

EFN PRESS RELEASE

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Portuguese Government to act in a more human way!

The European Federation of Nurses Association (EFN) urges the Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Costa, to open dialogue with the Ordem dos Enfermeiros, and with Ana Rita Cavaco leading the organisation. We cannot ignore 74.000 Portuguese nurses' voice, regardless if you are a Union, a Regulator, or a Professional Association.

The EFN, representing over 3 million nurses from 36 European Union member national nursing organisations, stands in solidarity with the Ordem dos Enfermeiros. Our position is clearly reflected in the EFN [Manifesto](#) for the **European Parliament elections**, highlighting key professional & political messages focussing on **education, health workforce and quality & safety**.

Therefore, standing up for nurses and nursing, giving voice to their concerns and advocating for better working conditions to ensure quality and patient safety for the Portuguese population, cannot be punished by being excluded from the stakeholders' engagement processes. This is ridiculous anno 2019! As the situation is worsening today, Sindepor President, Carlos Ramalho, (*right on the picture*) decided to up the ante by going on hunger strike.



Working conditions, salaries, appropriate resources and respect for nurses need urgent political attention, so nurses stay in the profession and stay in Portugal. Therefore, frontline nurses and their leaders expect appropriate action. It is imperative that the current Portuguese government takes this serious and engages with the Ordem dos Enfermeiros to find a solution prior the EU elections in May 2019.

Finally, it is crucial that national governments respect professional and regulatory dialogue as outlined in the Proportionality Directive (2018/958), requiring governments to engage with all concerned stakeholders, co-designing better regulation and working conditions.

END

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