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5 French MPs submit a legislative proposal that could seriously reduce the number of registered nurses within the French Nursing Regulatory Body

The 24th February 2010, 5 French MPs have submitted a legislative proposal aiming at amending the law establishing the French Regulatory Body for Nursing.

The group of MPs in question is coming from the ruling political party (UMP – conservative) and is lead by Mr. Yves Bur (Dental Surgeon from the East of France and already co-author of a number of rather controversial laws). If their proposal is to be approved by the French Parliament, the consequence will be a serious reduce of the number of registered nurses within the 'Ordre National des Infirmiers'.



French MP Yves Bur

This [proposal](#) suggests in fact that only the nurses exercising as 'liberal' will have the legal obligation to register with the French Regulatory Body for Nursing. These nurses represent however only 15% of the profession in France.

The initial objective of Mr. Bur's proposal was to decrease the amount of the annual registering fee of the 'Ordre National des Infirmiers' (75€). After listening to the opinions of the different Trade Unions of the profession, the MPs have decided to also propose to limit the number of nurses that are obliged to register, given, according to them, *'the small interest of French nurses to adhere to the Regulatory Body'*.



The French Regulatory Body for Nursing quickly reacted to the above via a press release, arguing that *'this law proposal will reinforce the division within nurses and is against the initial spirit of the law creating the Regulatory Body which was to unify the profession'*. According to the 'Ordre National des Infirmiers', *'this Regulatory Body was established by the law to assure the promotion of the profession, to control and to analyze the Code of Ethics and Conducts'*.

The legislative proposal also aims at reducing the amount of the annual registering fee, to a symbolic figure, ignoring the measures already taken by the Regulatory Body to give a more democratic price for fresh graduated nurses.

We feel that, in these difficult times for our colleagues in France, it is more important than ever to closely monitor the situation and to offer our full support to the French Regulatory Body for Nursing.

Text of the legislative proposal: <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/13/propositions/pion2363.asp>

Website of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing: <http://www.ordre-infirmiers.fr/>

“The right to know? Should information to patients be restricted” – a “European Voice” Health Debate

The 24/02/10, the weekly Brussels newspaper dedicated to EU Affairs, 'European Voice', has organized its first Health Debate of 2010, in Brussels, in the Stockholm Region Office. FEPI was represented by Mr. Laurent Louette, Policy and Press Officer.

The debate, as always very well conducted by Dr. Phil Hammond, Health Specialist for the BBC, has focused on the European Commission's Directive proposal on information to patients concerning medicinal products (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0668:FIN:EN:PDF>).

The panel was composed of **MEP Christofer Fjellner** (PPE – Sweden), Rapporteur of the Directive proposal in question at the EP Committee on Environment and Health; **Mr. Per Manell**, Chief Technology Officer of the association for the research-based pharmaceutical industry in Sweden (LIF); Dr. **Konstanty Radziwill**, President of the standing committee of European Doctors (CPME) and of **Mr Jan Geissler**, Director of the European Cancer Patients Coalition (ECPC).



MEP Christofer Fjellner

Mr. Geissler insisted on the fact that *'the access to information is a fundamental right for every citizen and therefore for every patient'*, adding that *'the information should be available in as many languages as possible, and not only in English or in German'*. He also underlined that *'whatever EU decides (in relation to the proposed Directive), patients groups will carry on their ethical duties to inform patients'*. *'The Internet and Google will always be there, so we need to find how to certify the available information is the good one'*, he added.

MEP Christofer Fjellner informed the audience that *'the proposed Directive is not on advertisement, but aims at allowing the empowered patient to have access to good information'*. Questioned by the moderator on the reasons for its rejection from the Member-States at the latest Council meeting (09/12/09), Mr. Fjellner seemed rather uncomfortable *'I don't know, maybe the Council hasn't given the best chance to this text'*.

Dr. Radziwill, from CPME, raised the issue of the source of information. *'The question is complex, he said, we need to check the quality of the source, and when it comes to medical prescriptions, this quality must be the highest and I believe this sort of quality can only be reached within the office of the medical doctor.'*



Dr. Radziwill

MEP Fjellner underlined that *'the centre of information should be the dialogue between the patients and the health professionals'*.

This interesting debate demonstrated once again that the issue of information to patients is a rather complex and broad one, and that, even though the proposed Directive seems now to be in dead water, the debate and discussions between stakeholders should continue, for the good of the patients.

Conferences and Events to come

- **The Hospital of the Future - Care, Good Management, Innovation and Regional Advantage**
 - o Hospitals and healthcare are a fertile ground for innovation across a broad spectrum from the use of new medical technologies to organizational methods, the use of ICT as well as new approaches to deal with the environmental dimension, e.g. medical waste, energy efficiency..
 - o **Where?** South Tyrol EU Office, Rue de Pascale 45 – 47, B- 1040 Brussels, Belgium
 - o **When?** Tuesday 02 March 2010 - 09.00-16.45
 - o <http://www.errin.eu/en/calendar.php?y=2010&m=03&d=02&id=100843>

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

- **Patient Empowerment - A New Paradigm in Disease Management?**
 - o How can patients influence the course of their disease? And how can health systems use patient empowerment to improve the medical and economic outcome of their disease management?
 - o **Where?** European Parliament, PHS, 4B001, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels, Belgium.
 - o **When ?** 02 March 2010, 09.00 – 15.00

- **European Council – Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers (EPSCO) meeting.**
 - o **Where?** European Council, Justus Lipsius, Brussels, Belgium.
 - o **When ?** 08 March 2010 – 09 March 2010

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