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2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education

The Executive Committee of the ER-WCPT and the Swedish Association of Registered Physical Therapists (L.S.R.) would like to remind Member Organisations about the **2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education**, entitled "Lifelong learning, developing the physiotherapy profession – Linking education, the profession and employment". The registration has been opened and there is an early registration fee of 300 EUR till 31 May 2008. There is also a student's fee for 150 EUR.

The Region wishes Member Organisations to promote the Congress as widely as possible and encourage their members to attend this event in Stockholm (Norra Latin), Sweden, on 25-26 September 2008.

A Workshop to approve the EU project, Part **B – Staying clean: to support smokers/ex-smokers in giving up** on **24 September 2008**. and a half-day Post-Congress meeting for ER-WCPT delegates after the Congress would also take place at the same venue, on **27 September 2008**.

For further information visit the website <http://www.already.net/lsr-intranet/>

2008 ER-WCPT General Meeting

The European Region of WCPT would like to remind all the Member Organisations of its invitation to participate in the General Meeting of the European Region 2008, to be held on 22-24 May 2008 in Athens, Greece.

A Workshop to approve the EU Project Guides, Part **A – Pain in the back: Guide exercises program for avoiding back pain in children and teenagers** will also be held for WCPT European Region delegates on 21 May 2008 at the same venue.

Motions, as well as Nominations for 1st Vice-Chairman and 2nd Vice-Chairman and two Alternate Members must be received by the General Secretary by 22 February 2008. Remember that as agreed at the 2004 GM in Cyprus it will only be possible to present nominations of candidates during the General Meeting if no nominations have been received before.

Detailed information on accommodation, registration form has been already sent to the MOs. The agenda and other

supporting documents will be provided in the near future.

NOTE: The Region has made a provisional booking of rooms with a special rate at the hotel where the GM will be held. The rates are as follows: Single room – 120 EUR / Double 150 EUR The Region encourages Members Organisation to stay there. It will facilitate communication and informal discussion.

<http://www.royalolympic.com/>

Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting held in Estoril, Portugal, on 28 - 30 November 2007

The last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region was held in Estoril, Portugal. The Executive Committee meeting focused primarily on the revision of the Working Groups ongoing actions to develop the activities for the 2006 – 2008 period approved at the 5th General Meeting of the European Region. The Executive Committee reviewed and agreed them.

The meeting also focused on:

- the situation of the Common Platform project,
- EU grant for the joint ER-WCPT project,
- the 2nd Education Congress in Stockholm, Sweden

Common Platform Project – In order to continue the development of the project of a Common Platform for Physiotherapists, a meeting of the Task Force took place on 1 December 2007, in Estoril, Portugal. The Executive Committee wants to put forward

the achievement of the first step in developing a Common Platform: monitoring the different situations of the profession in the EU Countries. The reason is that only after achieving the first step it will be possible to discuss the possibility of establishing a Common Platform. The members of the Executive Committee have attended this meeting.

EU grant for two ER-WCPT projects - Since the last Executive Committee meeting, there were two meetings, one related with each part of the project.

- Part A - Pain in the back? Guide exercises programme for avoiding back pain in children and teenagers – The Education WG met on 6 September 2007, in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Part B - Staying clean: Guide exercises programme to support smokers / ex-smokers in giving up. – The Professional

Issues WG met on 6 October 2007, in Cheltenham, the UK.

The Research Structure of the project has been modified as follows:

- Part A - Pain in the Back, will be developed by the German Association. The Education WG will act as an evaluator.
- Part B – Staying Clean, will be developed by the Netherlands Association. The Professional Issues WG will act as an evaluator.

There was also a third meeting, on 9 November 2007, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, between the Netherlands Association and the German Association. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate actions. At this meeting it was decided to prepare a letter to invite the listed stakeholders to participate in the project development.

ER-WCPT Congress on Physiotherapy Education in 2008

The Chairman of the Education WG informed the meeting about the activities undertaken to prepare the 2nd Congress on Physiotherapy Education as follows:

- Registration: The registration has been opened. There is an early registration fee of 300 EUR till 31 May 2008. There is also a student's fee for 150 EUR.
- Webpage: The Congress website has been launched including information about the key dates, venue, key speakers, and congress themes among others.
- A Workshop to approve the EU project, Part B – Staying clean would take place before the Congress at the same venue, on 24 September 2008.
- A half-day Post-Congress meeting for ER-WCPT delegates would also take place after the Congress at the same venue, on 27 September 2008.

Slovenian Presidency of the EU - Health Priorities

The Slovenian Presidency of the EU started on the 1st January for a period of six months till 31 June 2008.

The Slovenia's Presidency shall continue to strive for the implementation of joint priorities and commitments mutually developed within the framework of the 18-month programme of German-Portuguese-Slovenian Presidency. They are based on the promotion of health by encouraging a healthy lifestyle, particularly healthy nutrition and physical activity,

prevention and control of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS and flu pandemics, innovations in healthcare and accessibility of healthcare services.

Slovenia as the presiding country shall concentrate on:

Reducing the burden of cancer disease, which remains one of the more severe public health problems in the EU regardless of the numerous activities and endeavours of the

Member States. The goal is to promote additional activities at a political level, and to adopt orientations in support of different measures both at the level of EU and in Member States, which shall – considering the existing discrepancies between the Member States – contribute to the promotion of healthy lifestyle and the prevention of cancer as well as to a more successful treatment and a quality living with this disease. Slovenia will address the issue of cancer at a higher political level within the Community framework.

The second priority on health for the Slovenian Presidency will stress on the **reduction of alcohol use and the damage associated with excessive consumption**, the latter being the third most important causative factor of disease and premature death in the European Union, especially among the younger population. Alcohol is also the main cause of health inequalities among the EU States as well as of domestic violence and violence against children. The problem should be addressed by the exchange of good practices and experience between the Member States, as well as by established examples of innovation in reducing alcohol-related accidents and injuries.

The Slovenian Presidency will work further on the **IT system development in healthcare**, which facilitates faster intervention and more effective information exchange between health institutions. To this end, the Ministry of Health is going to organize an **eHealth conference** during the Presidency.

Equal importance shall be attributed to the regular Pharmaceutical Forum aimed at ensuring the development of optimal drugs accessible to all EU residents. In terms of public health, the main objective of the Forum is to ensure physical and cost-effective accessibility of effective drugs and accurate information to the public on the acquisition and use of the mentioned drugs. Besides the listed priorities and further implementation of the joint commitments of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, the dossiers on the agenda inherited from the preceding Presidencies shall be taken over. The foreseen more demanding dossiers include: the provision of healthcare services, which would ensure the European citizens high-quality and safe healthcare services and their flow; the European Health Strategy with its basic objective to define balance and comprehensiveness in the area of public health at the EU level, which shall contribute to a better health of European citizens; and the management of the area of human organ donation and transplantation.

Calendar of events

- 14.01.2008 - 15.01.2008, Heads of Medicine Agencies Meeting
- 22.01.2008, ENVI Committee Meeting – Presentation of the Presidency Priorities, Minister of Health, Zofija Mazej Kukovi (poss.)
- 07.02.2008 - 08.02.2008 Conference on Cancer
- 29.02.2008 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)
- 13.03.2008 - 14.03.2008 Meeting of

- Directors-General for Health
- 02.04.2008 - 03.04.2008 Meeting of the High-Level Committee on Public Health
- 02.04.2008 - 04.04.2008 Conference on Alcohol (Barcelona)
- 07.04.2008 - 08.04.2008 Heads of Medicine Agencies Meeting
- 17.04.2008 - 18.04.2008 Informal Meeting of Ministers for Health
- 28.04.2008 - 29.04.2008 Meeting of Representatives of EU Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Authorities
- 05.05.2008 - 07.05.2008 eHealth Conference
- 07.05.2008 EU Drugs Coordinators Meeting
- 16.05.2008 - 17.05.2008 7th European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty
- 09.06.2008 - 10.06.2008 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)

EU Health Policy Forum

Elisabeth Haase, on behalf of the ER-WCPT and as a Member of the EU WG, participated in the EU Health Policy Forum that took place in Brussels, on 28 November 2007, in order to discuss on the future work of the EU Health Policy Forum, DG Sanco consultation on the 'Future Challenges' paper 2009-2014, the

New EU Health Strategy, the Health Services initiative, and about Patient safety. Robert Madelin, DG Sanco Director General, chaired the afternoon section on the health strategy and on the future of the Health Policy Forum.

The European Commission proposes that 2008 be "European Year of Intercultural Dialogue"

The Commission adopted on 5 October a proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council to declare 2008 "European Year of Intercultural Dialogue".

This idea had initially been put forward by the European Commissioner with responsibility for culture, Ján Figel', during his hearing before the European Parliament in September 2004. With an overall budget of €

10 million, the European Year will draw on the wealth and diversity of a series of specific projects to be implemented during 2008 through programmes and other Community actions. Culture, education, youth, sport and citizenship will be the main areas concerned.

For further information

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/portal/events/current/dialogue2008_en.htm

eHealth 2008 conference, 6 - 8 May 2008, Slovenia

The conference will focus mostly on the topics which contribute to connect eHealth tools and users. The exhibition will show eHealth solutions of EU Member States, Slovenian and other EU countries eHealth industry.

The programme will focus mostly on topics which contribute to connect eHealth tools and users:

- Between places, cities, regions and countries and
- Between all players in healthcare (citizens, patients, healthcare professionals, healthcare providers, health insurance providers, public health actors, educational and research institutions, and public authorities)

The conference aims:

- To demonstrate opportunities,

achievements and challenges of the implementation of electronic healthcare, and

- To define as clearly as possible future directions for the further development of eHealth in Europe

On May the 5th satellite conferences and events such as national eHealth conference and events will be organised by European associations and projects.

Further information on the agenda, exhibition and registration to the conference will soon be available on the dedicated website of the conference.

For related information contact:
eHealth@ec.europa.eu

New EU Health Strategy

The European Commission adopted a new Health Strategy, 'Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013'. The new programme builds on the existing one (Health Programme 2003-2008), setting a framework to fund European projects and other health-related actions. It aims for the first time to provide an overarching strategic framework spanning core issues in health

as well as health in all policies and global health issues. As set out in the Treaty, most competence in the field of health is held by Member States, but the EU has the responsibility to undertake certain actions which complement the work carried out at national level. The Programme is designed to improve the health of EU citizens, reducing health inequalities while disseminating health

information and awareness among EU citizens.

The Strategy focuses on four principles and three strategic themes to improve health across Europe. These principles include: a value-driven approach, recognising the links between health and economic prosperity, integrating health in all policies, and strengthening the EU's voice in global health issues. The strategic themes are: Fostering Good Health in an Ageing Europe, Protecting Citizens from Health Threats, and Dynamic Health Systems and New Technologies.

The Health Strategy has been developed over several years, with the aim of identifying where the EU could provide real added value, without duplicating work which can be carried out at Member State level or in international organizations. Work has been undertaken to address health threats, including the creation of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), developing cross-border co-operation between health systems. Furthermore, the EU's health information system is now a key mechanism for the development of health policy. Another

key element is the EU Health Forum, which brings together organizations in the health field who act as advisors to the European Commission on health policies, enabling the health community to participate in the policy-making process from the start.

The new Programme has come into force on 1 January 2008, and will dispose of a budget of € 321.5 million. Actions supporting development at European level of cross border nature are also eligible for funding. A wide variety of financing schemes are offered to ensure the highest level of participation on the part of organizations promoting an agenda in line with the Programme objectives. These include co-financing and tendering actions, operational grants as well as joint financing with Member States and other EU Community programmes.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/strategy/health_strategy_en.htm

http://www.ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/pgm2008_2013_en.htm

Health Service Directive on cross Border Health Care

The European Commission has adopted a draft directive designed to facilitate "safe, high-quality and efficient cross-border healthcare".

The Commission's proposal has been submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council who will decide jointly on the

future legislation, which has become necessary with increasingly numerous judgments on the subject at the European Court of Justice (CJEC).

The Court of Justice's decisions on individual cases "are clear in themselves, however, it is

necessary to improve clarity to ensure a more general and effective application of freedoms to receive and provide health services," says the explanatory memorandum for the draft directive.

The draft directive, which could still be modified before it is adopted by the European representatives, proposes that member states should ensure that patients in their social security systems who go to another member state for healthcare, receive the healthcare appropriate to their condition in the other member state, such as they would have received in their own country.

The cost of this healthcare will be paid by the patients' own state, at least up to the level of expenses that would have been reimbursed if the healthcare had been provided in the patients' own country. Patients will bear the financial risk of any additional costs that may arise.

PRIOR AUTHORISATION

The member states must not demand prior authorisation, except possibly for hospital care.

In this case, prior authorisation cannot be refused if treatment in another member state is appropriate to the patient's condition and to their health requirements. This is evaluated by a competent authority designated in each state of affiliation.

The member state of social security affiliation should ensure that all administrative procedures concerning healthcare in another member state, in particular procedures linked to a prior authorisation regimen and to reimbursement, are founded on objective and non-discriminatory criteria

which will be published in advance.

Also, the member states "of affiliation" should ensure that patients who request this are informed about their options to receive healthcare in another member state. The information, which should be easily accessible, electronically for example, should include information on patients' rights and on the possibilities for appeal if these rights are infringed.

In terms of civil liability, healthcare providers take out professional civil liability insurance appropriate to the nature and amplitude of the risk, or provide a guarantee.

Member states should also designate national contact points to provide information on the possibilities of cross-border access to healthcare and on complaints procedures in the member states providing the healthcare.

The national contact points should help patients protect their rights, particularly in the case of damages caused following healthcare received in another member state. They should provide information in particular on the possibilities of settling legal disputes outside of the courts (out-of-court schemes).

SAFETY CLAUSE

A safety clause has been introduced into the directive text: if it is demonstrated that the directive's implementation seriously endangers the financial equilibrium of a member state's social security system or prevents the provision of high quality hospital and medical services open to all, member states must notify the Commission, which will have six months to approve or reject the national measures envisaged.

The directive also says that member states should give each other mutual assistance and cooperation in local and regional cross-border health care domains and telemedicine.

In terms of drug prescriptions, states should acknowledge prescriptions written in another member state.

Member states should also, in cooperation

with the Commission, facilitate the development of European reference networks to concentrate resources and expertise for certain types of highly specialised healthcare.

They should also, working with the Commission, facilitate the development of a network that will connect the different national authorities responsible for evaluating health technology.

DG SANCO's launch of the 1st phase of the improved website

On 24 October, the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection, DG SANCO, launched a new consumer protection site, which will make it easier and faster for viewers to access the information they need. This is the first phase of a project aimed at improving the structure of the site.

Following phases will include a reorganization of the Health and Food and Feed Safety sections. The criteria followed

are based on the concept of flattening the structure of the existing site, allowing for information to be more readily available and visible to viewers, straight from the homepage.

If you would like to explore the new section of the site, please visit:

http://ec.europa.ecu/consumers/index_en.htm

"Identifying DG Sanco Future 2009 - 2014"

The European Commission DG Sanco published a new consultation paper on its "**Future - 2009 - 2014**". This paper is providing a "draft vision" of the main challenges that DG SANCO will be facing in the coming years. Built on the views of many DG SANCO officials and on the input of external experts, the paper is now being circulated in order to develop a common

understanding of DG SANCO's vision, and bring added value to the overall reflection on the future within the Commission.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/vents/future_challenges_en.htm

Disparities in EU healthcare systems

According to the 2007 EuroHealth Consumer Index (EHCI), published in October, the countries that have initiated reforms, such as Austria and Estonia, have gone up in the ranking of the most user-friendly healthcare systems, compiled from 27 indicators of the quality of healthcare systems, divided into five categories, including patient rights and information, and waiting time for (new)

treatment and pharmaceuticals. Following these findings, Health Consumer Powerhouse (HCP) presented a number of recommendations per country to the EU decision-makers.

For further information:

http://www.healthpowerhouse.com/media/Rapport_EHCI_2007.pdf

IFDM 2008

The 4th International Forum on Disability Management.

The IFDM looks at the social, economic and political impacts of disability and strategies for addressing these issues, and is of value to individual practitioners, corporations and government policy makers.

The conference is to be held in Berlin on September 22-24th 2008. Further information and registration can be found on <http://www.disability-manager.de/e/ifdm2008/index.html>

2nd International Conference for Physiotherapy in Psychiatry and Mental Health

The Conference, arranged by the Department of Physiotherapy, Bergen University College, Norway, will be held on **27-29th of February 2008** at Solstrand Hotell outside Bregen: www.icppmh.com/2008. The Conference is a follower of the 1st International Conference

arranged by The University of Leuven/Kortenberg, Belgium, February 2006. The Scientific Committee has accepted around 60 abstracts; there are around 100 participants representing 18 countries and 3 continents.

A banner for the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education, featuring a colorful abstract design on the left and the text '2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education' in bold black letters on a white background.

2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education

Life Long Learning: Developing the Profession | September 25-26 2008, Stockholm

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