



Newsletter n.5 - July 2004

European Region News

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European Congress on Physiotherapy Education

The Executive Committee encourages all physiotherapists from the European Region of WCPT to participate at the European Congress on Physiotherapy Education that will be held in Estoril, Portugal, on 4-5 November 2004.

More than 170 registrations, from 23 countries, have already been received, but we need a greater participation.

Please note that the Congress is not aimed only for teachers and students, and all involved in the issues related to clinical education, recruitment and employment or credentialing, and/or continuous professional development, will find a possibility to learn and share ideas.

An International Students Forum will be held on the 6th of November.

The details of the programme and the registration form are available at the congress website <http://www.apfio.pt/ecpe>

Elections at the General Meeting of the European Region of WCPT

The following candidates were elected by the delegates at the General Meeting:

- **First Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee** - Sigrún Knútsdóttir, Iceland
- **Second Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee** – Dagmar Pavlu, Czech Republic
- **Alternate Member** – Riita Hanski, Finland.

Working Groups 2004-2006

The Executive Committee was pleased to present the members chosen to the working groups 2004 – 2006. The selection was made recognising the need of membership continuity and the candidate's skills. All the member organisations, which appointed candidates, are thanked by the Executive Committee for encouraging participation in the development of physiotherapy.

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**Education Matters
Working Group**

Chairman
Antonio Lopes

Regina Jetzinger
(Austria)
Nina Holten
(Denmark)
Eric Pastor
(France)
Charlotte Hager-Ross
(Sweden)
Grahame Pope
(United Kingdom)

**Professional Issues
Working Group**

Chairman
Eckhardt Boehle

Daniel Despiegelaere
(Belgium)
Philip van der Wees
(Netherlands)
Malene Haneborg
(Norway)
Miriam Barcia
(Spain)
Natalie Beswetherick
(United Kingdom)

**EU Matters Working
Group**

Chairman
Sigrun Knutsdottir

Elisabeth Haase
(Denmark)
Hans de Boer
(Netherlands)
Maria Suwalska
(Poland)
Pedro Vergara
(Spain)
Elizabeth Carrington
(United Kingdom)

**General Meeting of the European
Region of WCPT 2006**

The Executive Committee of the European Region of WCPT announces that the next General Meeting of the European Region in 2006 will be hosted by the Croatian Association.

**International Scientific Committee
for the WCPT Congress in 2007**

Ann P Moore, from the United Kingdom was appointed by WCPT as a representative member of the European Region of WCPT on the International Scientific Committee for the WCPT Congress in 2007.

WHO Meeting

Anne Lexow, the Regional Representative, was invited to participate in the fifty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, to be held from 6 to the 9 September 2004 in Copenhagen, Denmark. This year, as main policy and technical items, the Regional Committee will discuss the European strategy for non communicable diseases; the outcome and follow-up

of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health; the Regional Office's strategy for geographically dispersed offices; and the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007. The Regional Committee will also review the status of the process for updating the European health for all policy frameworks, and the implementation of the Regional Office's country strategy. This year, the Regional Committee must nominate a candidate for the post of WHO Regional Director for Europe, for a five-year term of office starting 1 February 2005.

Further Information:

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

**Development of the new Directive
on the Recognition of professional
Qualification.**

The European Commission and the Council had a conciliation meeting in Brussels on 18 May 2004. At that meeting it was decided to prepare a new document to be presented in the European Parliament for the second reading. Not all the positions proposed

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by the European Parliament last February were accepted.

Further information:

http://www.europa.eu.int/prelex/detail_dossier_real.cfm?CL=en&DosId=172279#364731

European Convention

The EU has adopted a new Constitutional Treaty. The document is being prepared by the juridical services to be approved by the Member States.

In the new treaty, there is a reference to common safety concerns in public health matters in Article 13 on "Areas of shared competence" where the Union shall share competence with the Member States.

Further information: <http://european-convention.eu.int>

Open Forum

Health in the enlarged Europe was the theme of the Open Health Forum – The conference and exhibition event took place in Brussels on 17 May with the participation of Commissioner David Byrne and new Commissioner Pavel Telicka.

The Open Forum, which was being set up for the first time, provided an opportunity for networking and for an exchange of ideas and views between public health professionals, NGOs, academics, health service providers and funding organisations.

The Open Forum is a part of a wider Commission effort to ensure it has the input of health experts in its policy-making. It complements the existing Health Policy Forum, which has been bringing together representatives of the main EU level health networks since 2001.

Further info :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_o

[verview/health_forum/health_forum_e_n.htm](http://www.wcft.org/verview/health_forum/health_forum_e_n.htm)

Dutch EU Presidency's Priorities in the Health Sector

The Dutch Presidency started on 1 July 2004 and for a period of six months. The health programme focuses strongly on cooperation between member states. The main theme for the Dutch presidency is the relationship between health and other policy areas that affect health, such as agriculture and the environment. This theme will be expressed in various events, conferences and expert meetings that are taking place during the Dutch presidency. Specific issues include health and the market, infectious diseases, the cross-border mobility of health care professionals and what are known as priority medicines. In addition, attention will focus on maintaining and reinforcing a high-quality health care system in an ageing society, in other words, a system that is universal, accessible and affordable. In the Council, the Netherlands will try to make progress with the dossiers on patient mobility and the International Health Regulations.

Conference on Professionals crossing borders; Professional Misconduct in the EU

The aim of the conference, hosted by the [Netherlands EU Presidency 2004](http://www.wcft.org), is finding a practical way of exchanging information concerning health care professionals in the light of quality control of health care.

The growing cross-border flow of both patients and health professionals increases the

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importance of the exchange of information between competent bodies. In view of this the Netherlands are to organize a conference that will focus on the strategies of the competent authorities and the communication between them, given the Sectoral Directives for health care professionals on issues such as professional misconduct. In this respect the EC-directives on data protection will be taken into account.

The conference will be held on 9 and 10 December 2004, Amsterdam. It will be an opportunity to exchange views and perspectives.

For more information: e-mail f.tjadens@nizw.nl or phone +31 30 2394 448

EU helps patients to use healthcare across borders.

The Commission wants to ensure that patients have the information they need to assert their rights

With its new initiative on patient mobility, the European Commission wants to provide patients with hands-on advice on how to access healthcare services in other Member States.

“EU law gives patients the right to go for treatment in other Member States, but exercising that right can prove difficult,” said Health Commissioner David Byrne.

Accessing healthcare in another Member State depends on having information about the quality, availability and appropriateness of the treatments available there. It also means knowing how to obtain reimbursement for the treatment.

“To me it is simple, common sense,” said Byrne. “Where there are empty hospital beds in one country and

waiting lists in another, then cooperation can benefit everyone. By working together, the Member States will be able to improve healthcare and shorten waiting times.”

It will be up to the national health authorities to provide patients with information on how to seek authorisation for care in another Member State.

The Commission will establish a high-level group on health services and medical care, a regular mechanism in charge of co-coordinating EU-wide cooperation between the Member States on health services and medical care. The group is due to hold its first meeting this summer.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_o/verview/co_operation/mobility/patient_mobility_en.htm

Europe embraces e-Health

By the end of the decade, e-Health will become commonplace for health professionals, patients and citizens

E-prescriptions, e-referrals, telemedicine, telecare, teleconsultations – the list of e-health possibilities keeps getting longer. An action plan, adopted by the European Commission on 7 May, shows how information and communication technology can be used by Member States to deliver better quality healthcare.

“This is technology which can provide clear answers to patients’ health concerns by providing basic information on conditions, drugs, behaviour and even second opinions”, said Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner David Byrne in his address to the EU e-Health Conference, which was held in Cork in early May.

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The proposals will contribute towards better care at the same or at lower cost. The action plan sets out the objective of a 'European e-Health Area' and identifies practical steps to get there. Electronic health records, patient identifiers and health cards and faster Internet access for health systems will allow the full potential of e-Health to be explored.

The action plan is the third element of the Commission's recent activities in the health area. The two other activities address patient mobility and the benchmarking of national reforms in healthcare, long-term care and social protection.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/qualif/health/index_en.htm

EPHA Annual General Meeting

The **EPHA Annual General Meeting** was held at Brussels on 28-29 June 2004, in the offices of CARITAS, 2-4 Rue de Pascale, B-1040.

The AGM was the opportunity for EPHA members to prioritise the work of the Secretariat, discuss membership processes, approve the annual accounts and network with other health organisations. The change in the EPHA Statutes, the elections for the Executive Committee and a strategy session on the EU draft Directive on 'Services in the Internal Market' were discussed in the meeting.

Further information:

<http://www.eph.org>

**Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, on
25-27 June 2004**

After the General Meeting of the European Region, which took place in May 2004 in Limassol, Cyprus, the last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region focused primarily on the revision of the feedback from there: Future activities 2004 – 2006, elections of the members to the three working groups for the period 2004-2006 and study of the recommendation on languages. A policy for acknowledgement of the contributions for the documents of the EU Region - WCPT and a revision of the format and contents of our website was also prepared in the Executive Committee.

The further work for the period 2004-2006 of the three working groups were revised by each Chairman and specifically the actions for each recommended activity.

Education Matters Working Group

- Follow up the implementation of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement
- Updating of the Policy Statement on Physiotherapy Education
- Continuation of the Project on Specialisation

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- Address education issues for Member Organizations involved in the Enlargement process and cooperate with the EU Working Group in facilitation of Accession;
Monitoring and reacting to issues as they arise from enlargement
- Identify information to be included on the website under the button of education relating to basic education, post basic education, and research
- Gather information on quality assurance measures in higher education
- Address Continuous Professional Development and Life Long Learning issues, in order to prepare a comprehensive information paper to be presented to the Member Organisations
- Monitor the developments of re-registration in the Member Organisations.

Professional Issues Working Group

- Further work on Health promotion and disease prevention
- Update of information on implementation of European Core Standards
- Establish a database of member organisations generating guidelines
- Development of further work on the implementation of the Framework for Clinical Guideline Development in Physiotherapy
- Collect data on Health economics

European Union Matters Working Group

Migration issues

- Continue to follow-up on a new Directive on Recognition of Professional qualifications
- Establish a Common Platform at European level for Recognition of Professional qualifications after the adoption of a new Directive on Recognition of Professional qualifications
- Provide Migration statistics for physiotherapists in the EU
- To update migration information on a regular basis
- To continue to facilitate migration for the physiotherapists in the EU

Enlargement of the EU

- Provide general information about the EU and monitor and provide information about the enlargement of the EU
- Collect and update basic information from MO's of the new Member States of the EU and the accession countries to the EU
- Follow up and assist MO's in the new Member States of the EU and the accession countries to the EU related to their specific needs
- Facilitate a network between MO's

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Health issues in the EU

- To give health issues in the EU a priority and be proactive in that field
- To continue liaison with other health professionals in the EU
- To liaise with other organisations within the EU such as the European Policy Center (EPC), the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and the European Health Forum (EHF), the Standing Committee of the Hospitals of the European Union (HOPE), HEALLO (informal meetings of HOPE and NGO's) and the European Region of WHO

The members of the three working groups were chosen for the next period 2004-2006. The selection was made recognising the need of membership continuity and the candidate's skills. The working groups are starting to prepare their first meeting and the Executive Committee wish them a successful work.

Languages Cyprus G.M. recommendation The General Meeting in Cyprus recommended that the Executive Committee finds a solution regarding the diversity of languages in our Region. The Executive Committee agreed to create a task force to find a solution. Eckhardt Boehle was appointed as co-ordinator of this task force. A meeting will be arranged at the second half of 2004.

Contributions acknowledgement policy for the EU Region of WCPT documents. The Executive Committee has agreed that the contributions must be acknowledged. In the summary of the documents where it gives an explanation of how the document was developed, there will also be a general recognition to the working group who prepared it. At the end of the document there will be include a point of acknowledgement for any specific contributions. This will be for all documents and reports from the European Region of WCPT. The acknowledgement must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Website updated. The Website of the European Region of WCPT was updated to facilitate that the members could find all the information and documents elaborated. The appearance was also changed to make reading easy. The Executive Committee has agreed to study the possibility of including a better visually impaired version website. All these changes were made to provide a better service to all member organisations.

The European Region of WCPT wishes all Members a nice Holiday Period

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