



EFN UPDATE FEBRUARY 2010

European Federation of Nurses Associations

Fédération Européenne des Associations Infirmières



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



First of all, I would like to wish you all a happy New Year though we are already one month into 2010.

The EFN gained momentum in 2009 and I am sure this positive development will continue this year.

The EFN have contributed to the consultation on the future EU 2020 strategy. I find it essential for nurses and citizens in Europe, both regarding education and future skills needs, that standards and demands remain the same or are moved to a higher level in the new strategy. Seen in the light of the demographic development within EU – highly educated nurses will play a key role in maintaining a Health sector with high quality and in ensuring the 2020 strategy can be delivered.

Quality Health Care is closely linked to Patient Safety and in that sense the strategy should also provide possibilities to secure better patient safety to benefit both Nurses and citizens. Ensuring a vibrant, connected and inclusive market economy, as stated in the strategy, will only be achieved if the nurses in Europe are on board.

Grete Christensen
EFN President

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News from EFN

EFN Executive Committee meeting



The EFN Executive Committee met on 14 January 2010, in the EFN Brussels Office, for their first bi-annual meeting, to discuss on EFN key EU lobby priorities and to reflect on the challenges and opportunities 2010 will bring with the appointment of the new European Commission. The EFN Executive Committee also discussed on the outcomes of the first meeting of the EFN Constitutional Working Group and endorsed the Working Group terms of reference. The EFN Executive Committee finally approved the EFN Policy and Position Statements on Nursing Research (to be discussed and approved by the EFN General Assembly in April 2010, Romania) and the [EFN Activity Report 2009](#) highlighting the areas of EFN achievements, influence, involvement and visibility in the European policy-making arena during 2009. At last, a very interesting discussion took place with DG Internal Market on the Commission's views on [DIR36](#) and the work related to the implementation and the evaluation report by 2012.

EFN contribution to the EU Consultation on the future EU 2020 strategy

Working to achieve high quality and equitable health in the EU by a strategic contribution of an effective, competent and motivated workforce of nurses, and being the nurses at the very heart of an effective quality healthcare system, with six million nurses in the EU that will play a key role in ensuring that the EU 2020 strategy can be delivered, the [EFN has provided its input](#) to the [European Commission public consultation on the future EU 2020 Strategy](#), highlighting three areas where the EU 2020 Strategy needs to be strengthened to ensure patients access to high quality healthcare also in the year 2020: Education; Skill mix and Workforce planning; and Patient Safety. Projections for the future indicate that the current lack of qualified nurses will persist until 2020, unless the issue is addressed in a wide number of policy areas. The challenge of a changing demography yielding an ageing society in the EU Member States will also put higher demands on the health sector and notably on nurses, making effective healthcare workforce planning essential.

European eHealth Governance Initiative/Joint Action

The EFN participated in the eHealth Joint Action meeting organised by the European Commission DG Sanco in Brussels, on 21st January 2010, as a follow-up of the [declaration of the 2009 eHealth conference](#), the [State Secretaries' meeting on eHealth in Stockholm](#) and the recent adoption of the [Council Conclusions on eHealth for a safe and efficient healthcare](#). The main goal of the meeting was to plan the content and deliverables for the formation of a European eHealth Governance Initiative and plan the next practical steps in the context of the available funding mechanisms. This was also an opportunity for Member States and third countries to reinforce or announce their interest to participate in the upcoming work. Mr Pablo Rivero Corte, Director general of Quality Ministry of health (Spain), explained that eHealth is a most important goal for the Spanish and upcoming Presidencies, and that the success of eHealth will depend on stakeholders' involvement, and especially health professionals, particularly on the issues of standardization and deployment.

New Skills for New Jobs

The EFN participated in the [Restructuring Forum on "Sectors' New Skills for New Jobs"](#), organised on 7-8 December 2009, in Brussels, by the European Commission in cooperation with the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of the Regions. The meeting brought together social partners, EU institutions and national authorities, and professional institutions, to discuss on the main results of the [18 sector-based studies](#) on future skill needs up to 2020 - published by the European Commission as a follow-up of the EU ["New Skills for New Jobs" initiative](#) launched in December 2008 -, and on how to reinforce and promote stronger collaboration at European level on skills anticipation, focusing on the sectoral approach. The [studies' results and recommendations](#) form a guide to the attention of European, national and regional actors enabling them to bring and adapt such recommendations to their level by launching actions to promote the strategic management of human resources and to foster stronger synergies between innovation, skills and jobs. In February, the EFN will take part in a meeting of national and international experts organised by the [OECD](#) to discuss the preliminary findings of a project undertaken by the [OECD Health Division](#) (co-funded by DG Sanco) to review and evaluate recent developments in the implementation of advanced practice roles for nurses in a some OECD countries such as: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Ireland, Japan, United Kingdom, United States.

Girl Child Education Fund

In 2009, in lieu of sending Christmas cards to all of you, the EFN made a donation to the ["Girl Child Education Fund"](#) of the International Council of Nurses, which supports the primary and secondary schooling of the orphaned daughters of nurses in developing countries. In the four years since the Girl Child Education Fund (GCEF) launch, the project has grown from supporting 10 girls in each of the four countries GCEF supports (Kenya, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia) to more than 270 girls. In 2009 the fund received donations from 14 countries, and some gifts from nursing students and staff from various hospitals and nursing organisations. Thanks to the donations received, the GCEF could support 276 girls (63 in Kenya, 54 in Swaziland, 109 in Uganda, and 50 in Zambia). 22 girls have graduated, and many went to University or other

AGENDA

[EU High Level Group – Patient Safety & Quality of Care Working Group](#)

2 February 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[EU High Level Group - Health Workforce Working Group](#)

3 February 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[EPHA Policy Coordination Meeting](#)

3 February 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[eHealth Users Stakeholders Group meeting](#)

3 February 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[New Skills for New Jobs: Action Now](#)

4 February 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[Global Health Policy Forum](#)

11 February 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[OECD meeting on project on advanced practice nursing](#)

11-12 February 2010, Paris, France

[World Health Professions Conference on Regulation \(WHPCR\) "Shaping the future of health professionals' regulation"](#)

18 -19 February 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

[3rd Congress of the Military Nurses](#)

19-20 February 2010, Athens, Greece

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

26 February 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[EPHA Policy Coordination Meeting](#)

4 March 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[8th European Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Nurses' Federation](#)

12-13 March 2010, Paphos, Cyprus

[eHealth week 2010](#)

15-18 March 2010, Barcelona, Spain

[EuroHealthNet EU Health Equity and Health Promotion Week](#)

22-26 March 2010, Brussels, Belgium

studies. Half of the girls supported by the project are still in primary school. They all depend on the project support to remain in school until they graduate.

News from the EU

Spanish EU Presidency



On 1st January 2010, Spain took over the [EU presidency](#) from Sweden, being the first country to operate under the rules of the [Lisbon Treaty](#) - that entered into force on 1st December 2009 creating the posts of EU president and foreign affairs chief, filled by Herman Van Rompuy and Catherine Ashton respectively-; and to take the EU's helm under the incoming trio of presidencies, completed by Belgium (July-December 2010) and Hungary (January-June 2011). The major focus of this Presidency will be on the recovery from the economic crisis and job creation, two topics of high concern to EFN that already brought into the political arena a [report on the impact of the financial crisis](#) on its members and provided its input to the [EU 2020 strategy](#). Regarding Health, the Spanish Presidency priorities are: health inequalities, human organs and chronic diseases, as well as eHealth, and patients' quality and security improvement. Furthermore, Spain will take on the [proposed directive on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector](#), amending the [directive on workers' protection against risks related to the exposure to biological agents at work](#); and will pay particular attention to the development of the ["New Skills for New Jobs" initiative](#) (considered as one of the cornerstones of the new Post-Lisbon Strategy 2010 regarding employment and an element to face the crisis). Finally, the [Spanish General Council of Nursing](#), member of EFN, will organize, in collaboration with the Spanish Health Ministry, a high level meeting on an [important topic for EFN: "sharp injuries"](#), on 1-2 June 2010.

New European health Commissioner

The selection of a new European Commission has this year been more complex than ever. The entry into force of the [Lisbon Treaty](#) in December 2009 brought a whole range of changes at political and institutional levels: it consolidates the Commission's right of initiative and introduces important changes to the way in which legislation is prepared and adopted. As regards Health, the European Commissioner designated for [Health and Consumer Policy](#), the Maltese [John Dalli](#), is willing to achieve better quality of life for EU citizens by strengthening the principle of "informed citizens" and "informed choices", through education and information to citizens. Asked about the ongoing Cross-Border directive that failed to reach a political agreement among Member States last December, Mr. Dalli stated that he was expecting to be working with the current EU Presidency to try to move forward this initiative and reach a political agreement during his mandate. Furthermore, the scope of [DG Health & Consumers](#) will be modified with the arrival of some major dossiers while some others will become the responsibility of another Directorate-General. DG Sanco will be for example responsible for Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetics and Medical Devices (prior responsibility of DG Enterprise); Biotechnology, Pesticides and Health (prior responsibility of DG Environment); the [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#) (currently under DG Enterprise); and the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#). Finally, the new Commissioners should take office following the parliamentary vote on 1 February 2010.

Global Health

As a follow-up of the [EU Global Health Policy Forum](#) – an informal monthly gathering of stakeholders active on EU Global Health-, that took place in Brussels, on 14 January 2010, where the plans for the formal [Communication on Global Health](#), due to be issued in March, were discussed, [Action for Global Health](#) and [Oxfam Novib](#) have been asked by the European Commission to coordinate all input from civil society on the first draft of the Global Health Communication. Furthermore, EPHA - on behalf of Action for Global Health - is organising a meeting in March to try and set up a more formal Brussels based network of organisations interested in promoting global health to the EU. EPHA is keen to have the nurses involved. The [RCN](#) (Member of EFN) is part of the UK network. The EFN members that would be interested in getting directly involved in this issue can contact the Global Health Project Manager in EPHA - [Frazer Goodwin](#). The next Global Health Policy Forum is planned for 11 February 2010.

EHFCN Awareness campaign

The [European Healthcare Fraud and Corruption Network \(EHFCN\)](#) launched an [awareness campaign](#) highlighting that the money lost to healthcare fraud and corruption (more than 56 billion Euros each year across European Union countries - representing the funding necessary to pay for over 2.5 million more nurses across Europe every year) could be used for improving healthcare infrastructure, healthcare education, technology and other health services, for the benefit of every European citizen. Therefore, the EHFCN is calling for the creation of a real anti-fraud and anti-corruption culture within the healthcare systems among service providers, healthcare suppliers, healthcare payers, healthcare users and all European citizens, and encourage policy makers to take measures at national and European level to counter healthcare fraud and corruption in order to provide every citizen with the basic access to healthcare they deserve.

Publications

"Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda"



The World Health Organisation (WHO) published a report entitled "[Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda](#)", that explains that despite considerable progress in the past decades, societies continue to fail to meet the health care needs of women at key moments of their lives, particularly in their adolescent years and in older age. The report also provides the latest and most comprehensive evidence available on women's specific needs and health challenges over their entire life-course. Furthermore, WHO is calling for urgent action both within the health sector and beyond to improve the health and lives of girls and women around the world, from birth to older age.

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