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Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting held in Warwick, the U.K., on 18-21 June 2009

The last Executive Committee meeting of the European Region was held in Warwick, the U.K., it focused primarily on a review of the ongoing work of the working groups and on preparation for the 2010 ER-WCPT General meeting.

The Executive Committee was also informed about the presentation of the projects: “Pain in the Back” - Avoiding back pain in children and teenagers” and “Staying Clean - A Guided Exercise Programme for Stopping Smoking” which took place on 21 – 24 April 2009, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.



European Parliament



At the meeting, plans were discussed and agreed for ongoing work with respect to the ER-WCPT awards and steps to establish the ER-WCPT Foundation.



Executive Committee members in discussion with MEP's



Executive Committee members at work



2010 ER-WCPT GM

The European Region of the WCPT would like to invite you to participate in the General Meeting of the European Region 2010, to be held on 27 - 29 May 2010 in Berlin, Germany.

A Workshop for MOs will also take place on 26 May 2010 at the same venue. The MOs will be informed about the theme and purpose of the workshop as soon as possible.

Please note that any proposed amendments to articles of the Charter of the European Region of the WCPT must be received by the General Secretary by 27 November 2009.

Other Motions, as well as Nominations for Chairman, Treasurer, Regional Representative, two Alternate Members and Alternate Regional Member must be received by the General Secretary by 26 February 2010. Remember that as was 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, the agenda and other supporting documents will be provided in the near future.

NOTE: The Region has made a provisional booking of rooms at the Ellington hotel where the GM will be held and an alternative lower budget hotel – Berliner Hof. The number of rooms should be confirmed by the end of 31 January 2010-. For this reason the secretariat wants to know by the 4 January 2010 if your delegates will stay there. The rates are as follows:

Ellington hotel:

Room rates per room and night:

Single room: EUR 145,00 incl. breakfast

Twin room: EUR 172,00 incl. breakfast

Berliner Hof hotel:

Room rates per room and night:

Single room: EUR 81,00 incl. breakfast

Twin room: EUR 105,00 incl. breakfast

2010 General Meeting - ER-WCPT Awards

At the 2008 General Meeting, a motion was approved to establish ER-WCPT awards, to be made every two years at the General Meeting. The objective of the awards is to recognise the contribution of individuals to physiotherapy in its broadest meaning, within the European Region.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee of the ER-WCPT would like to invite Member

Organisations for nominations to the Awards Committee and for the Awards.

Awards Committee:

The ER-WCPT Awards Committee will be composed of 3 – 5 persons from the ER-WCPT Member Organisations. The Executive Committee of the ER-WCPT is now inviting MOs to nominate individuals for possible membership to the Awards Committee.



Member organisations wishing to put forward a nomination should send it to the ER-WCPT secretariat info@physio.europe.org. Nominations must be received by **15th September 2009**.

Awards Nominations:

The Executive Committee of the ER-WCPT is now inviting MOs to nominate individuals for possible awards. Member organisations wishing to put forward a nomination should send it to the ER-WCPT secretariat info@physio.europe.org. Nominations must be received by **15th October 2009**.

The following criteria will be considered in making the appointments to the Awards Committee:

- Individuals should be nominated by a Member Organisation; in addition the nomination may have the support of other MOs.
- **Criteria:** a clear demonstration of sustained contribution to the field of physiotherapy in one or all of the following categories - clinical practice, education, research or service to the profession.
- Current members of the Region's Executive Committee are not eligible for nomination.

The selected individuals for the awards will be announced by the Executive Committee by the end of December 2009.

Swedish Presidency of the EU - Health Priorities

The Swedish Presidency of the EU started on the 1st July for a period of six months until 31 December 2009.

Sweden is taking over the Presidency in special circumstances. The financial and economic crisis has hit Europe and the rest of the world hard. At the same time, it is the Presidency's task to represent the EU in the fight against global climate change. In addition to this, the next six months will be characterised by institutional change, with a newly elected European Parliament, a new Commission during the autumn, and continued uncertainty surrounding the Treaty of Lisbon.

In the field of health, the Swedish Presidency priorities are as follows:

Promoting good health

The good health of EU citizens is extremely important. Preventive measures are needed. The negotiations on the **patient mobility directive**, which aims to increase patients' possibilities to seek out and receive health care and dental care in another EU country, is an important priority in the second half of this year. Other important issues to be negotiated during the Presidency are the conditions for the reimbursement of patients who receive cross-border care and the areas for future cooperation between EU Member States in the field of health care. Another important issue for patients is strengthening **eHealth cooperation** in the EU.



The EU must be ready to deal with current health challenges. One such challenge is **antibiotic resistance**. The problem of bacteria that can no longer be treated with antibiotics is growing throughout the world. Without access to effective antibiotics common illnesses can become a deadly threat. The Presidency's ambition is for a decision to be taken on seeking out innovative ways to ensure the development of new antibiotics. The outbreak of **influenza A (H1N1)** will need to be dealt with during the Presidency. An expert conference will be held, at which EU communicable disease experts will discuss their experiences and the need for further measures.

Another challenge is counterfeit drugs. The Presidency will seek progress on the **pharmaceuticals package**, which includes pharmacovigilance measures. Another issue is the implementation of the **EU alcohol strategy**. The Commission is due to present its first progress report on the implementation of the strategy at national and European level. The ambition is to establish long-term prevention efforts for alcohol-related harm.

More healthy and dignified ageing

The growing proportion of older people is a

challenge and an opportunity for all EU Member States. The Presidency's aim is to increase the opportunities for **healthy and dignified ageing** for older people in the EU. To achieve this it is important to ensure that those working with health and social issues cooperate better and place the focus on the older person. The Presidency wants to find coordination and cooperation solutions and highlight good practices in different EU Member States. With this initiative the Presidency wants to put elderly issues on the EU agenda.

Important meetings:

- Informal ministerial meeting, Jönköping, 6–9 June. The first part of the meeting, on 6–7 June, will deal with alcohol and health, antibiotic resistance and eHealth. The second part of the meeting, on 8–9 June, will focus on the theme of reducing exclusion.
- Conference: Healthy and Dignified Ageing, Solna/Stockholm, 15–16 September.
- Expert conference on antibiotic resistance, Stockholm, 17 September.

For further information: <http://www.se2009.eu/>

Fifty-ninth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

The European region of WCPT has been invited to participate in the fifty-ninth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe to be held from 14 to 17 September 2008, in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Regional Representative, Emma Stokes, will participate

on behalf of the ER-WCPT.

At the session, expected delegates from the 53 WHO European Member States will discuss about the following topics:



- Protecting health in times of economic crisis: the role of health systems (including social determinants of health);
- Towards improved governance of health in the WHO European Region;
- Health workforce policies in the European Region (including a draft global code of practice for international recruitment of health personnel – a matter referred to the

Regional Committee by the Executive Board at its 124th session);

- Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the WHO European Region.

Further Information:

<http://www.euro.who.int/rc>

“Be healthy - be yourself” the Youth Health Initiative

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers invites young people between 15-25 to have their say on a blog and take part in a competition with health-related videos, posters and pictures.

The topics will range from alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sexual and mental health to nutrition,

physical activity, youth involvement, health and work, education and media.

For further information, please view:

http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/youth/index_en.htm

European Parliament likely to build a “Europe for Patients”

On 23 April the European Parliament voted on three important health policy initiatives: patients' rights in cross border healthcare, improving patient safety and EU strategy on rare diseases. These actions mark an important step forward in providing patients with better opportunities and access to healthcare in Europe.

The European Parliament also highlighted in all three health votes the need for enhanced cooperation between all EU Member States, in order to pool knowledge and expertise to maximise health benefits for all.

- Patients Rights in Cross Border Healthcare:

The European Parliament confirmed the need for a legislative framework which clarifies the rights and conditions under which patients seek, and are reimbursed, for healthcare in another Member State. Many of the amendments sought to strengthen patients' rights through greater emphasis on providing public information on the quality and safety of healthcare.

- Patient safety and the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections:

The recommendation to improve patient safety in Europe and reduce healthcare associated infections was adopted by the Commission on 15 December 2008. The Commission's



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proposal aims to help EU Member States in one of the biggest challenges that the EU health systems are facing – unintended harm to patients while receiving healthcare. It is indeed estimated that 8%-12% of patients admitted to hospitals suffer from such harm.

- European action on rare diseases:

The Communication and Recommendation on rare diseases, adopted by the Commission on 11 November 2008, serves as a prime example

of where working at EU level adds value. It aims to improve the recognition of rare diseases and pool expertise, experience and research to maximise the effective use of resources to the benefit of all rare disease patients.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/europe_for_patients/index_en.htm

Rue de Pascale 36, B 1040 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 231 50 63 Fax: +32 2 231 50 64
Email: info@physio-europe.org Web-site: www.physio-europe.org