

EFN PRESS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL NURSES' DAY "CLOSING THE GAP: INCREASING ACCESS & EQUITY"



On this very important day, celebrating the nurses' contribution to the society, the European Federation of Nurses' Associations (EFN) would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of nurses in the access for all citizens to high quality and safe healthcare.

Equal access to healthcare is central in all health care systems, although the complexity of the current systems makes it crucial to continuously improve our communication, coordination, education, use of new technologies and engagement of the patients in the process of care. Although significant progress has been made to increase the access to good quality and safe healthcare across the European Union, many inequalities still persist, mainly as regard to basic information on the diagnoses, the treatment, the cost and reimbursement and the different options for the continuity of care.

The EU Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare is therefore central in closing this gap in access and equity for all European Citizens and in promoting clear models of continuity of care combined with technology to make citizens feel safe in the whole care process. The article on the reference centres and the one on quality and safety needs therefore specific attention as the design for implementation will depend on the option 'to do things differently'.

Within this European policy context, a strategic support for a qualitative and equitable access for all citizens to healthcare service in the EU depend on guaranteeing a workforce of effective, competent and motivated nurses in all healthcare settings.

Please contact Mr Paul de Raeve, General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses Associations, for more information.

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Further information:

- [EFN Position Statement on Recruitment;](#)
- [EFN Position Statement on Skill Needs Skill Mix and Task Shifting in Nursing;](#)
- [EU Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare;](#)
- [International Council of Nurses \(ICN\) International Nurses' Day 2011 information Kit](#)

