

## EFN PRESS RELEASE

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### ACTING FOR BETTER EU WORKFORCE FOR HEALTH

The EU Summit on EU Workforce for Health discussed on 9–10 September 2010 key opportunities to tackle the shortages of nurses and doctors within the EU. Nevertheless, **what is happening in daily life is far away from the political statements, promises and action plans to be developed in ‘the near future’!**

Due to a serious shortage of nurses in Malta TODAY, which is putting in danger the quality of care delivered and the safety of patients and nurses themselves, the Health Minister cannot expect the nurses taking up a role of ‘porters’. There should be a well organised logistic ‘portering’ system inside the hospital so the nurses do not have to spend and waste time queuing to get the medicine from the hospital pharmacy. To safeguard quality and safety, nurses should not be running all over the hospital with prescriptions in their hands and therefore lose precious time with the patients. The EFN strongly supports the Maltese nurses and MUNN in their actions to prevent the Minister of Health in taking such an unacceptable decision.

Furthermore, Malta has TODAY a shortage of 550 nurses on such a small touristic island and the Minister of Health is tackling this shortage by recruiting nurses from Pakistan. This is unacceptable for the EFN. Recruiting nurses from Pakistan is NOT an ethical, professional, economic and political solution. Malta needs to invest NOW in the nursing education, recruiting young Maltese citizens to the nursing schools and implementing immediately a Maltese recruitment and retention strategy to achieve a highly educated and motivated Health Workforce.

The EFN believes that the EU Member States and the European Commission need to support the Maltese government to act towards a safe health system. The EFN also urges the MEPS to monitor what is going on in their own country enabling the implementation of the European Parliament Declaration on EU Workforce for Health (40/2010).

*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)*

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#### **Further information:**

- [Green Paper on the EU Workforce for Health;](#)
- [EFN input to the European Consultation on the Green Paper on the EU Workforce for Health;](#)
- [EP Written Declaration on the EU Workforce for Health.](#)

