



EFN PRESS RELEASE

BOLOGNA

On 14th October 2005 EFN sent a letter to Mr. Vladimír Špidla, the European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, presenting EFN input to the Commission Green Paper "Faced with Demographic Change, a new Solidarity between the Generations" COM (2005) 94.

As part of that input, EFN sent to the Commissioner the recently endorsed EFN position statement on 'EU challenges for long-term care', and called on the Commission "to undertake the necessary reforms in order to ensure that adequate financing is provided for older people care and active ageing, and to develop EU legislation that ensure appropriate nurse/patient ratios in nursing homes and other health services for older people". As nurses provide 80% of direct patient care it is essential, when designing new policy in the social and health area, to include nurses and nursing vision to obtain a full picture of care.

In general terms, EFN is calling for more discussion on the key principles and strategies needed in long term care and the nursing issues to support them, convinced of the fact that addressing nursing issues in relation to long term care will improve the quality of life for long term care patients.

The new EFN position statement approaches elderly care focusing on accessibility, quality & workforce, and sustainability. It is a step forward towards a paradigm shift in long-term care.

Editor's Note:

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), former Standing Committee of Nurses of the EU (PCN) was established in 1971 (PCN). EFN represents over one million nurses and is the independent voice of the profession. The mission of EFN is to safeguard the status and practice of the profession of nursing and the interests of nurses in the EU and Europe.

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