



[Nouvelles de Bruxelles - Notizie de Bruxelles – Novidades de Bruselas – News from Brussels](#)  
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## **Code of Ethics and Conducts to be the first priority of the newly elected President of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing**

In an interview given to the website 'www.infirmiers.com', the French Internet portal for all nursing-related news, **Mrs. Dominique Leboeuf**, the recently elected President of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing has declared that the first priority of the 'Conseil National de l'Ordre Infirmier' was to draft a code of ethics and conducts for nursing the soonest possible.

In this interview, published on the 19/01/09 by Mr. Guy Isambart, Editor in Chief of the Website in question, President Leboeuf declared: "My priority is to set up the quickest possible a first meeting of the Executive Board (Conseil National) to define with its members the 'lines to follow', in order to anticipate every file where the French Regulatory Body will have to bring its contribution. The strength of the Regulatory Body lays in its representation at the national, regional, and local level, and it is out of the question that those files should be dealt only by isolated elected members. My first priority is for the Regulatory Body to draft its Code of Ethics and Conducts the soonest possible".

This declaration underlines the necessity for FEPI to establish the soonest possible a collaboration with the French Regulatory Body for Nursing, as our Council could obviously be of great help in the drafting of the French Code of Ethics and Conducts for Nursing by sharing with our French colleagues all our experience acquired thanks to the FEPI European Code of Ethics and Conducts for European Nursing. It is very positive that the French Regulatory Body for Nursing puts at its first priority the drafting of a Code of Ethics and Conducts, enlightening the vital need for the Nursing profession to be strongly regulated in order for the patient safety to be ever more ensured.

At the interview, Mrs. Dominique Leboeuf also introduces herself and her professional experience: she has graduated in nursing in 1982 and has since worked as a nurse in the hospital center of Versailles, near Paris, and in different services (medical, breathing intensive care and cardio intensive care). Mrs. Leboeuf has also followed University-level studies, and holds a Masters degree, focused on the issue of local hospital centers and health professionals. Since three years now, she is working with Prof. Matillon on a national mission on 'health professionals' competences evaluations methods', in the framework of which she has collaborated with several other French Regulatory Bodies for health professions.

President Leboeuf also clarified the situation about the possible establishment of a "Doctorate" Degree in Nursing (LMD in French). According to her: "It is an important issue, but I think there has been some sudden conclusions these last months on this issue without consulting the Regulatory Body for its opinion. The 'Conseil National de l'Ordre Infirmier' is going to internally discuss this issue for it is an essential item to be dealt as it commits the evolution of the Nursing profession and therefore the patient safety as well as the high-quality of the provided healthcare".

FEPI Secretariat is now in contact with the Secretariat of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing and will of course keep you posted on the further evolutions on this issue.

The entire interview is available in French at the following website: [www.infirmiers.com](http://www.infirmiers.com).

## Composition of the Executive Board of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing

As you were informed by the latest issue of our FEPI News from Brussels, the members composing the Executive Board of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing have been elected the 14/01/09. They are:

- **Mrs. Dominique Coves**, Vice-President (Liberal Nurse, PACA region)
- **Mr. David Vasseur**, Vice-President (Private Nurse, Formation Manager in Operating Room Nursing, North region)
- **Mr. Didier Borniche**, Vice-President (Public Nurse, Normandie region)
- **Mrs. Myriam Petit**, Secretary General (Liberal Nurse, Paris)
- **Mr. Karim Mameri**, Deputy Secretary General (Public Pediatric Nurse, Normandie region)

- **Mr. Bruno Le Du**, Deputy Secretary General (Liberal Nurse, Languedoc-Roussillon region)
- **Mr. Christophe Bodin**, Treasurer, (Public Nurse, Poitou Charentes region)
- **Mrs. Corinne Boursaud-Laporte**, Deputy Treasurer, (Liberal Nurse, Auvergne region)

The Executive Board of the French Regulatory Body for Nursing is going to meet in February for the first time in order to launch the implementation process of its main projects.

**“Patients are not just objects for Health Systems”,  
European Commissioner for Enterprise and  
Industry Günter Verheugen says.**

At the presentation of the new pharmaceutical package to MEP’s in Strasbourg on Tuesday 13 January, European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen said that the aim of this raft of legislative proposals was to improve patients’ rights. *“From our point of view, the patient is not an object”* at the mercy of health systems and the economic interests of the pharmaceutical industry, the Commissioner declared, pointing out that the aim of the package was to combat the counterfeiting of medicines, guarantee better information for patients and improve pharmacovigilance.

During a brief debate, British Conservative MEP **John Bowis** welcomed the European Commission’s desire to place patients at the centre of the system. He welcomed the desire to ensure that product safety extends to syringes, the re-use of which continues to be the cause of many infections. If single-use or disposable syringes were in general use, there would be a reduction of the number of accidents. French Socialist MEP **Anne Ferreira**, however, was critical of the proposal authorising laboratories to provide patients with information on medicines. She felt that this would lead to advertising and bring a sharp increase in the industry’s marketing budget at the expense of the research budget. *“Anyone who says that there is no difference between information and advertising is insulting many thousands of journalists, who demonstrate every day in your workplace, in your newspapers, on the radio and on television that there is, indeed, a difference between information and advertising”*, Verheugen replied.

Besides these internal ‘quarrels’ between representatives of the different EU institutions, it is important to note and to underline that this proposal for a

pharmaceutical package comes in line with the numerous recent European Commission's initiatives relating to patient safety, a spirit that we strongly support.

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<b><i>Meetings and Events to come:</i></b>
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- 12/02/09
  - CEPLIS Health Working Group (chaired by FEPI)
  - CEPLIS premises, 70 Coudenberg B-1000 Brussels
  - 14.00-17.00
- 13/02/09
  - European Health Management Association (EHMA) Roundtable on the European Commission's Green Paper on the European workforce for Health
  - European Community Shipowners' Association , (ECSA asbl vzw) Rue Ducale 67/B2, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
  - 12.15-14.30
  - <http://www.ehma.org/index.php?q=node/145>