eHealth implementation. CALLIOPE is also collaborating closely with epSOS which involves piloting electronic patient records and e-prescribing in 10 EU Member States, and a joint initiative, called CALlepSO, is being developed. PGEU, EPF, CPME, and EFN are important stakeholders to scan the political e-health developments by making sure they are "fit for practice".

13th EFNNMA Annual Meeting

The EFN participated in the [13th annual meeting of the European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations and WHO \(EFNNMA\)](#) held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 4-5 June 2009. The meeting focused on: Health workforce policies in Europe (having as a background the [WHO Regional Committee for Europe Resolution on Health workforce policies in the European Region](#), and the [Tallinn Charter "Health Systems for Health and Wealth"](#)); WHO draft code of practice on the international recruitment of health personnel and the challenges for nursing and midwifery; Models of good practice in recruitment, retention and migration.

Peer review meeting "Ensuring a functioning healthcare system in regions with declining and ageing populations"

The EFN participated in the [Peer Review meeting](#) organised by DG Sanco and the German Health Ministry, on 15-16 June 2009, in Potsdam, Germany, to discuss on specific policy issues from the health care field: How to ensure health care in regions with declining and ageing populations; Flexibilisation of outpatient services in primary healthcare; and the Adaptation of health services for an ageing population. As example, the participants were informed on a project called "[Gemeindeschwester-Modell](#)" launched in the federal Land of Brandenburg, under which "community nurses" work to relieve general practitioners by carrying out home-visits to patients who have already been diagnosed, in order to help with their medical treatment. The project relies heavily on ICT systems to ensure close links and mutual feedback between GPs and the community nurses. The first results of the project are positive and indicate a high acceptance of the concept of community nursing of this kind among participating GPs, nurses and patients.



2nd Congress of Latvian Nurses and Midwives



The EFN was invited to participate in the [Latvian Nurses and Midwives Congress](#) organised in Riga – Latvia, on 18-19 June 2009, where issues such as: the health care quality and multidisciplinary collaboration and the key role of nurses and midwives in Latvian health care system were discussed. The Congress was a good opportunity to share experience as regards developments in nursing and midwifery education, legislation, leadership and regulation within the EU. As [keynote speaker](#), the EFN General Secretary stated that "*The future of EU Healthcare needs to reflect the changing health and illness patterns as well as changing health needs of an aging population. In light of the global financial crisis, we need to get on the train of the EU Social Cohesion Funds for supporting innovations and developments in Nurse Education as well as supporting the Recruitment and Retention of our Nursing Workforce.*"

AGENDA

[Informal Meeting of Health Ministers](#)

06–07 July 2009, Jönköping, Sweden

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

08-09 July 2009, Jönköping, Sweden

[ENSA Annual General Meeting](#)

08-11 July 2009, Berlin, Germany

[EHMA/RCP Roundtable "Equivalence of Training Skills in the European Healthcare Workforce"](#)

13 July 2009, Brussels, Belgium

[59th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe](#)

14–17 September 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

[EIPA seminar «Tools for National Implementation – Implementation of EU Law at National Level»](#)

28-29 September 2009, Luxembourg

[ICNP Conference 2009](#)

29 September 2009, Warsaw, Poland

[1st International Conference on Medication Errors](#)

30 September 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

[European Health Forum Gastein "Financial Crisis and Health Policy"](#)

30 September - 03 October 2009, Gastein, Austria

[CNOs' meeting](#)

30 September - 02 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

News from the EU

EU Elections

Held in the 27 EU Member States between 4 and 7 June 2009, the [7th European elections](#) are now behind us. A total of 736 Members of the European Parliament were elected to represent some 500 million Europeans, making these the biggest trans-national elections in history, also marked by a new record of abstention rate (56.45%). According to the [results](#) published by the European Parliament, the European People's Party (EPP) has 264 seats out of a total of the 736, far ahead of the socialists that have won 161 seats. The liberals are due to have 80 seats, the Greens 53, the far left 32, and the sovereignists 35 and 18 seats. 93 seats have not yet been distributed. The first act of the newly elected European Parliament (2009-2014) meeting in Strasbourg on 14-16 July 2009 will be to [elect its President](#).



Patient Safety & Healthcare Associated Infections

The [Council Recommendation on Patient Safety, including the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections](#), to which the EFN and its members provided input, was adopted by the EU Health Ministers on 9 June 2009. In agreement with EFN [Policy](#) and [Position](#) Statements on this issue, the Council recommends the EU Member States to: Support the establishment and development of national policies and programmes on patient safety; Empower and inform citizens and patients; Support the establishment or strengthen blame-free reporting and learning systems on adverse events; Promote education and training of healthcare workers on patient safety; Classify and measure patient safety at Community level; Share knowledge, experience and best practice; and Develop and promote research on patient safety. This is a big step forward for patient safety in Europe. For further information: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_systems/patient_eu_en.htm

EU strategy for employment

The European Commission launched a [new strategy entitled: "Shared Commitment for Employment"](#) aiming to reduce the effects of the crisis on employment. The EU will make available 19 billion Euros from the European Social Fund (ESF) to help citizens to keep their job or to find another one, thanks to the development of competence and enterprising spirit and the enhancement of public employment services. Together with the European Investment Bank Group and other partners, a new European loans facility will be set up to provide micro-credits for those who would usually have difficulty accessing the necessary funds to set up a business or micro-enterprise.

FREE online resource for Nurses and Healthcare Practitioners

A new [free online source of information](#) has been launched, providing Nurses and Healthcare Practitioners actively involved in wound-dressing changes with the latest research, therapies, protocols and best practices. The goal of the initiative is to aid professionals in improving the quality of life for their patients by raising the awareness of dressing-related pain and presenting tools to achieve changes in practice, and to give students' worldwide insight into best practices and knowledge directly from the world's leading experts.

Equity Channel

A new website (www.equitychannel.net), bringing together people and groups who are interested in improving health equity and facilitating the work of an international collaboration on the social determinants of health, has been recently launched by [EuroHealthNet](#). The objective of this initiative (running until December 2011) is to help EU policy-makers to improve society's health equity by stimulating and supporting changes in policies at international, national and local levels, through the involvement of people and groups from all backgrounds and communities.

Publications

Economic impacts of post-enlargement labour mobility within the EU



The European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities published the results of a [study entitled "Labour mobility in the EU in the context of enlargement and the functioning of the transitional arrangements"](#) that confirms the positive effects of the transfer of labour towards the EU from Member States in Central and Eastern Europe, notably with regard to economic growth in the EU as a whole. The study looks into the volume and structure of labour mobility east-west since 2004 and 2007 enlargements, both at national and regional levels, and the impact this has had on employment markets, macro-economic data and public finance. It also looks into human capital related issues such as the brain-drain and the decline in competence of mobile workers.

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