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President of French Regulatory Body for Nursing confirms in her first official press conference that the Body is going to apply for FEPI membership

On the 17th of June, the President of the National Council of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing, **Ms. Dominique Le Boeuf** has officially presented the first concrete objectives of the 'Ordre National des Infirmiers' at a press conference held in the Ordre's brand new premises, St-Anne Street, in Paris.



At this conference **Ms. Le Boeuf** has stressed that *'in order to attract young professionals, we need to have a broader vision than a 'Franco-French' model'*. The President of the National Council informed the press that the French Regulatory Body is going to apply for membership in FEPI as soon as possible, underlining that *'our patients are mobile and they need to have the same standards of healthcare whether they are in France, Italy or Germany'*. This declaration follows the discussions Ms. Le Boeuf had the 15th of this month in Paris with FEPI Senior Policy Adviser, Dr. Theodoros Koutroubas. At this meeting, Dr. Koutroubas had the opportunity to present the aims and work of FEPI to all the members of the Ordre's National Council and to underline the willingness of the European Council of Nursing Regulators to actively assist the French Body in its first step.

Addressing French journalists, **Ms. Le Boeuf** has identified the promotion of the Nursing profession and the recognition of its specific expertise as the main lines

of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing in the near future. According to her, the role and the scientific contribution of the nursing professional will keep on growing in front of the current challenges of public health (ageing of the population, increase of the chronic diseases...). **Mrs. Le Boeuf** argued that both the public and the healthcare related authorities need to become conscious on the profession's capital role on issues such as: *'the fight against sloughs that have nearly disappeared thanks to the nursing care or the daily nursing guiding in specially difficult periods as heat waves, infections in scholarly condition'* and concluded that: *'the legitimacy of the nursing professional is nowadays entirely complete but it still needs to be recognized!'*

According to the French Ministry of Health, there are currently 483.380 nurses in France, number that might be even more important (around 500.000), given the blurry situation and the difficulty to calculate the exact number of nurses working in the private and liberal sector, the total number of nursing professionals in France is more around 500.000. *'To count ourselves today will enable us to prepare our future work and to establish the basis of the objective of creating 200.000 jobs by 2015'*, stressed **Mrs. Kine Veyer**, President of the Professional Ethics Committee of the French Regulatory Body.

Another essential mission of the French Regulatory Body's National Council will be the adoption of a **Code of Ethics and Conducts**. This document is actually in the drafting process and aims at establishing the rules regulating the profession and becoming a daily guide for the professionals. The French Code for Nursing in question is scheduled to be published for the end of 2009, *'working groups composed of national and regional councilors are already working on the project and meet every 2 or 3 weeks'*, informed **Mrs. Le Boeuf**. During her meeting with FEPI Senior Policy Adviser Dr. Koutroubas, **Mrs. Le Boeuf** expressed the wish to use the FEPI Code of Ethics and Conducts for European Nursing as an example to follow in the drafting process of the French text. She also added that *'this Code of Conducts will refresh the current professional rules and practices, which are totally outdated and do not take enough into consideration patients' rights'*.

In what regards its internal structure, the National Council of the Regulatory Body is going to be composed of many Committees; each of them focusing on a specific item. **Mrs. Le Boeuf** announced the setting up of *'a committee on new technologies and information sharing, and on the role of the nursing professional with regards to mental health issues, considering the coming legislation on this issue'*.

Another committee focusing on young nursing professionals, probably chaired by **Mrs. Maryline Pecnard**, who is the youngest member of the National Council of the Regulatory Body, is also going to be established very soon, as well as a department of communication, and a department of fitness to practice.

On the training and education point of view, **Mr. David Vasseur**, Vice-President in charge of the training department, insisted on the National Council's objective to re-examine the current situation relating to degrees in nursing, pointing out that '*the National Council of the Regulatory Body for Nursing has pronounced itself in favor of going further than a license degree for nursing*'.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has a very active Patient and Consumer Working Party (PCWP)

As you may know, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) is a decentralised body of the European Union with headquarters in London. Its main responsibility is the protection and promotion of public and animal health, through the evaluation and supervision of medicines for human and veterinary use.

The EMA is structured in 6 scientific committees, composed of members of all EU and EEA-EFTA states, some including representatives of patients and physicians: the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP), the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP), the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP), the Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC), the Paediatric Committee (PDCO) and the Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT).

Within the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP), the agency set up a Patient and Consumer Working Party (PCWP), including representatives from patients and consumers groups, including the European Patient's Forum, well known of FEPI members for having participated in many FEPI events.

This PCWP has recently developed a [Code of Practice between Patient Organisations and the Healthcare Industry](#). The document in question is addressed to all patient groups and it is providing guidance on relations between patient organisations and industry. Its objective is not to be exhaustive, but rather to identify some challenges and solutions based on experiences, and to define a set of basic principles and recommendations. Organisations who sign up for the Code will be listed at the end of the document.

At the latest meeting of the PCWP held the 5 March 2009, the results of the satisfaction survey 2008 of patients/consumers who are involved in EMA activities were presented. There was an overall good level of satisfaction, similar to the one of 2007. The survey identified however several areas to be improved,

such as the level of feedback on the review of documents, the need for more training and the need to involve more patient and consumer organisations.

The EMEA monthly newsletter “Human Medicines Highlights” is addressed to patients’, consumers’ and healthcare professionals’ organisations and is intended to provide a monthly update on key information on human medicines produced and published by the EMEA. To subscribe, please go to www.emea.europa.eu/whatsnew/newsletters/highlights/index.htm.

Leaflets relating to EMEA’s work with patients and consumers in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian are available on the EMEA website www.emea.europa.eu/Patients/introduction.htm. Leaflets in all other official EU languages are available upon request.

For further information please contact Susanna Palkonen, EPF representative in the PCWP, susanna.palkonen@efanet.org.

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<i>Meetings and Events to come:</i>
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- 30/09/09
 - **Swedish Presidency of the Council**
 - **Meeting with representatives for medical, dental and nursing issues**
 - From 30/09/09 to 02/10/09
 - From 30 September to 2 October the National Board of Health and Welfare hosts a conference for Chief Dental Officers, Chief Medical Officers and Chief Nursing Officers within the EU. The aim of the conference is to share experiences about how professional development and cooperation may increase patient safety.
 - *Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare*
 - SE-106 30 Stockholm, Sweden