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## 2nd Notice General Meeting 2010 and Workshop on Direct Access

The European Region of the WCPT would like to remind all the Member Organisations of its invitation to participate in the General Meeting of the European Region 2010, to be held on 27 - 29 May 2010 in Berlin, Germany.

**A Workshop on Direct Access for MOs will also take place on 26 May 2010 at the same venue.**

**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.**

We would also like to announce that the detailed information on accommodation, registration form, form for election nominations, and the form for the MOs delegates for the General Meeting have been posted on the ER-WCPT on the following link: <http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=144> Please pay attention to the deadlines. Accommodation and registration form 2nd February. Form for elections nominations, and the form for the MOs delegates 26th February.

**The agenda and other supporting documents will be provided in the near future.**

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## Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting

Koln, Germany, on 3 - 6 December 2009

The last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region was held in Cologne, Germany. The Executive Committee meeting focused primarily on the preparation of the 2010 GM and the revision of the Working Groups ongoing actions and documents to be presented at the 2010 GM. The Executive Committee reviewed and agreed them.



The meeting also focused on:

- ER-WCPT awards 2010 GM,
- 2nd Conference on Clinical Guidelines
- 3rd Education Congress in Vienna, Austria

**ER-WCPT awards 2010 GM.** The EC, following the recommendation from the awards committee, agreed unanimously Sigrún Knútsdóttir (Iceland) to be awarded at the 2010 GM during the Get together, welcome reception.

**2nd Conference on Clinical Guidelines** – The second ER-WCPT' conference on Clinical Guidelines will take place on 2nd December 2010 in conjunction with the annual Dutch Association congress. The Conference will be organised by the Professional Issues WG and ER-WCPT, and hosted by the Dutch Association (KNGF). The topic for the conference will be as follows: Implementation of appropriate physiotherapy care in the multidisciplinary management of chronic disease. As an example, COPD, (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) in conjunction with the Smoking cessation and staying clean project will be used.

A draft programme for the conference was presented at the EC meeting for discussion.

### **3rd ER-WCPT Congress on Physiotherapy Education in 2012**

The Chairman of the Education WG informed the meeting about the activities undertaken to prepare the 3rd Congress on Physiotherapy Education as follows:

A meeting of the Education WG with the President and CEO of Physio Austria to continue the preparation of the 3rd Education Congress on Physiotherapy Education in 2012 took place on 4 September 2009. At that meeting it was discussed about the logo of the Congress, the website, the 1st Presentation of the Congress, the Organising Committee and the Scientific Committee, the time table, budget and contract.

The Executive Committee reviewed the tasks developed by the host organisation related to the mentioned above points and made recommendations to continue the congress preparation.

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## 6th International G-I-N Conference

(1 - 4 November 2009 - Portugal)

The 6th International G-I-N Conference took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on 1 – 4 November 2009. There were nearly 390 participants from across the world. The scientific programme offered a variety of stimulating and useful workshops, plenaries and parallel sessions.

The AGM was attended by representatives from 31 organisations. During the AGM it was announced as follows:

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- The launch of the new G-I-N website in January

- Board approval of partial opening of the guideline library for public access
- The proposed development of G-I-N papers on items of interest
- The incorporation of the ADAPTE collaboration within G-I-N.

The ER-WCPT and the Portuguese Association were deeply involved in the G.I.N Conference. The two abstracts from the ER – WCPT submitted and accepted were organized to discuss participation of Allied Health Professionals (AHP) and Nurses in



multidisciplinary guideline development. The first workshop focused on participation of AHP and Nurses in multidisciplinary guideline development, while the second workshop focused on integration of evidence and recommendations related to AHP and Nurses in multidisciplinary guidelines. Philip van der Wees, Sarah Bazin and Antonio Lopes conducted them.

At the conference Philip Van der Wees, ER – WCPT representative at G.I.N, was elected for the Board of the Guidelines International Network Executive Committee. We congratulate him in his election.



*From left to right: Antonio Lopes, Sarah Bazin and Philip Van der Wees*

## Spanish Presidency of the EU

The Spanish Presidency of the EU started on the 1st January for a period of six months till 31 June 2010.

This will be the fourth occasion that Spain will hold the Presidency of the European Union.

These are the four main priorities of the Presidency:

- The first and essential priority for the development of the others is the full and effective application of the Lisbon Treaty.

- The second is to guarantee the economic recovery of Europe through greater co-ordination of every member state and the approval of the European strategy for sustainable growth for 2020.
- The third is to reinforce the presence and influence of the European Union in the new world order.
- Finally, the fourth is to place European citizens at the centre of EU policy, with initiatives designed to develop their rights and freedoms.

## Malta's John Dalli new EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy

On 24 November, Malta's Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi nominated John Dalli (EPP), the current Minister for Social Policy, as the country's designate to the European Commission.

On 27 November, the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso presented the distribution of portfolios in the next European Commission, in which Mr Dalli is allocated responsibility for Health and Consumer Policy. As this portfolio will encompass pharmaceutical



and medical devices policy, significant changes are made to the organisation of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG Sanco), with the transfer of Pharmaceutical Products and Cosmetics Units ENTR F.2 and F.3 and Biotechnology, Pesticides and Health Unit ENV D.4.

The Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy will now be responsible for:

- DG Health and Consumers (DG Sanco)
- The Community Plant Variety office
- The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control,
- The European Food Safety Authority,
- The European Medicines Agency and
- The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers.

Mr. Dalli is currently the Minister for Social Policy of Malta. This portfolio includes family policy, social services, health and equality. In Malta, Mr. Dalli is known for trying to build consensus on health issues. At the moment, Mr. Dalli is working on Healthcare Reform in Malta.

Healthcare is an area the Commissioner-designate identified as a priority, more specifically making access to healthcare available for all EU citizens.



*From left to right: Roland Craps, Hans Krijgsman, John Dalli, John Xerri de Caro, Liz Carrington and David Gorria*

The European Parliament will send Commissioners-designate a series of written questions. On the basis of written answers, parliamentary committees covering the area of competence of each Commissioner will hold hearings between 11 and 19 January 2010. A final parliamentary vote in plenary will take place on 26 January 2010, and the new college of Commissioners is expected to take office on 1 February 2010.

The ER – WCPT European Union Working Group met Mr. Dalli during his meeting in Malta, October 2009. Please see ER-WCPT newsletter number 26.

## The Council fails to reach agreement on the Patients Rights Directive

Building on the work done under the French and Czech presidencies, the Swedish Presidency has tabled four compromise texts on this file. The last one was examined by the Permanent Representatives Committee at their meeting on 25 November. In their note to the Council, the

Permanent Representatives Committee pointed out that: "certain issues remain unresolved and the Council is, therefore, invited to examine the major outstanding questions, including the scope of the Directive and the definition of the Member State of affiliation, with a view to





reaching a political agreement on a common position." To read the full note <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st16/st16005.en09.pdf>

On 1 December, the EPSCO (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council) discussed the file, but failed to reach an agreement.

At the European Parliament level, rapporteur Françoise Grossetête MEP regretted that the negotiations failed at the Council level. Her statement in French is available

<http://www.majoritepresidentielle.eu/IMG/pdf/Grossetete01122009.pdf>

International Congress of the Romanian Association

## "ORDER: FUTURE OF KINESITHERAPY IN ROMANIA"

The international congress of the Romanian Association entitled: "ORDER: FUTURE OF KINESITHERAPY IN ROMANIA" took place on 29 - 31 October 2009, in Bucharest, Romania. Among the speakers, on invitation the ER-WCPT 1st Vice Chairman, made a presentation.



From left to right: Carmen Serbescu, Elena Caciulan and Sarah Bazin

## New association in Belgium - Axxon

The new Belgian Association, named "Axxon, Physical Therapy in Belgium" was presented on 15 October 2009. The two largest associations from Belgium, the Association des Kinésithérapeutes de Belgique (AKB) and the National KinesitherapeutenKartel, are its founders. The 2nd Vice Chairman and the General Secretary were present in the event.



From left to right: Luc Lemense, David Gorria, Roland Craps and Patrick Werrion



## 2010 to be the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

The European Commission has designated 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The European Year will take this even further, by raising public awareness of the way poverty continues to blight the daily lives of so many Europeans."

78 million people in the EU – or 16% of the population – currently live at risk of poverty.

The 2010 European Year aims to reach EU citizens and all public, social and economic stakeholders. Its four specific objectives are:

- Recognition of the right of people in poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society;
- An increase in the public ownership of social inclusion policies, emphasising everyone's responsibility in tackling poverty and marginalisation;
- A more cohesive society, where no one doubts that society as a whole benefits from the eradication of poverty;
- Commitment of all actors, because real progress requires a long-term effort that involves all levels of governance.

Recent Eurobarometer data show that Europeans see poverty as a widespread problem. Across the EU, citizens feel that around 1 in 3 people (29%) in their area live in poverty and that 1 in 10 suffers extreme poverty. In all Member States, part of the population is subject to exclusion and deprivation, often facing limited

access to basic services. 19% of children are at risk of poverty across the EU and 1 in 10 live in households where nobody works.

Solidarity is a hallmark of the European Union. It is an intrinsic goal of European models of society and welfare that people should not be prevented from benefiting from and contributing to economic and social progress. Building a more inclusive Europe is vital to achieving the European Union's goals of sustained economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

The European process for social protection and social inclusion supports Member States in their drive for greater social cohesion in Europe through an open method of coordination. And over the period 2007-2013 some €75 billion will be distributed from the European Social Fund to Member States and regions.

The 2010 European Year will coincide with the conclusion of the EU's ten year strategy for growth and jobs. The actions undertaken during this European Year will reaffirm the initial political commitment of the EU at the start of the Lisbon strategy, in 2000, to making "a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty" by 2010. The European Year also launches a process that had been announced in the Social Agenda 2005-2010.



## 50th Anniversary of the Italian Association

The 50 anniversary celebration of the Italian Association “Aifi: Fisioterapisti da 50 anni. Ieri... oggi... domani...” took place on 9 November 2009, in Rome, Italy. Among the speakers, on invitation the ER-WCPT 2nd Vice Chairman Roland Craps made a presentation congratulating and encouraging the work of AIFI.

## EU Health Policy Forum

The 2nd Vice Chairman, Roland Craps, the General Secretary, David Gorria, and Ana Dimovska from the European Union Working Group, on behalf of the ER-WCPT, participated in the EU Health Policy Forum that took place in Brussels, on 16 October 2009. The meeting focused on:

- EUHPF Work Plan 2009/2010
  - Follow-up to the Open Letter on the economic crisis and health

- Implementation of the EU health strategy
- Discussion on global health and Commission consultation for equality between women and men

The next EH Health Policy Forum meeting would take place in May 2010 in Brussels

## 2011 WCPT - New ideas, big issues, new ways of thinking: why Congress will deliver

**What makes a WCPT Congress special? The International Scientific Committee organising the programme for the 2011 Congress in Amsterdam, Holland, is building on past experience and surveys of physical therapists to create an invaluable professional event – whichever part of the world you happen to come from. Simon Crompton, editor of WCPT News, talks to Ann Moore, Chair of the Committee, about the planning to date, and what’s in store.**

It may sound a way off, but to WCPT’s International Scientific Committee, 2011 has been looming large for a while now. The group of physical therapists from around the world who are responsible for putting together the scientific programme of World Physical Therapy 2011

have been considering its shape and aims since their appointment in summer 2008 – and they are taking some fascinating changes of direction.

Chair of the committee is UK physiotherapist Ann Moore, Professor of Physiotherapy and Head of the Clinical Research Centre for Health Professions at the University of Brighton. She says that what really enthused her about the task is that she knows congresses make a difference. She speaks from personal knowledge. She’s attended four of them.

“I think it’s the sense of conviviality, the ease of networking that makes them so special. I love the way that, during congresses, you can’t help but be exposed to different ways of thinking, new ideas, big issues that other countries are facing



and which put a new perspective on your own. There's that sense of the profession standing shoulder to shoulder."

That's why it's been a priority for the next Congress to be as inclusive as possible. Central to the programme will be focused symposia, where a convenor will lead a group of presenters through a series of linked presentations on a topic of international appeal. At least three of WCPT's regions have to be represented by the speakers contributing to each symposium – ensuring that sessions embrace the interests and practice of delegates whatever part of the world they come from.

The programme will start to be put together from February, once the focused symposia have been announced. But there are definitely structural changes on the way. One is to integrate the programme far more closely thematically.

In particular, the committee is looking to cater for clinicians and educators who want to hone their practical skills. At previous congresses, there have been pre- and post-congress courses focusing on applied skills, but these are now being integrated alongside the main programme. Delegates will be able to "pick and mix" sessions according to their professional interests. For example, they will be able to participate in a specialist course on one day, a clinical visit on another, and scientific programming on another.

Highly-regarded keynote speakers will also now be integrated into symposium sessions, so that they can answer questions and join in debates.

"We want a programme that will attract practising physical therapists as well as researchers and

educators," says Ann Moore. "They'll be able to attend workshops, courses and discussions which complement the scientific programme, and will allow them to take away new skills."

The views of physical therapists themselves have been fundamental in shaping the new plans. In 2008, more than a thousand physical therapists around the world responded to a WCPT survey asking them about the issues that interested them the most. It found that the challenges of an aging society, new roles for physical therapists, physical inactivity and health promotion were common concerns around the world.

"What I found fascinating was how many common issues affect people globally," says Ann Moore. "This means there are some obvious issues we intend to address at the next Congress."

"This time, with all the progress made in previous years on technicalities like an on-line abstract management system, we feel we can really focus on getting a lively programme together, moulding it to the needs of as many people as possible."

The act of shaping World Physical Therapy 2011 is well and truly underway. Ann Moore is confident that her fifth Congress could well be her best.

For full details of the Congress, including deadlines for satellite programme sessions, poster abstracts and platform abstracts are available at <http://www.wcpt.org/congress>.