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**Call for proposals to develop and coordinate a network of nursing educators and regulators –
New documents available**

On this 09/02/10, the European Commission Directorate General for Health and Consumers (SANCO) published some further documents relating to its call for proposals to develop and coordinate a network of nursing educators and regulators.

The documents newly published by the European Commission mostly refer to the economic aspect, and mainly consist in legal annexes to the call for proposals.

As mentioned in our mail of 19/01/10, the Secretariat is at your disposal for any assistance to the preparation of a potential FEPI candidature.

The annexes in question are available at the following e-addresses:

- Annex 1: http://ec.europa.eu/health/workforce/docs/workforce_a1_en.pdf
- Annex 2a: http://ec.europa.eu/health/workforce/docs/workforce_a2a_en.pdf
- Annex 2b: http://ec.europa.eu/health/workforce/docs/workforce_a2b_en.pdf
- Annex 3: http://ec.europa.eu/health/workforce/docs/workforce_a3_en.pdf
- Annex 4: http://ec.europa.eu/health/workforce/docs/workforce_a4_en.pdf

European Commission's Working Group on Patient Safety and Quality Care – Presentation of latest meeting now available

The Working Group on Patient Safety and Quality of Care, set up by the European Commission's Directorate General on Health and Consumers, held its first meeting of the year the 02/02/10, in Brussels.

As you know, this Working Group brings together several officials from three Directorates General of the European Commission with an interest on Healthcare (SANCO, EMPL and MARKT), along with stakeholders active in the field of health and a number of external experts (University professors or Researchers).

The meeting in question took place in the premises of the European Commission in Brussels the 02/02/10 and the debates focused on quality of healthcare and on how the work of the WHO and of the OECD on patient safety and quality could be linked to the implementation of the Council Recommendation on Patient Safety.

The afternoon session was the occasion for some of the participants to present their institutions' views on Patient Safety (like Dr. Kelley for the WHO) as well as their new projects on the issue in question (like Dr. Klazinga from the OECD).

The presentations can be downloaded at the following e-adresses:

- Dr. Kelley (WHO):
http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/docs/ev_20100202_co03_en.pdf
- Dr. Klazinga (OECD):
http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/docs/ev_20100202_co01_en.pdf
- Council Recommendation on Patient Safety: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:151:0001:0006:EN:PDF>

European Parliament votes in favour of the new College of Commissioners

MEP's voted in favour of the new College of Commissioners, headed by Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, at the occasion of the plenary session of the European Parliament this 09/02/10 in Strasbourg. The House approved the new synthesis of the College of Commissioners with 488 votes in favor, 137 against and 72 abstentions. The Governments of the 27 Member-States of the European Union have then confirmed the new European Commission by a written procedure that was completed late on that same night. The first weekly College meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday the 17th of February. No meeting to consider new draft legislation was held since October 2009.



Mr. Barroso held an informal meeting with his new team on Tuesday (09/02/10) to discuss the ten-year strategy for growth and jobs that is being prepared by the European Commission's services, entitled 'Europe 2020', and to prepare for this week's summit of EU leaders in Brussels.

The result of MEP's vote was no surprise, although it was a far better one than the 382 out of 718 votes Mr. Barroso himself secured when he was confirmed for a second term in office in September. **The three main political groups in the European Parliament made their backing conditional on a new co-operation pact between the European Parliament and the European Commission that enhances the role of the European Parliament in EU decision-making and gives it the right to be properly consulted on most EU matters.**

However, this overwhelming victory for Mr. Barroso and his team must not put out of sight the fact that some of the MEP's are quite in opposition with the views of the new College of Commissioners.

The European Conservatives and Reformists - the grouping led by the British Conservatives - abstained in the vote, after Mr Kirkhope called it "*a flawed process*". He said some of Mr Barroso's team were "*mediocre and made a poor impression*".

The Green leader, French MEP Daniel Cohn-Bendit made a very flamboyant intervention by calling his fellow MEP's from the larger political groups "*hypocrites*" for feeling lukewarm about Mr Barroso and his team but casting a favorable vote anyway. Gesticulating animatedly, Mr. Cohn-Bendit said most of the new team did not show any "*determination*" or "*vision*" and concluded that Europe is "*not up to*" dealing with the economic, financial and ecological problems it faces.

On the other side, leaders of two of the main political groups of the European Parliament have expressed their satisfaction to see Mr. Barroso's team re-conducted for 5 years, although underlining the difficult challenges it will face during its mandate.

The leader of the liberal group ALDE, Belgian MEP Guy Verhofstadt, urged the new European Commission to be "*bolder, more ambitious*" in areas such as economic and social policy, climate change and foreign policy.

The Socialist (S&D group) leader, Martin Schulz MEP, stressed that the EU's method of "*permanent compromise*" was "*better than ideological conflict*".

Mr. Barroso and his 26 commissioners will travel together to Luxembourg in the coming weeks to be sworn into office at the European Court of Justice, although the Commissioners can exercise their full powers without waiting for the swearing-in ceremony.

In the coming weeks, the European Commission plans to present the new growth and jobs strategy (3 March), to adopt its opinion on Iceland's application to join the EU (24 February).

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Conferences and Events to come

- **European Voice Health-check debate:** [‘The right to know: Should information to patients be restricted?’](#)
 - o Once again the Brussels weekly newspaper on EU affairs is organizing its roundtable on health-related issues. This time the topic of the debate will focus on info to patients.
 - o **Where?** Stockholm Region Representation, Avenue Marnix 28, B-1000 Brussels
 - o **When?** Wednesday 24 February 2010 - 12.00-15.00
 - o FEPI will be represented by Mr. Laurent Louette, Policy and Press Officer

- **Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health**
 - o [The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health](#), organized by WHO/Europe and hosted by Italy, is the next milestone in the European environment and health process, now in its twentieth year. Focused on protecting children's health in a changing environment, the Conference will drive Europe's agenda

on emerging environmental health challenges for the years to come.

- **Where?** Parma, Italy
- **When?** 10-12 March 2010

- **World Health Professions Conference on Regulation**

- The aim of the WHPCR 2010 will be to shape the future of health professional regulation within the context of global health systems' redesign and evolving roles, always keeping in mind that public protection is the primary objective of health professional regulation.
- **Where?** Centre International de Conférence de Genève (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland.
- **When ?** 18 & 19 February 2010
- FEPI will be represented by Dr. Theodoros Koutroubas, Senior Policy Adviser.

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