



[Nouvelles de Bruxelles - Notizie de Bruxelles – Novidades de Bruselas – News from  
Brussels  
Issue # 32 – 22/09/09](#)

## **French Nursing Regulatory Body launches its first collection of fees from its members**

In a press conference the 28/08/09, Mrs. Dominique Le Boeuf, President of the National Council of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing, has announced that her Council will begin to collect fees as from the 01/09/09.

President Le Boeuf has also made public data relating to the national register of nurses working in France, which currently counts some 510.000 members. All of these nurses will now receive a file a letter of the Council along with a form to fill in order for the French regulatory body to update its archives. Mrs. Le Boeuf informed the media that the amount of the membership fee (75 € per year) will be used to improve the national database of nurses in France by including data on every professional's degrees, place of work etc, as well as to promote the nursing profession nationally and internationally.



Mrs. Le Boeuf addressed the concerns expressed by some professionals coming, notably, from the trade union side, by declaring that the National Regulatory Body will not 'hunt down' the nurses that will fail to pay their membership fee in due time (before 30/09). The President underlined her preference for a more 'pedagogic approach' by explaining the role of the membership fee and its importance within the internal organisation of the Body. Finally Mrs. Le Boeuf announced that the National Council of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing has hired a Communication Officer, who will be

responsible for the promotion of the organisation and the launching of the Council's website.

The profession in France is currently facing some difficulties linked to the recent death of a patient in the area of Bordeaux (South-West) subsequent to the administration of wrong medicines by a nurse. This unfortunate incident follows the death of two new-born babies who also died as a consequence of a wrong medication. In both cases the nurses in question have been temporarily put out of service, whilst the police and justice departments are currently investigating the facts.

**French conservative MEP Françoise Grossetête elected  
Rapporteur of the European Parliament's ENVI  
Committee on Patients' rights Directive proposal**

During its first meeting after the holiday break, the European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) committee has announced the election of **Mrs Françoise Grossetête** MEP (EPP – France) as the new Rapporteur on the European Commission's Directive proposal on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare.



Mrs Grossetête is a member of the European Parliament and the ENVI Committee since her first mandate in 1994. She has played an active role in all health-related debates within the EP.

The French MEP will take over the dossier from Mr. John Bowis (EPP – UK) who retired from the EP at the end of its previous mandate last June. The Directive proposal is currently in the hands of the Council of the European Union who published a press release ([http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lisa/108380](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lisa/108380)

.pdf) on the issue after its Environment, Social Policy, Public Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) meeting of 09/06/09 (see FEPI News from Brussels 29). The current Swedish Presidency of the Council considers this file a priority in the health field and will put it on the agenda of the coming EPSCO meeting the 12/10/09 in Luxembourg.

The role of Mrs Françoise Grossetête as Rapporteur of the European Parliament's ENVI Committee will definitely be crucial. She will have to reach consensus amongst MEPs of different political Groups to win the support of a strong majority within the ENVI Committee and the EP. The French MEP will have the responsibility of the EP's report on second reading.

FEPI Secretariat will of course keep you updated on all future evolutions.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call for expression of interest in the renewal of membership in the EU Health Forum</b></p>
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The European Commission's Directorate General for Health & Consumers (DG Sanco) wishes to renew the membership of the EU Health Forum (formerly EU Health Policy Forum) on the basis of the EU Health Strategy: Together for Health – a Strategic Approach for the EU 2008 - 2013.

The envisaged term will cover the period to the end of the current Health Strategy, i.e. 2010 to 2013. Forum member organisations are expected to take part actively in the work of the Forum and should be represented by competent and high-level participants in the meetings.

The overarching goal of the EU Health Forum is to contribute to the development and implementation of actions to protect and improve the health of European citizens. In particular, **the objectives of the Forum are:**

- **To provide a communication channel** between policy makers and stakeholders on EU health policy issues. The information in this channel should flow in both directions and should also facilitate communication among stakeholders. This requires a strong commitment of Forum members both to ensure dissemination within their networks but also to reach beyond their members in an open and inclusive manner.
- **To enable stakeholders to contribute to EU health policies** by identifying emerging health issues, proposing policy options or shaping and giving feedback on policy proposals and implementing measures;
- **To support delivery of the EU Health Strategy** by health advocacy and other appropriate means and tools at EU, national, regional and local levels.

- **To enable health actors** at national and local level **to define EU level work that will support their agenda.**

- **To define European work packages that are relevant** to the broader range of health actors, e.g. youth, lifestyles, workplace, health promotion or health in all policies (HIAP).

Membership of the EU Health Forum will concentrate on associations with a pan-European coverage, rather than on national or regional organisations. In general preference is given to umbrella organisations covering several topics or mandated by other organisations to represent them in the Forum. For practical reasons the Commission seeks to keep membership limited to around 50 to 60 organisations.

The selection criteria set out below will be used in establishing the EU Health Forum. In addition, the requirements for transparency in the membership organisations agreed by the Health Forum apply. Only organisations adhering to these criteria can become Forum members.

Broad coverage of issues: Organisations should cover broad, horizontal issues which are of relevance to developing the Community's health agenda and with an interest in overall public health policy development.

Representativeness: Organisations should be recognised as being able to speak for their sector. Their activities and membership should cover at least half (currently 14) and, ideally, all (currently 27) EU Member States. Organisations should be committed to extending their membership.

Active involvement: Each participating organisation is expected to be actively involved in the work of the EU Health Forum. Failure to do so will lead to discontinuation of membership.

Transparency: Organisations should apply the principles of transparency as set out in the EUHPF guiding principles published on the forum's website, as well as those of the European Transparency Initiative.

DG Sanco will ensure that the composition of forum members is balanced in terms of coverage of health policy areas, sectors and stakeholder categories as well as geographical coverage.

Interested organisations are requested to complete and submit an application form and questionnaire available on the DG Sanco's website and send it by e-mail before **17 October 2009**.

**FEPI members, who feel it is important for FEPI to apply for membership in the EU Health-Forum, are kindly requested to advise the Secretariat at their earliest convenience.**

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<b>Meetings and Events to come:</b>
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- **HPRO card Plenary Meeting:**
  - o Athens, 12/10/09
  - o Crowne Plaza Hotel
  
- **Health Forum Gastein, 'Financial Crisis and Health Policy'**
  - o Bad Hofgastein, Austria
  - o 30 September – 03 October
  - o <http://www.ehfg.org/index.php>
  
- **Chief Nursing Officers Meeting, Swedish Presidency**
  - o Stockholm, Sweden
  - o 30/09/09 – 02/10/09
  - o [http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings\\_news/2009/9/30/meeting\\_with\\_representatives\\_for\\_medical\\_dental\\_and\\_nursing\\_issues](http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/9/30/meeting_with_representatives_for_medical_dental_and_nursing_issues)