



EFN PRESS RELEASE

Bologna Summit

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The European Union needs more highly qualified nurses (EU Green Paper on EU workforce for Health), at the very moment of recession, when national Governments may be tempted to reduce investment in education and training for nurses. It is therefore critical that education and training opportunities are optimally effective to meet current and future health care needs and that in times of recession, any myopic temptation to reduce investment is ruled out.

Changes to national nursing education systems, driven by the competing demands of Directive 36 and the Bologna process, continue to place a burden on nurses and nursing. The lack of mutual co-ordination and synergy means that there will be little prospect of progress unless Directive 36 and Bologna are aligned.

To achieve synergy, the EFN believes that:

- Progress in society is directly linked to the evolution of education, training and qualifications of health professionals;
- National and regional approaches are valid strategies but cannot exist in isolation if common goals are to be achieved. Therefore, further work should address issues of transferability and mobility within healthcare education, training and workforce provision;
- DG MARKT needs to be more receptive to examining by 2012 the Directive from the points of view of learning outcomes and the cycles of academic learning agreed within the Bologna Declaration, Continuous Professional Development and Quality Assurance;
- The European Parliament's commitment to eliminate discontinuity between Directive 36 and Bologna is valid and this issue must be urgently addressed by the national delegations at the Bologna Summit;
- National Nurses Associations must be involved at the national level to raise the quality of inter-sectoral dialogue and debate.

Specifically for the 6 million professional nurses within the WHO European Region, the EFN stresses, prior to the Bologna Summit, that:

- Clinical outcomes should be linked with academic levels of achievement;
- One European degree level of Registered Nurse is needed, however this can be achieved through different pathways;

- An EU Continuous Professional Development Framework and the means of monitoring this should be developed as part of an EU mechanism for workforce planning and the sharing of information between the EU Member States.

Nurse education review should keep pace with these developments. ICN and WHO support these principles which will contribute to a healthier world.

Please contact **Mr. Paul de Raeve**, General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses Associations for further information on this issue.

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