

PRESS RELEASE

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Politicians urged to support and develop nursing

The EFN and ICN call on politicians to champion appropriately educated, supported and developed nursing workforce in the right numbers to deliver person-centred care and promote health in the EU and globally.

Leaders from the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) and the International Council of Nurses (ICN) met in Brussels to critically examine priorities on strengthening the development of the nursing profession at EU and global level.

Although research, evidence based policy-making and credentialing were highlighted as central to professionalism and the longer term development of nursing, both EFN and ICN recognised that there were more urgent and pressing needs to be addressed. While many economies are now recovering, many nursing posts have been cut and the terms and conditions of nurses have been eroded. Such actions threaten the sustainability of health systems. The recruitment and retention of a highly educated, skilled nursing workforce is a critical requirement to the delivery of high quality, efficient and effective health care. As the largest group of health professionals, and the closest and often only available health workers in many communities, nurses are essential to the health of the world's population.

The EFN and ICN therefore urge political leaders to:

1. Revisit, within the context of the improving economic circumstances, working conditions and numbers of nurses needed to deliver high quality and safe care;
2. Reassess short and longer-term workforce needs utilizing both quantitative and qualitative forecasting to secure an adequate and appropriately qualified nursing workforce;
3. Strengthen nursing curricula and fully align content with contemporary patient and public needs; and,
4. Engage nurses in the political and policy decision-making process.

*****ENDS*****

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About EFN

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) was established in 1971. The EFN represents over 34 National Nurses Associations and its work has an effect on the daily work of 6 million nurses throughout the European Union and Europe. The EFN is the independent voice of the nursing profession and its mission is to strengthen the status and practice of the profession of nursing for the benefit of the health of the citizens and the interests of nurses in the EU & Europe.

About ICN

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.