



[Nouvelles de Bruxelles - Notizie de Bruxelles – Novidades de Bruselas – News from  
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## **HPro Card Plenary Meeting – London 16<sup>th</sup> of January**

The 16<sup>th</sup> of January, the EU-funded Health Professional Card (HPro Card) Project, held its 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting in the premises of our British Member, the Nursing and Midwifery Council of the UK (NMC). FEPI was invited to attend and was represented by Policy Officer Laurent Louette.

As you certainly know, the HPro Card Project was launched in early 2007, following the 'whereas' 32 of the European Commission's Directive 2005/36 on Professional Qualifications Recognition, encouraging the '*introduction, at European level, of professional cards by professional associations or organisations*'. The Project's objective is to study the possibility to establish a common European database shared by all Regulatory Bodies of healthcare-related professions, based on the principle of a card that would be distributed to all professional, and would be directly connected to this database.

The first part of the meeting aimed at providing information on the HPro Card Project to British and Irish health-related Regulators, such as the General Medical Council of the UK, the Medical Council of Ireland, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great-Britain, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

The meeting was chaired by **Prof. Tony Hazell**, Chair of the NMC Council, who underlined the strong commitment of the NMC to the European integration process. '*In my view, our future shares in the EU*', noted **Prof. Hazell**.

**Mr. Patrick Fortuit**, from the French Regulatory Body of Pharmacists, who is the person in charge of the operational and financial management of the HPro Card Project, presented its latest evolutions, and pointed out that he was expected to

inform the European Commission on the feelings of the British and Irish Regulatory Bodies of the healthcare professions towards HPro Card Project.

His presentation did not however seem to persuade many of the organisations present to review their initial skepticism. *'How reliable will be the information provided by the card?'* was one of the most frequently asked questions. Mr Fortuit's answer that *'HPro Card project has no responsibility or influence on the data inserted into the electronic chip of the card; this will remain the responsibility of the National Regulatory Body of the professional'*, was not enough to gain HPro Card support.

Rather disappointed, Mr. Fortuit, closed the session by *'inviting all the representatives from UK and Ireland here present to a second informing session, to take place in Dublin very soon'*.

The second part of the meeting was the plenary session of the HPro Card Project, gathering all the bodies composing its 'consortium', id all the bodies fully participating in the project (the French Regulatory Body of Pharmacists, the French Medical Council, the Belgian Regulatory Body of Pharmacists and the Pharmaceutical Group of the EU-PGEU). This session mainly focused on the recent evolutions of the Project, Mr. Fortuit for instance informed the attendees that the HPro Card Project enters now in its second phase, which is the drafting of the report to the European Commission.

In his closing speech, Mr. Fortuit emphasized the important effort this project represents and pointed out the obstacles it has still to face, being *"more convinced than ever that the project will end up with great success"*.

Our feeling is more cautious than his on the project's feasibility. It might be in fact more prudent for FEPI to wait for some further meetings and other positive evolutions relating to the project before engaging itself in its favor.

Our Secretariat is of course going to keep you updated on the above.

## **Meeting of Chief Nursing Officers - Prague**

A Joint Meeting of Chief Nursing Officers of the EU is going to take place in Prague from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2009, under the patronage of the Czech Presidency of the EU Council.

The event in question will focus on the Migration of Nursing Professionals within the EU. The first part of the meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February and will concentrate on the discussions of the following issues:

- Introduction of the Green Paper on European Workforce for Health
- eHealth – Registers of Health Workforce
- Lifetime Education – Credit System
- Funding of Specialized Education

The second part of the meeting will be chaired by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and will consist on a policy dialogue on the issue of the migration of nurses, *'in the context of an increasing shortage of health and social care workers'*.

Amongst the participants, we note the presence of a lot of experts coming from the Czech National and Regional Experts on Health as well as of officers from the European Commission Directorate General on Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO).

However, it is to be noted that the organisers of the event have carefully chosen not to invite any representatives from the National Nursing Regulatory Bodies. Mrs. Simunec, President of the Croatian Nursing Council and Member of the FEPI Executive Board was in fact invited, but in her quality of "Chief Nursing Officer" for Croatia, a position that Mrs. Simunec does not hold anymore!

Pointing out the important role the EFN is called to play at the Joint Meeting, Mrs. Simunec expressed her deepest concern on the organisers' choice not to associate FEPI or any national regulators despite of the relevance of the issues to be discussed with nursing regulation.

Our Secretariat is going to keep you posted on the outcomes of this event.

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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-FEPI 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>
  - FEPI Delegation: Mr. Laurent Louette
  
- 17/02/09
  - **Access to Treatments: Which rights for Patients?**
  - European Voice Health Check Debate
  - Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg
  - Rue Belliard 60-62, B-1040 Brussels
  - 12.00-15.00
  - <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/events/access-to-treatments-which-rights-for-patients-63538.aspx?LG=1>
  - FEPI Delegation: Mr. Laurent Louette
  
- 25/02/09
  - **IMI Awareness Raising Conference: "The IMI Network and the Services Directive – Connecting administrations, building trust"**
  - European Commission's DG Markt
  - Charlemagne Building
  - Rue de la Loi, 170, B – 1049 Brussels
  - 10.00-16.30
  - [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/imi-net/imi\\_awareness\\_raising\\_conference\\_en.html#venue](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/imi_awareness_raising_conference_en.html#venue)
  - FEPI Delegation: Dr. Theodoros Koutroubas and Mr. Laurent Louette