

Newsletter n.7 - January 2005

European Region News

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European Congress on Physiotherapy Education and Post Congress of the ER-WCPT

A total of 300 participants from 35 countries were present at the European Congress on Physiotherapy Education held in Estoril, Portugal on the 4-5 November 2004. All the abstracts and presentations from the Congress are available on the website (<http://www.apfisiio.pt/ecpe/home.html>) for one year. The ER-WCPT website will be linked to this page. This will be announced on the ER-WCPT website.

Post Congress Seminar. The European Region of WCPT arranged a Post Congress Seminar on physiotherapy education for delegates from the Member Organisations in Estoril, Portugal on 6th November 2004. A total of 36 delegates from 21 member organisations were present. The aim of the seminar was to analyse the conclusions of the European Congress on Physiotherapy Education and discuss the implications for further work to be developed by the working groups of the European Region of WCPT. The report of this seminar is available on the ER-WCPT website.

First "Language" task force Meeting

The Chairman and Co-ordinator of the task force, Eckhardt Boehle, convoked the first meeting in Brussels at the ER-WCPT office on the 8th December 2004. The result will be discussed on the next Executive Committee meeting. The next meeting of the task force will be held in Brussels on 15th April 2005.

New Professional Issues Working Group Member

Due to the resignation of one of the members of the Professional Issues Working Group for professional reasons, the Executive Committee decided at its last meeting to make a new call for nominations to the member organisations to fill the vacancy.

The Executive Committee is pleased to inform you that Martin Weidinger from Austria has been selected as a member of the Professional Issues Working Group.

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**Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on
6-8 November 2004**

The last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region focused primarily on the revision of the proposals for the development of future activities 2004 – 2006 from the three working groups and study of the recommendation on languages.

The specific actions for the period 2004-2006 of the three working groups were revised by each Chairman of the working groups.

Education Matters Working Group

- The Education WG had made a distribution of work and chosen responsible members for each item in its last meeting. The items had been divided into four main areas and a project leader for each main area had been appointed. The Working Group had not started to develop working activities at that meeting because the members were preparing the European Congress on Physiotherapy Education.
- The Executive Committee agreed to allow the ER-WCPT Chairman to negotiate with ENPHE to join forces and to follow up on the adoption of the ER-WCPT Benchmark Statement by ENPHE.

Professional Issues Working Group

- Regarding the *“Framework for Clinical Guideline Development in Physical Therapy”* the Professional Issues WG will contact the member organisations to obtain information on who is involved in clinical guidelines. With this information, a database will be published on the ER - WCPT website showing the practices existing in the European Region.
- A conference on Clinical Guidelines for all member organisations will be organised in 2005. The aim of the conference will be to learn and to exchange information.
- At the General Meeting of the European Region of WCPT in Cyprus, May 2004, it was agreed that the European Region should create a network on prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyles. The Professional Issues WG had developed a questionnaire to gather information from the member organisations about their involvement in prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyle projects. The member organisations were asked to nominate a contact person in each organisation to be in charge of the network on prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyles. The deadline for this questionnaire was fixed as 18 January 2005
- A proposal to hold a European Conference on Prevention and Healthy Lifestyles in the autumn of 2006 was proposed. The Executive Committee suggested including the “Bone and Joint Decade” in the context of that conference. Further information regarding the Conference would be discussed at the next meeting.
- The Professional Issues WG is working on the development of a joint project on clinical guidelines on fall prevention for older people. This project shall be

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a joint venture with the International Association of Physical Therapists working with Older People (IPTOP), a Subgroup of WCPT. The project will be presented to the EU Commission asking for a grant.

European Union Matters Working Group

- The Working Group had added a new priority action to the three previously established (Migration, Enlargement and Health issues in the EU). The fourth priority action added was EU Legislation and Directives. The reason was that some EU legislation and Directives do not fall under the other three but might have an impact on the Physiotherapy profession and should be monitored
- Regarding the Migration questionnaire, the Group had made some changes to the questionnaire. The questionnaire was sent to all member organisations in December with other annual update questionnaires.
- The EU Working Group will update the information on migration statistics on the European Region website with the new data base on the 2001-2002 Statistical reports.
- In accordance with the needs of the new EU and accession countries, the Working Group agreed that these organisations should be encouraged to network and to learn from each other, as it seemed that their problems were similar. A letter was sent to these member organisations to follow up the issue. The Working Group recommended to the Executive Committee to hold a workshop/seminar for these countries in 2005 to exchange information, learn from each other and create a network. The Executive Committee approved the action and added that the seminar would emphasize the criteria for the establishment of a Common Platform of ER-WCPT and would be entitled: *“Needs and facts on the way to a Common Platform of Physiotherapy in Europe”* (working title). The seminar will be open to all the ER-WCPT member organisations as probably many of the problems of the new and prospective EU countries were present in other member organisations. The Chairman of the EU Working Group agreed to follow the matter in the EU Working Group and prepare a preliminary programme and content for the seminar to be presented at the next EC meeting.
- The Working Group emphasized that the ER-WCPT Health Policy Statement will be sent to the member organisations and that the member organisations will be encouraged to send the document to their National Authorities. It was also agreed that the document would be sent to the following organisations: WHO, Health Professionals Group in the EU, EU Commission and WCPT secretariat and other Regions of the WCPT.
- The EU Working Group is currently reviewing the draft Service Directive, as it seemed that it could have an impact on physiotherapists and their services as on other health care services. A letter has been sent to the member organisations informing them of the actual situation and asking them for comments and feedback.

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- The Working Group recommended to the Executive Committee that the annual reports of the Working Groups should be short summary reports that could be published on the ER-WCPT' website.

Languages Cyprus G.M. recommendation

As decided at the last Executive Committee, an invitation had been sent to the following associations to nominate delegates to join the "Language" task force on the 16th August 2004: Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Spain.

The following nominations had been received by the ER-WCPT secretariat:

- Denmark – Birgitte Kure
- The Netherlands – Hans de Boer
- Luxembourg – Guy Thommes
- Spain – Miriam Barcia
- France – Jean Francis Roux

It was agreed to convoke the first meeting on the 8th December 2004 in the ER-WCPT office in Brussels.

World Health Day 2005: Make every mother and child count

WHO announced healthy mothers and children as the theme for World Health Day 2005. This is also the subject of the *World Health Report 2005*, which will be launched on World Health Day, on 7 April 2005.

The slogan for World Health Day 2005 is "Make every mother and child count", which reflects the reality that today, the health of women and children is not a high enough priority for many governments and the international community.

Further Information:

<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2005/en/>

The World Health Report 2004 - Changing History

This year's report examines the global health situation and some of the major threats to health in today's world. Drawing on many examples, the report suggests that major improvements in health for everybody are within reach, and that progress depends on collaboration among governments,

international institutions, the private sector and civil society to build stronger health systems.

Further Information:

<http://www.who.int/whr/2004/en/>

EU Health Commission 2005 Work Plan – Call for Proposals and Information Day on 3 February 2005, Luxembourg

The Commission is in the process of adopting the 2005 Work Plan for the implementation of the Public Health Programme (2003-2008). The Public Health Programme is a key instrument for promoting EU action and financing in this field.

Following the adoption of the annual work plan, a Call for Proposals will be launched on 15 January 2005. The deadline to present proposals will probably be at the end of March.

The 2005 Call for Proposals is the most important means of implementing the 2005 Work Plan and the main financial instrument for the programme's activities.

In order to present the programme's objectives and encourage potential beneficiaries to submit proposals in

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2005, the Commission is organising an **Information Day on Thursday 3 February 2005 in Luxembourg.**

If you wish to participate in the Information Day, please register as soon as possible. As the number of places is limited, participation will be decided on a first come first serve basis. **Registration closes on 27 January 2005.** Please send your registration by e-mail to sanco-infoday@cec.eu.int or by fax to +352-430138119. Please note that the Commission is not in a position to cover any travel or accommodation expenses. The meeting language is English.

If you have any further questions regarding the Information Day, please contact the Public health helpdesk by e-mail to sanco-infoday@cec.eu.int or by fax to +352-4301 38119.

Development of the new Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and the Service Directive.

The Luxembourg Presidency of the European Union *will continue its work in view of reaching an agreement on the Directive on Services in the Internal Market and reaching agreement with the European Parliament on the Directive on recognition of professional qualifications.*

The EU Working Group has sent an explanatory letter to the Member Organisations informing them of the contents of the Service Directive and asking for feedback. The EU Working Group will prepare a position paper with this information.

The EU Working Group is studying the new text of the new Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications in order to review the new text and make comments.

You can find the new documents in the following website (Point 16):

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/IMCO/IMCO_2005_0117_1500.htm

Further information:

Recognition of professional Qualifications:

http://wwwdb.europarl.eu.int/oeil/oeil_ViewDNL.ProcViewCTX?lang=2&procid=2140&HighlighType=1&HighlightText=qualifications

Service Directive:

http://wwwdb.europarl.eu.int/oeil/oeil_ViewDNL.ProcViewCTX?lang=2&procid=2955&HighlighType=1&HighlightText=services{SPACE}in{SPACE}the{SPACE}internal{SPACE}market

EU Commission site of the lists of regulated professions

The professions covered by the site are those regulated under the General System Directives and does not include the following "sectoral" professions: doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, architects, dentists, veterinary surgeons.

Each country is responsible for providing and updating its own information. The lists of regulated professions for the 10 new Member States, Switzerland and those regulated under Directive 1999/42/CE are still being compiled and will only be completed over the coming months.

On this site, you will find:

- the lists so far available of the professions regulated in the EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland;
- search buttons to find the list of regulated professions by country and/or by part of the name of the profession;

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- useful information for each regulated profession such as contact points or competent authorities (undergoing updating);
- statistics on the regulated professions which show the number of migrants concerned by recognition.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/qualifications/regprof/index.cfm?lang=en

Luxembourg EU Presidency's Priorities in the Health Sector

The Luxembourg Presidency started on 1 January 2005 for a period of six months. Insufficient physical exercise, imbalanced diets and alcoholism have an increasingly serious effect on the health of European citizens, particularly young people and children. "Healthy lifestyles" and "young people's health", including the mental health of young people, will be the Luxembourg Presidency's health priorities. Further priorities will be combating obesity and smoking with a view to defining Europe-wide actions based on experience acquired at national and international level.

The Presidency will strive to generate a European momentum in the treatment of rare diseases at a conference to be held in Luxembourg. Luxembourg will continue its work on the two proposals that seek to introduce a European regulatory framework for nutrition and health claims and vitamin and mineral supplements. In addition, it will begin to prepare dossiers on paediatric medicines and medical devices.

Negotiations on the International Health Regulation will continue during the first half of 2005. The Presidency will endeavor to bring them to a

successful conclusion for the WHO annual meeting in May.

The Presidency will also pay due attention to developments in health care, in particular to the work of the High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care set up by the Commission in response to the December 2003 report on the high level process of reflection on patient mobility and health-care developments in the European Union;

- a) Facilitating patient mobility and assessing the importance of developments in the Internal Market for health systems;
- b) Evaluating the EU e-health strategy and determining the next steps for it;
- c) Working with other Member States to develop a better understanding of the causes and effective interventions to reduce inequalities in health outcomes within Member States;
- d) The extension of the open method of coordination to health.

The Council will continue or start work on legislative proposals such as the Regulations on pharmaceuticals for children and on tissue engineering and the revision of legislation on medical devices.

In the field of combating tobacco consumption, new proposals are awaited (tobacco ingredients, tobacco measurement standards, tobacco health warnings and tobacco batch numbering and tracing) and, at the international level, the first Conference of the parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control will start negotiations on protocols to the Convention.

The Presidency will follow closely the revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR).

Other issues on which action may be taken are patient safety, epidemics, bioterrorism and alcohol.

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Finally, the Presidency will review the area of pandemic preparedness planning and the work of the structures involved.

EU Commissioner Kyprianou sets out his priorities for the coming five years

The newly appointed Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner wants to fight obesity, crack down on smoking, protect young people from alcohol abuse and empower consumers to shop with confidence in the EU's Internal Market.

Speaking to the European Parliament at his confirmation hearing, Mr Markos Kyprianou said he hoped that by the end of his mandate in 2009, all EU Member States would have banned smoking in the workplace and other public places. He urged governments to follow the example of Ireland, which successfully introduced such a ban earlier this year, and vowed to combat glorification of cigarettes on television and cinema.

"I would like to work with the cinema industry to achieve this. The same applies to television – films glorifying cigarettes should not be shown at times when young people can see them," he said.

Mr Kyprianou also identified the drastic increase in obesity, particularly among

children, and alcohol abuse by young people as priorities for action. "I intend to promote policies that will lead to a healthier way of life based on an improved nutritional regime and more physical exercise," he said.

In his introductory statement at the hearing, Mr Kyprianou emphasized his commitment to continuing dialogue with the European Parliament and with its relevant committees.

Priorities of Mr Kyprianou over the coming months:

To ensure that the interests of consumers and the protection of public health are properly taken into account in all areas of EU policy and actions.

To ensure better health and health outcomes and a strengthening of Europe's defences against infectious disease. Key objectives include combating obesity, tobacco use and alcohol-related harm, particularly among young people; countering the resurgence of HIV/AIDS in Europe; and proper preparedness planning against contingencies such as an influenza pandemic. Work on nutrition, mental health and the development of a new EU Health Strategy will also be priorities during the coming period.

The European Region of WCPT wishes all Members a Healthy New Year

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