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110th General Assembly of the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)



EFN National Associations, representing 3 million EU nurses, met in Athens (Greece) for the biannual EFN General Assembly, on 17 and 18 October 2019. They took this opportunity to analyse and share views decisions on [key political topics](#) that are currently driving the EU political and policy agendas. They discussed what the contributions of the nursing profession to those topics could be, as well the expected influence those could make for the nurses' daily practice.

This General Assembly marked a great opportunity to discuss and decide on how to make the most prominent healthcare policies suitable for the nursing profession – ranging from value-based healthcare to pain management, including the need of healthcare innovators to engage with nurses as end-users when designing new digital technologies, such as the EU EHR. It was an important occasion to meet and exchange views with Dr. Prezerakos, Secretary General for Health at the Greek Ministry of Health, a nurse himself, who advocated for the key role of nurses on community and preventive care and for transforming healthcare ecosystems. Moreover, EFN Members discussed the Nursing Now campaign, of which the EFN is the official lead in Europe, as well as the upcoming year 2020, which the World Health Organisation has declared as year of the nurse and the midwife – hence raising awareness on the importance of these professions for the wellbeing of the citizens of Europe and the world.

The EFN's Members' future action points relate to continuing their work on further engaging nurses in health policymaking, both at the EU level and nationally. Nurses' end-user input and co-creation is key for addressing many of the challenges our healthcare systems in the EU are facing today – such as long-term care, people-centred care, and primary care. In addition to that, EFN Members have decided to continue their work at the national level of ensuring that the [Directive 2013/55/EU](#) is rightly transposed into National legislation of EU Member States. Besides these,

future steps will be taken to ensure that the nurses' working conditions and wages are good and fair, aligned with their responsibility and dedication to patient care.

Finally, EFN members reaffirmed their dedicated commitment to ensuring that nurses' voices are heard at the EU level and considered when taking policy-based decisions that affect their profession.



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