



---

## EFN Policy Statement

### Council Recommendations on Patient Safety and Healthcare Associated Infections

The EFN welcomes the EU Council Recommendations on Patient Safety and Healthcare Associated Infections, which is a major step forward in improving “Quality and Safety” and “Cooperation” within the EU.

*“Investing in Nurses – Investing in Safety”*

With the view of strengthening the provision of safe and quality healthcare services, in line with the [EU Patients’ Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare Directive](#), in particular article 5, and the [Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health](#), the EFN believes:

- Patients’ Rights in Healthcare need to be strengthened by implementing a patient-centred approach;
- Appropriate staffing levels and better management of staff workloads should be just as important as hand hygiene and environmental cleanliness in the battle to recognise and prevent the causes of healthcare associated infections;
- High Quality of Care and Safety Standards throughout the EU are essential to make progress.

To achieve this, the EFN members call on their governments to use Social Cohesion Funds for Health.

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

[efn@efn.be](mailto:efn@efn.be) or Tel: +32 2 512 74 19

*EFN Policy Statement – April 2009*

---