



EFN Policy Statement on Robotics in Nursing

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) represents over three million nurses and is the independent voice of the profession. The mission of the EFN is to promote the interests, status and practice of the profession of nursing in the EU.

Statistics draw a general picture of growing importance of robotics. Already in 2007, the European Commission financed a project on robotics in nursing. Recently Ms. Delvaux (MEP – S&D) lead an [own-initiative report](#) of the Legal Affairs Committee on the topic of robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) adopted by the European Parliament on 16 February 2017. The report concludes that areas that should be further examined are a European definition of “robots” and the development of a harmonised legislative framework. At the same time, both the EFN and the report urges the European Commission to closely examine areas such as ethics, liability, safety and security. Furthermore, it is of utmost importance that a constant dialogue between the nursing sector and the industry is facilitated. The industry needs to be aware of all the needs of the nurses to be able to adjust their research and products, to create a return on investment. Nurses play therefore a crucial role in algorithm design and in public procurement.

The EFN therefore:

- Encourages national and European policy-makers to consider initiating legislation on robotics and artificial intelligence, especially in the areas of liability and ethics (*Regulation 2016/679*);
- Favours the coherent approach to regulation at European level with the full and transparent engagement of the nursing profession;
- Calls for an extensive dialogue between all industries in all fields and the EFN, representing frontline nurses and their political leaders within the EU;
- Motivates nursing researchers to bring efforts and findings together to support EU policies with evidence in the field of robotics;
- Calls for allocation of funding to further research and innovation in the area of robotics in nursing at both national and European level.

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