



EFN PRESS RELEASE

Investing in Health to Respond to Global Recession

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Twenty-eight European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) members reported during the 90th General Assembly on the impact of the economic and financial crisis on health and social services in the EU Member States. The majority of the countries reported health budget cuts, staff lay-offs, closure of units, hospitals and other healthcare facilities, reduced salaries, reduced intake of nursing students, forced unpaid leave and reduced pension schemes.

This will lead to unsafe services and unsafe patient care.

THEREFORE, THE EFN CALLS on the Heads of State and Finance Ministers:

- TO INVEST AND PROTECT HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES RATHER THAN CUTTING BUDGETS.
- TO BUILD the WORKFORCE FOR HEALTH instead of reducing it.
- TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THOSE MEMBER STATES HARDEST HIT. The European Commission and the International Monetary Fund should immediately support Member States with conditions that will sustain health and social services.

The EFN Members concluded: "WE ARE AT THE BEGINNING OF A RECESSION, WHICH WILL LEAD TO SERIOUS NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON HEALTH, UNLESS ACTION IS TAKEN."

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