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Call for expression of interest in DG Health & Consumers (SANCO) Stakeholder Dialogue Group

The European Commission Directorate General for Health & Consumers (SANCO) is looking to renew up to 10 of the members of its **Stakeholder Dialogue Group** (SDG). The Group in question is composed of 20 members.

As you may remember, the **Stakeholder Dialogue Group** was set up as a direct result of the recommendations of the DG SANCO 2006 Peer Review Group on Stakeholder Involvement (Decision 2007/602/EC of 05/09/07). Its first members were appointed the 29 November 2007. The Group is chaired by **Mr Robert Madelin**, Director-General of DG Health & Consumer Protection.

The objective of the Group is to advise DG Health & Consumers' protection on best practice in the different consultation processes and help it to better tailor its involvement processes to stakeholder needs in the areas of public health and consumer protection. The SDG meets 4 times a year for day-long meetings.



The Group's Work Programme currently covers the following issues: more transparent comitology; improved consultation; understanding how the European

Commission could engage with stakeholder groups who may not traditionally get involved in EU policy-making; verifying the representative character of stakeholders and identifying when consultation would have most impact on policy-making.

The current call of interest relating to the renewal of 10 of the Group's members can be found in the website of DG SANCO (http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm). The new members will serve for 4 years non-renewable as of the date of appointment. Members act in their personal capacity. Candidates will be selected on the basis of their overall working experience in the field of DG Health & Consumers consultation and participatory processes such as:

- knowledge of being a representative of a key stakeholder for DG Health & Consumers at EU and/or national level;
- experience with influencing policy processes at EU and national level;
- experience in participating in and organising consultations;
- experience of membership organisations/direct contact with citizens;
- knowledge of organisations that have not been involved with DG Health & Consumers, work at the national level, and are an example of the organisations that DG Health & Consumers would want to engage with;
- understanding of stakeholder inequalities in terms of political influence;
- understanding of the financial issues stakeholders are facing and how to best address these.

DG Health & Consumers ensures that the composition of the group will be balanced in terms of policy areas, sectors, stakeholder categories, geographical coverage and gender, as well as representative of the new Member-States of the European Union.

Should you be interested in applying, you are invited to submit a one-page letter explaining why the DG SANCO could consider your professional background relevant to the activity of the Stakeholder Dialogue Group and a CV of maximum 2 pages by **16 June 2009** to: SANCO-stakeholders@ec.europa.eu . Of course the FEPI Secretariat remains at your entire disposal for any further information.

In case you wish to learn more about the DG SANCO Stakeholder Dialogue Group and its activities, all the documents relevant to previous meetings of the group and summaries of its works are available at the FEPI Secretariat.

Bologna Process – Ministerial Conference in Belgium

On the 28th and 29th of April, the Catholic Universities of Louvain/Leuven (Belgium), have hosted the 5th meeting of the Bologna Process Ministerial Conference. As you may know, since 1999, the year in which the Bologna Declaration was adopted, the Ministers of Education meet every two years in a European city to consider the progress of the reform of academic within Europe (Prague in 2001, Berlin in 2003, Bergen in 2005, London in 2007 and, finally, Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve in 2009).

The meeting in question brought together in the two Belgian cities the Ministers responsible for higher education in the 46 countries of the Bologna Process, as well as academics and representatives from various international organisations working in partnership. The Its objective was to establish the priorities for the European Higher Education Area until 2020. The Ministers have published a communiqué in which they highlight in particular *the importance of lifelong learning, widening access to higher education, and mobility. By 2020, at least 20% of those graduating in the European Higher Education Area should have had a study or training period abroad.*

This official communiqué also underlines the need for a social dimension of the education programs, of which equitable access and completion should be the milestones. According to the text in question, *'the student body within higher education should reflect the diversity of Europe's populations. We therefore emphasize the social characteristics of higher education and aim to provide equal opportunities to quality education. Access into higher education should be widened by fostering the potential of students from underrepresented groups and by providing adequate conditions for the completion of their studies. This involves improving the learning environment, removing all barriers to study, and creating the appropriate economic conditions for students to be able to benefit from the study opportunities at all levels'*.

A very important point of the communiqué, and extremely relevant to FEPI's work is the one focused on the lifelong learning. Indeed the Ministers marked their strong support to the lifelong learning program: 'the implementation of lifelong learning policies requires strong partnerships between public authorities, higher education institutions, students, employers and employees [...]The development of national qualifications frameworks is an important step towards the implementation of lifelong learning. We aim at having them implemented and prepared for self-certification against the overarching Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area by 2012'.



Plenary session, Louvain-la-Neuve, 29/04/09

The meeting also gave the opportunity to stakeholders active in the field of higher education to give their opinion on the actual achievements and future developments of the Bologna Process. **Prof. Lars Lyng Nielsen**, President of the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (**EURASHE**) gave a particularly interesting overview of the current progress of lifelong learning. His organisation has made a survey on the different lifelong learning programs in the European Union Member-States and it shows that if *'the main motivation is the widening of participation in higher education and the need to stimulate creativity and innovation through the update of the population's skills, the main difficulties in implementation are related to the lack of coordination at national level, concerning the lifelong learning activities performed by various higher education institutions, the lack of adequate funding or the lack of academic staff with the appropriate qualifications'*.

Prof. Nielsen concluded his speech by presenting the recommendations of EURASHE in the field of lifelong learning, underlining amongst other things that *'there is a need for common principles and guidelines for essential ingredients of lifelong learning, such as recognition of degrees, involvement of stakeholders, and for a common typology & methodology of lifelong learning'*.

The next event in the framework of the Bologna Process is going to be the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, to be held from the 5th to the 8th of July in Paris, France.

FEPI Secretariat is going to keep you updated on the issue.

Next HPro card plenary meeting

As we have already informed you, the HPRO Card Project is going to organize its plenary meeting this coming 19th of June in Sofia, Bulgaria.

This meeting is very important as it will be the last one before the end of the project (as the European Commission will render its final opinion on the project around September). It will give the opportunity to those attending the event to get acquainted with the latest news on the project and its developments.

The agenda of the meeting includes:

- the presentation of the studies/project and the work achieved;
- the identification of competent authorities and the different means for health professionals identification in Europe;
- the various scenarios and possible architectures for the use of strong authentication of health professionals at European level;
- the results of the tests made on an application using cards certificates for secure access to a server;
- the possibility of the extension of the studies.

Should you be interested in attending this meeting, please contact Mrs. Fanny Chevalier at the following email address: fchevalier@kadris.fr

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Meetings and Events to come:

- 29/05/09:
 - **CEPLIS Permanent Committee Meeting**
 - Radisson St-Julians, Malta
 - 2pm-5pm
 - Discussion of CEPLIS' position on the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health with Mrs. Elizabeth Kidd (European Commission's DG SANCO)
 - ceplis@scarlet.be
- 16/06/09

- **FEPI Working Group on Policy**
- Consejo General de Enfermería
- Fuente del Rey, 2, 28023, Aravaca, Madrid

- 17/06/09
 - **FEPI General Assembly Meeting**
 - Consejo General de Enfermería
 - Fuente del Rey, 2, 28023, Aravaca, Madrid

- 19/06/09
 - **HPRO Card Plenary Session**
 - Bulgarian Chamber of Physicians
 - 15, Acad. Iv. Geshov Blvd., Sofia 1431, Bulgaria
 - fcchevalier@kadris.fr