

**EFN PRESS RELEASE**

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## **International Women's Day "Gender Equality in Health Workforce"**

Equitable wise labour law reforms will be a first step in building a more social inclusive Europe. Considering all policy domains, an increase in women's ability to access and participate in the labour market is needed. In this process of building the accessibility, national and European Parliaments play a crucial role in designing the overall conditions for women's empowerment to both political and economic areas.

The Nurses' Voice in the European Parliament, is key to get gender equality in the health workforce. And the [work of the FEMM Committee](#) is appreciated to forecast this progress in the EU! Two MEPs, Krisztina Moravi and Pimenta Lopes (GUE/NGL, PT) have called on reducing the gender pay, earnings and pension gaps, and thus fighting poverty among women, so important for the 3 million nurses in the EU. At the last FEMM Committee meeting, Krisztina Moravi gave the example of Eastern Europe qualified nurses coming to Western Europe to work in low qualified jobs, as agriculture, to compensate the low wages in their home country. This is unacceptable in 2017!

Therefore, the EFN is calling the national and EU Parliaments, due to their unique position, to address gender inequalities within budgets, laws and policies, involving nurses/women in this process. Nurses/women leadership can lead to more equal participation at the economic, social and political life.

Towards the realisation of inclusive and wellbeing for all, the EFN believes that legislators and policymakers should be working to embed a more social and manageable healthcare workforce structure and better working conditions for the European nurses, that are mainly women.

The improvement of labour legislation, the increase of salaries, the promotion of collective bargaining, and the protection of maternity, are amongst some of the most needed measures to achieve gender equality.

Nurses have a clear view on how the health and social sector should reform, lead reform, not in a disruptive way! In '[The EU, What's in it for me?](#)', a clear picture is given on how nurses see the future of the EU, including the importance of gender in the design of EU policies.

The EFN really hopes that the Employment Committee final vote on 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 will not disappoint women!

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