

**EFN PRESS RELEASE**  
*13 September 2013*

## **DISINVESTMENT IN NURSING JEOPARDISES EU JOB CREATION PLANS**

*“The EU needs to turn the rhetoric on jobs led growth into reality and ensure that short term cuts do not jeopardise long term investment in health systems and citizens’ future health and wellbeing”*  
*Paul De Raeve, EFN General Secretary*



The economic downturn and the demographic challenge have been determinant factors for the employment crisis Europe faces today. In 2012, 50 million jobs were lost, including from nursing. Cuts in the health and social care workforce have add a particularly strong impact on women, being the biggest group of workers in two sectors that also require a better skill mix and a highly competent workforce. However, political decisions are making nurses’ posts redundant and are substituting them with an unqualified workforce, storing up major problems for the future and leading to worse patient outcomes, major costs and threatening quality care (*Aiken, 2012*).

As highlighted in the [Eurofound conference “More and Better jobs in Home-Care services”](#), held on 12 September 2013, the EFN considers that an appropriate formal health and social care workforce will be the support in which citizens and patients will become empowered to better manage their health. Long term care cannot be left alone to informal carers and non-qualified staff, both groups reporting they can barely cope with the increased needs imposed.

Furthermore, the EFN trusts that appropriate investments in the health and social care sectors are the precondition for growth. As demonstrated in EFN’s report on [“Caring in Crisis – the Impact of the Financial Crisis on Nurses and Nursing”](#) (*June 2012*), the EU needs to do much more in using EU social funds available to implement integrated care and invest in a high competent and qualified nursing workforce, a cornerstone for the coordination, sustainability and quality of care.

Please contact Mr Paul de Raeve, General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses Associations, for more information. Email: [efn@efn.be](mailto:efn@efn.be) – Tel: +32 2 512 74 19 – Web: [www.efnweb.eu](http://www.efnweb.eu)

