

EFN PRESS RELEASE

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NEW SKILLS FOR NEW JOBS: SKILLS AND JOBS EXPERTS CALL FOR ACTION NOW!

The EFN welcomes DG Employment and DG Education initiatives on Skill Mix and Skill Needs and encourages DG Internal Market (DIR36) and DG Sanco (EU Health Workforce) stepping on board to strengthen future initiatives.

The expert report provides concrete recommendations on how to solve Europe's skills deficiencies and called for action in four main areas:

- Provide better incentives for employers and individuals to up-skill, and investment in skills must be significant, smart and not just financial;
- Open up the worlds of education and training by making education and training institutions more innovative and responsive to both learners' and employers' needs, and by developing relevant qualifications that focus on concrete learning outcomes;
- Offer a better mix of skills that is more suited to labour market needs;
- Better anticipation of future skill needs.

The EFN therefore believes that:

- Barroso Strategic plan 2020 should aim at building a high quality and motivated health workforce, providing jobs for millions of people to the health sector as 'Health is Wealth';
- A Council Recommendation on EU workforce for Health should emphasize the political will and commitment to 'put flesh on the bones' of the Green Paper on EU workforce for Health. 'We need to stop talking about the shortage of nurses, we need action to solve the problem of shortages of nurses!';
- The existing legislative framework for mutual recognition of professional qualifications forms the minimum basis for the nursing education (DIR36) and therefore should be immediately implemented by all member states to guarantee quality and safety. 'Shortage of nurses cannot be solved by downgrading the nursing education';
- Social Cohesion Funds need to be used in synergy to advance the skills, knowledge and behaviour of the health workforce under the Lisbon strategy for growth and employment to make a positive impact on the daily working lives of 6 million nurses in Europe.

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

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Further information:

- *EFN [Policy](#) and [Position](#) Statements on Skill Mix-Skill Needs;*
- *[Expert report](#) "New Skills for New Jobs: Action Now";*
- *[EU Press Release](#) "Skills and jobs experts call for action now".*

