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Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting

The last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region on 27 – 30 November 2008 in Brussels focused primarily on the revision of the WG's proposals to develop the future activities 2008 – 2010 approved at the 6th General Meeting of the European Region in Athens. Each chairmen of the working group presented specific actions for each of the activities as suggested by the WGs. The Executive Committee reviewed and agreed them.

The meeting also focused on the revision of the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education, the EU granted projects and the draft proposal to establish a ER-WCPT Foundation.

2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education –

The Executive Committee was pleased with the results of the successful 2nd Education Congress and approved the three following documents, which will be published on the ER-WCPT website:

- Report from the 2nd Education Congress
- Conclusions of the 2nd Education Congress
- Report from the Post Congress Seminar

EU grant for two ER-WCPT projects - The Coordinator of the EU projects, informed about the latest developments of the project as follows:

An intermediate report about the project development had been presented to the EU Commission in July 2008. The EU Commission was pleased with the work undertaken and a second transfer had been received to continue the



development of the project. With the second transfer, the projects partners has been started to be reimbursed for their project involvement expenditures.

The project partners had approved both guides (Pain in the back: Guide exercises program for avoiding back pain in children and teenagers and Staying clean: to support smokers/ex-smokers in giving up) and according to the project time plan, the project coordinator would start the preparation of the project presentation which will take place in Brussels. As soon as the venue and time of the presentation would be fixed, the partners and ER-WCPT MOs will be informed.

ER-WCPT Foundation – At the 2008 GM the MOs approved the objectives for an ER-

WCPT foundation and a mandate was given to the Executive Committee to accomplish this project. According to it, the Executive Committee has asked Roland Craps and Eckhardt Boehle, with the support of the General Secretary and law firm, to develop the statutes. At the last EC the statutes were approved by the EC. According to the statutes, the ER-WCPT MOs will be the owners of the Foundation and they will appoint the EC of the Region as board of directors. The foundation management will follow the same rules that the ER-WCPT rules in order to be in accordance with the WCPT principles. The next step of this project will be sending to the MOs the statutes and a proxy mandate to create the Foundation by the beginning of February 2009.

Cross-border Health for EU Patients

On 9 December 2008, it took place a seminar at the Kent Brussels Office. The seminar aimed at examining the proposed EU directive on cross-border healthcare. The directive is part of the endeavour to provide an EU-wide community framework incorporating:

- common principles in all EU health systems
- a specific framework for managing cross-border healthcare arrangements
- wider promotion of European co-operation on healthcare delivery

There is great interest amongst policy-makers in national and European institutions





and clinicians and health service managers across Europe in how the proposed directive will work. The proposed directive is proving somewhat controversial with a wide range of views being promulgated.



According to it, the event had the following objectives:

- to bring together national and sub-national policy-makers and clinical leaders who will be tasked with delivery to understand the history and policy context
- to identify key critical success factors from current national and local practice
- to explore how the concept of "undue delay" can be operationalised
- to explore issues of health inequalities and access associated with cross-border healthcare
- to consider the financial, systems and information requirements to minimise administrative burdens and optimise service efficiency

The seminar looked at some of the main implications of the Commission proposal such as the need for effective co-operation mechanisms between the member states, such as bilateral treaties; the mobility of health professionals, the legal certainty of the systems themselves, steering instruments to guarantee the sustainability of the systems.



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The event consisted of a seminar of 50-60 participants. The ER-WCPT General Secretary acted as chairman, having a double task: introduce the issue at stake and present the speakers and at the same time facilitate the debate among the speakers and the participants. The ER-WCPT 2nd Vice Chairman, Roland Craps, also participated as speaker at the seminar.

AGENDA

12:30	Buffet lunch
14:00	Opening by the Chairman Mr. David Gorria <i>General Secretary of the European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT)</i>
14:10	From EC Regulation 1048/71 to a Cross border patient's rights Directive; Where Regions stand Mr. Francesco Ronfini <i>Health Director - Regione Veneto / EUREGHA Chairman</i>
	Questions: Chairman facilitation
14:40	Proposal for a Directive on the Application of Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare Mr. Martin Dorazil <i>Health strategy and Health systems Unit DG Sanco European Commission</i>
15:00	Patients' Rights in Cross Border Healthcare Mr. Othmar Karas <i>MEP - European Parliament</i>
15:30	Coffee break
15:45	An overview from the European Region Mr. David Gorria <i>General Secretary of the European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT)</i>
16:00	A view from Kent Dr. Quentin Sandifer <i>Deputy Director South East Coast NHS - UK</i> Mrs. Anne Tidmarsh <i>Head of Adult Services Kent County Council - UK</i>
16:30	A view from Flanders Ms. Miek Peeters <i>Flemish hospital umbrella organisation WI - Belgium</i> A view from Belgium, the Netherlands and Malta Mr. Roland Craps <i>General Secretary of the Association des Kinésithérapeutes de Belgique / Algemene Kinesitherapeuten Vereniging van België (A.K.B.)</i>
17:00	A view from Sachsen-Anhalt Dr. Gabriele Theren <i>Ministry for Health and Social Affairs Sachsen-Anhalt - Germany</i>
17:30	Open Session of Questions and Answers
18:00	Closing remarks Mr. Alan Marsh <i>Cabinet Member for Public Health Kent County Council</i>
18:15	Christmas reception



Czech Republic Presidency of the EU

The Czech Republic Presidency of the EU started on the 1st January for a period of six months till 31 June 2009.

The official motto of the Czech EU Presidency is "**Europe without barriers**", with the removal of labour market restrictions on newer Member States among its top priorities.

The Czech Presidency faces many challenges: the banking crisis, food shortages, climate change plus the parliamentary elections make for a very specific term at the helm of Europe. The Czech Republic has been asked to show responsiveness and leadership. Its term is also marked by the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain and the nomination of the new Commission President. The schedule is also pre-determined by the Lisbon Treaty: choosing the new European Council President as well as the EU Foreign Minister might be on the agenda.

Economy, Energy and External Relations - the three "E"s - are the three priorities of the Czech EU presidency.

The Czech Republic has published a detailed programme of its Presidency and presented its Health priorities as follows:

- Exercise of Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare
- Quality and Safety of Organ Donation and Transplantation
- Rare Diseases
- Patient Safety and the Control of Nosocomial Infections, with a Focus on Antimicrobial Resistance
- Financial Sustainability of Healthcare Systems
- e-Health and Telemedicine
- The Pharmaceutical Package

For further information visit the website <http://www.eu2009.cz/en/>

Developing and implementing health in the European Union

EU Open Forum 10 - 11 December 2008 Brussels, Belgium

The 2nd ER-WCPT Vice Chairman, Roland Craps and the General Secretary participated in the EU Open Forum held on 10 - 11 December, 2008, in Brussels.

The conference aimed to contribute and increase the profile of health in the EU policies through discussion between EU policy makers and stakeholders on pressing

public health issues and their impacts on the Community.

The documents and presentations of the conference are available on the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/health_forum/open_2008/documents_en.htm



Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health Update

On 10 December 2008, the Commission adopted a Green paper on the EU Workforce (http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_systems/docs/workforce_gp_en.pdf) for Health and launched the consultation.

The Green Paper will start a debate on the availability, mobility, financing and maximising the potential of the health workforce in Europe. This debate has been sparked by several key factors: one is what some are calling 'brain drain' - the movement of qualified professionals from east to west and from developing to developed countries.

Another key factor in the debate is the ageing population and the increasing need for care as well as the increasing retirement age and a shortage of younger healthcare professionals.

Through the Green Paper, the Commission is asking stakeholders for their opinions and views on how to address the issues around European health workforce as well as posing the question, is European level intervention needed?

The Commission consultation is now open at the DG SANCO website. The results of the consultation will feed in to our consideration of what the EU can do to support Member States in tackling these challenges. The closing date for submission is 31 March 2009.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_systems/workforce_en.htm

Better healthcare for all in Europe - Launch of Europe for Patients campaign

On 30 September 2008, the Commissioner for Health, Ms Androulla Vassiliou launched the 'Europe for Patients' campaign in Brussels. The campaign highlights the different health policy initiatives the Commission intends to adopt in the coming months.





All these initiatives are bound by a common goal: better healthcare for all in Europe. The initiatives and actions address patient safety, rare diseases, organ donation and transplantation, cancer screening, health workforce, flu and childhood vaccination and antibiotic use. The first initiative under the campaign - the proposed Directive on cross border health care - was adopted by the Commission on 2 July 2008.

What is the aim of the campaign?

The aim is to provide a simple entry-point to the often complex world of EU healthcare policies and actions. "This is much more than a communication campaign – I call it a campaign driven by policy. The aim is to provide a tangible and readily understandable communication framework for the many different healthcare policies that we plan to adopt and undertake", Commissioner Vassiliou said.

When will the campaign run?

The campaign will continue throughout the next 6-9 months until the 10 healthcare initiatives under the campaign are adopted (see list at the end of this document).

List of Initiatives in Europe for Patients Campaign:

- Cross-border healthcare initiative: Directive on the application of patients' rights in the cross-border healthcare.
- Rare diseases initiative: Commission

Communication and Council Recommendation on a European action in the field of rare diseases.

- Health workforce initiative: Green paper on the European Workforce for Health.
- Patient Safety initiative: Commission Communication and Council Recommendation on patient safety and quality of health services including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections.
- Organ donation and transplantation initiatives:
 - Proposal for a directive on setting standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation;
 - Action Plan on Organ Donation and Transplantation (2009-2015) - Strengthened Cooperation between Member States.
- Cancer platform initiative: Action against cancer - European Platform.
- Cancer Screening initiative: Report on implementation of the Cancer Screening Recommendation of 2003.
- Flu vaccination initiative: Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on seasonal flu vaccination.
- Prudent use of antibiotics initiative: 2nd report from the Commission on the implementation of the Council recommendation.
- European Antibiotic Awareness Day initiative.



- Mental health initiative: Conferences on priority areas from the mental health pact.
- Childhood vaccination initiative: Council recommendation on cross-border aspects of childhood immunisation.

For further information:

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

The World Health Report 2008 - Primary Health Care (PHC) - Now More Than Ever

The World Health Report 2008 critically assesses the way that health care is organized, financed, and delivered in rich and poor countries around the world. World Health Report calls for return to primary health care approach. Why a renewal of primary health care (PHC), and why now, more than ever? Globalization is putting the social cohesion of many countries under stress, and health systems are clearly not

performing as well as they could and should. People are increasingly impatient with the inability of health services to deliver. Few would disagree that health systems need to respond better – and faster – to the challenges of a changing world. PHC can do that.

For further information:

<http://www.who.int/whr/2008/en/index.html>

VII Edition of the interuniversity days in the field of Physiotherapy

Sonia Souto, member of the Education WG, participated in the VII Edition of the interuniversity days in the field of Physiotherapy, which took place on 27 – 28 November 2008, in Murcia, Spain. At the event, she presented the activities undertaken by the Education Matters WG. More than 70 teachers from 24 higher education institutes were present at the event.





Nordic Physiotherapy Congress

The Nordic Physiotherapy Associations welcome to Nordic Physiotherapy Congress **MOVEMENT – TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH**, which will take place on 23rd – 25th of September 2009 in Oslo. Organised by the Associations of Nordic Physiotherapists in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway, and hosted by the Norwegian Physiotherapist Association

Keynote Speakers will introduce the themes:

Movement – new perspectives to an old paradigm
Movement – as a physiotherapy intervention
Movement – professional and ethical issues

The congress welcomes clinicians, researchers, professional developers and educators to present research from all areas of physiotherapy and on various research levels, including case reports.

Physiotherapists from different fields are invited to give a presentation of their projects by sending in **abstracts**. Deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended until **January 30, 2009**.

More information and submission of abstracts on the web site www.nordicphys.com

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Congress and international scientific programme

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Congress and international scientific programme will take place on 16-17 October 2009, BT Convention Centre, Liverpool, United Kingdom.

Abstracts are invited which relate to this year's themes:

- Cardio respiratory
- Education & Leadership
- Health, Work & Wellbeing

- Musculoskeletal
- Neurology
- Preparing for the Olympics 2012 and beyond

More information and detailed guidance on the submission of abstracts is available at www.cspcongress.co.uk or from the CSP at +44 20 7306 6666.



eHealth2009

The eHealth2009 conference will take place on 18 – 20 February 2009, Prague, Czech Republic, during the Czech Presidency of the EU. It is organised by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the European Commission.

The 2009 edition of the e-Health conference will focus on three main themes:

- e-Health for individuals,
- e-Health for society,
- e-Health for the economy.

Further and updated information on the conference will be available from December 2008 on the Czech Presidency website <http://www.eu2009.cz/en/>

World Health Care

The World Health Care Congress Europe, which will take place on 13 – 14 May 2009 in Brussels, Belgium, is a major international forum where over 600 health leaders share best-practices and successful initiatives for improved delivery and outcomes in Europe. Participating thought-leaders include: health ministers, leading government officials, hospital directors, IT innovators, decision makers from public and private insurance funds, pharmaceutical and medical device companies, and health care industry suppliers

For further information:

<http://www.worldcongress.com/events/HR09015/index.cfm?confCode=HR09015>

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