



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



After the adoption of the European Directive on sharp injuries prevention, the Spanish General Council of Nursing organised a very successful EU summit on sharps injuries. The focus was on implementation of the directive to ensure the safety of patients and healthcare workers. 1.2 million Needlesticks injuries every year is far too much and is an unacceptable risk to patients as well as to healthcare workers. Therefore, I urge all member organisations to follow-up on this directive at national, regional and local levels.

In relation to patient safety and safety of healthcare workers, I want to draw your attention to the final conference of the EUNetPaS Project on 1 and 2 July 2010, in Brussels. The conference will round off many years of work with patient safety within the EU. The project has been essential in regard to patient safety work at European level. However, there is still much work to be done in order to achieve even better results within patient safety issues. For this reason, we still need to put patient safety high on the agenda also in the future to come.

Summer is now approaching very fast and I wish you all a calm and peaceful summer.

Grete Christensen  
EFN President

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News from EFN

EU Summit on Sharps Injuries

As a follow-up of the adoption of the new [European Directive on prevention from sharps injuries](#), on 8 March 2010, the [Spanish General Council of Nursing](#), a member of EFN, with the support of the [Spanish EU Presidency](#), organised an [EU Summit on Sharps Injuries](#), in Madrid-Spain, on 1-2 June 2010, focusing on how to implement effectively this new Directive in Europe. This first Summit showed how important the European social commitment is to the prevention of risks associated with blood-borne diseases, which have a huge impact on the health of the workers and the citizens of European Union. The EFN sees this opportunity to start the implementation process all over Europe as very important, as this Directive will be a cornerstone in bringing down the 1.2 million needlestick injuries healthcare staff suffers from in Europe, every year. Invited as [keynote speaker](#), the EFN President, Ms. Grete Christensen, stated that *"We all have a responsibility to avoid sharp injuries and this agreement and directive have paved the road for a safer future. In spite of many concerns I believe that the social dialogue has been a success. And it is my hope that with this directive we have ensured the safety of patients and the healthcare workers"*.

Patient Safety Conference

The EFN participated in the [conference on Patient Safety](#), organised by the '[Ordem dos Enfermeiros](#)' (Nurses regulatory body), a member of EFN, in Lisbon-Portugal, on 2 June 2010, with the objective to identify the potential/constraints of the healthcare systems centred on the patient and to deepen the relationship between health sustainability and regulation. Patient safety is amongst the highest priorities in the EU and the EFN policy agendas. The European Commission, together with the Council and the Parliament, have been committed to tackling the issue as estimations reveal that 8 to 12% of patients admitted to hospital in the EU suffer from adverse events. Invited as keynote speaker, the EFN General Secretary [explained](#) that *"as free movement of persons is one of the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the European Treaty, we need to make sure that the EU standards in care, in education and in recruitment are met at EU level, to comply with the global challenges"*.

European Commission Open Information Day & Brokerage event on 'FP7 Health research'

The EFN participated in the ["Open Information Day"](#) organised by DG Research (Health Directorate), on 8 June 2010. The [event focused](#) on the new aspects of the Work programme 2011 due to be published in July 2010 through two calls for proposals (single-stage and two-stage), with an estimated total budget of approximately €650 million. Proposals will be evaluated in late 2010 and early 2011. The call supports the fundamental objectives of EU research policy 'improving the health of European citizens and increasing competitiveness of European health-related industries and services, as well as addressing global health issues and the socio-economic dimension of health care'. The topics which are relevant for nurses are: social determinants of health, and global health. The EFN is not engaged in applying for EU projects, as decided by EFN Executive Committee in January 2010.

"Health literacy - A first step towards healthy Europe?"

The EFN participated in the [meeting on Health Literacy](#), organised on 23 June 2010, in Brussels, by the Faculty of Health, Medicines and Life Sciences, University of Maastricht. This meeting was a good opportunity to be informed on the positive impact health literacy can have on people's health; the progress made up till now; how current public-private partnerships on health literacy can positively affect health; if and how health literacy programmes will benefit from a more strategic approach, three years after the European Commission White Paper "together for Health: A strategic approach for the EU 2008-2013", named the promotion of health literacy as one of the key actions to reduce health inequalities within the EU.

News from the EU

Council Conclusions - Patient's Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare

Meeting on 8 June 2010, within the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO Council), the EU Ministers of Health and Social Affairs reached a [political agreement](#) on the revised Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare on the basis of a compromise proposal of the Spanish EU Presidency.

## AGENDA

### [Belgian EU Presidency](#)

1<sup>st</sup> July-31<sup>st</sup> December 2010

### [EUNETPAS Final Conference](#)

1-2 July 2010, Brussels, Belgium

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

7 July 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [European Primary Care Forum Conference 2010 "The Future of Primary Health Care in Europe III"](#)

30-31 August 2010, Pisa, Italy

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

1<sup>st</sup> September 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [Nordic conference of Mental Health Nursing "The Role of Nursing in the Process of Recovery"](#)

8-10 September 2010, Helsinki, Finland

### [6<sup>th</sup> International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network Conference](#)

8-11 September 2010, Brisbane, Australia

### [EU Summit on the EU Workforce for Health](#)

9-10 September 2010, Brussels, Belgium

### [EFORTT Project Conference "Ageing with technologies"](#)

13-14 September 2010, Barcelona, Spain

### [60<sup>th</sup> WHO RC meeting](#)

13-16 September 2010, Moscow, Russia

### [10<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion](#)

21-24 September 2010, London, UK

Aiming to facilitate the access to safe and high-quality cross-border healthcare and to promote cooperation on healthcare between member states, most EU Member States were satisfied with the new draft Directive. Nevertheless, the delegations from Poland, Slovakia and Portugal noted that they would not support the Directive in its current shape because of the inclusion of non-contractual healthcare providers. Poland suggested revisions to article 8 and Romania noted that they would abstain if the suggested amendments were not included. The Presidency noted that there was wide political support for the proposed Directive and that the proposed revisions would not be considered as this would open up the debate.

### **Commission encourages vocational education and training**

On 9 June 2010, the [European Commission presented its new vision](#) for the future of vocational education and training. The [plans adopted by the Commission](#), building on the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart and inclusive growth, outline several possible ways to give vocational education and training a new impetus: Ensure access to training and qualifications is flexible and open at all stages of life; Promote mobility to make it easier to gain experience abroad, or in a different sector of the economy; Ensure the highest possible quality of education and training; Provide more opportunities for disadvantaged groups such as school drop-outs, the low-skilled and unemployed, people with migrant backgrounds and the disabled; and Nurture creative, innovative and entrepreneurial thinking in students. With this plan the European Commission wants to encourage more people to take up vocational education, to improve the quality of the training on offer, and to make it easier to move between jobs and countries. The EU ministers are expected to discuss and adopt the plan in the second half of this year.

### **Structural Funds**

To counter the economic crisis the [Council of the European Union adopted](#), on 3 June 2010, a regulation facilitating access to the [EU Structural Funds](#), with the objective of guaranteeing the liquidity of the worst affected EU Member States in the crisis, of improving the absorption of the funds with regard to certain operational programmes, and of simplifying the structural funds' management rules. In order to tackle cash flow problems, five member states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary and Romania) will receive additional advance payments, during the next three years, for an amount totalling 775 million Euros, by increasing the advance payments from the European Social Fund by 4% and from the Cohesion Fund by 2%.

Within this context of Structural Funds, the EFN participated in the [launch of the Committee of the Regions Technical Platform on health focussing on Structural funds](#) investments for health that took place in Brussels on 11 June 2010. Organised by the Committee of the Regions, DG SANCO and Health Cluster Net, in cooperation with DG REGIO and DG EMPL, the meeting brought together regions and stakeholders involved in the use of EU structural funds, in order to share good practices in using the Structural Funds for health. There is a growing recognition of the importance of sustainable regional development and the contribution of health to achieving it. This means health development leading to growth in social and human capital. The EU health strategy objectives could be effectively implemented by involving regions in areas such as health promotion, sustainable health workforce, health inequalities and health investments from the EU Structural Funds.

### **EU Call for Proposals - Working Conditions**

The European Commission has published a [Call for Proposals under the PROGRESS programme](#) related to working conditions "Restructuring, well-being at work and financial participation" (Reference number: VP/2010/013). Three sub-programmes have been defined for this call: improvement of expertise in restructuring; better understanding of health and well-being at work during change; promoting the financial participation of workers. The deadline for the submission of applications is as follows: 30 July 2010 for activities commencing no earlier than 22 November 2010 and no later than 22 December 2010.

### **Council Conclusions on Active Ageing**

Taking into account the significant demographic changes Europe is facing, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council adopted, on 7 June 2010, [conclusions on active ageing](#), calling on the EU Member States and the European Commission to develop common principles for active ageing; to develop and conduct activities for raising awareness of the importance of active ageing and the need to mobilise the full potential of older people for their own and society's benefit; to use all the possibilities offered by the Open Method of Coordination, the Employment Strategy and other Community instruments and programmes, including the financial support of Structural Funds, to foster active ageing; to use existing advisory and policy committees to maintain active ageing high on the EU's and Member States' policy agenda.

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