



# NEWSLETTER

## 2011 WCPT General Meeting

The 17th General Meeting of the WCPT took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. From the meeting we would like to highlight the approval of the motion to admit the following new members in the WCPT.

- Asociacion Argentina de Kinesiologia
- Macau Physical Therapists Association
- Association des Kinésithérapeutes of
- Pakistan Physical Therapy Association
- Association of Physiotherapists of Paraguay
- Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy
- Omani Physiotherapy Association
- Slovakian Association of Physiotherapists

WCPT now represents 108 Member Organisations.

Also the re-election of a the President, Prof. Marylin Moffat, from the American Physical Therapy Association, and a new Vice-President, Emma Stokes, from the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists took place. The European Region of the WCPT congratulates them on their election wish them many successes in their duties. At the meeting, Mr Johnny Kuhr, took his position at the WCPT Executive Committee as Regional Representative of the European Region due to the election of Emma Stokes as Vice-President.

The Region would also like to thank the former Vice-President of the WCPT, Zola Dantile, for her contributions during her mandates to raise the profile of our profession.



## Informal meeting of the ER-WCPT

An Informal Meeting of the ER-WCPT Member Organisations was held on 17 June 2011 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. 29 Member Organisations attended the meeting and the Syrian and Jordan Association delegates were also present as observers. At the meeting the following themes were discussed:

The agenda of the meeting has been set as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Possible collaboration with COTEC
3. CEN and European Physiotherapy

Standards

4. ER-WCPT Foundation - Discussion of amendments and further developments
5. Projects under development in Collaboration with ENPHE
6. WCPT's Board candidates presentation
7. Close

A report of the meeting will be prepared by the General Secretary and circulated among the Mos.

## Acknowledgment of the Contributions to the ER-WCPT from former Executive Committee Members between 2007 and 2011

Previous to the 2011 WCPT General Meeting and just after the Informal meeting of the ER-WCPT, a welcome dinner offered by the Region took place to celebrate the contribution of former members of the ER-WCPT Executive Committee who left between the 2007 WCPT GM and the 2011 WCPT GM, namely: Antonio Lopes (Portugal), Sigrún Knútsdóttir (Iceland), Dagmar Pavlu (The Czech Republic) and Eckhardt Boehle (Germany).

During the dinner, the ER-WCPT Chairman, Sarah Bazin, had words of gratitude for each of them on behalf of the ER-WCPT and offered an acknowledgment present.



## 2015 WCPT Congress in Singapore

The next WCPT Congress and General Meeting in 2015 will be held in Singapore. The Singapore Physiotherapy Association will host the congress, and will have the support of the Executive Committee and Member Organisations of the European Region to get as many delegates to Singapore as possible.

We hope to meet you there!

## Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 16 June 2011

The last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region focused primarily on the revision of the WG's action, developments and timetable to achieve the approved activities for the period 2010 – 2012 at the 2010 GM in Berlin.

The Executive Committee meeting also focused on the following issues:

- Joint meeting of the three ER-WCPT WGs to take place in Malta on 9 September 2011, to discuss:
  1. The “Keep Active, Keep healthy” document – PI WG
  2. The ER-WCPT Research Policy – Education WG
  3. The ER-WCPT Vision – EU WG.
- The latest arrangements for the informal meeting of the ER-WCPT in Amsterdam
- The 3rd Education Congress in Wien in 2012 and its promotion during the 2011 WCPT GM and International Congress.
- The collaboration with other organisations such as the Fit to work Coalition
- The collaboration with the EU Commission on Case Study for a Physiotherapy Professional Card (Further information is available in a separate article)



## European Professional Card

The European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy has been invited by the EU Commission, DG Internal Market, to participate in a case study for a European Professional Card for physiotherapists. This card is related to the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications and its aim is to facilitate the migration procedures in Europe.

A first meeting took place on 23 May, with other professions who have been also invited to develop as well a case study, namely: Doctors, Engineers, Nurses, and Tourist guides.

The Physiotherapists sub-group discussion was composed of national authorities from the following countries: Belgium, Hungary, Poland and the UK.

The group agreed to discuss about the following topics:

1. Purpose of the card and which actual procedure could be replaced to facilitate migration
2. Who will issue the card
3. Content of the card
4. How it will facilitate mobility

The Next meetings for sub-groups discussion will be on 8 July 2011 and 9 September 2011. The 1st Vice-Chairman will attend the meetings.

A Single Market Forum event in Cracow, Poland on 2-4 October 2011 will take place to present the results of the case studies.

## Presidency of the EU - Health Priorities - Poland

The EU Polish Presidency, starting on 1st July 2011 for a period of six months and the next EU Presidencies, Danish and Cypriot, will focus on the following topics related to health:

The Union will be more visible and effective when it comes to policies and living conditions, which affect citizens' every day lives. In the field of health, the EU Health Strategy, the new Public Health Programme and the innovation partnership on healthy ageing will respond to the demographic change, health determinants, innovations in healthcare aimed at sustaining healthcare systems and alleviating global health threats.

The Council will continue its work on the amendment of the Directive on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding ("maternity leave"), with a view to reaching final agreement with the European Parliament. The present Community Strategy on Health and Safety at Work for the years 2007-2012 will need to be renewed. Work on the new Strategy, which is expected to be presented in 2012, will be expeditiously taken forward.

In 2012, three other subjects in the field of health and safety at work are expected to be dealt with by the Council: recasting legislation on musculo-skeletal disorders at work, an initiative on tobacco smoke at work and the amendment of five Directives as a result of the adoption of the Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.

2012 will be the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. Throughout the year, the three Presidencies will promote active participation in society and the labour market in order to allow older people to use their full potential, by improving working conditions, health and safety at work, adapting lifelong learning systems to the needs of an ageing workforce and ensuring adequate social protection systems. The Presidencies will aim to ensure coherence between this and the 2011 European Year of Volunteering.

In the field of public health, the three Presidencies will promote actions aimed at improving the health of citizens, their protection against cross-border health threats and the quality of healthcare provided. This will be done in line with the Council Conclusion of June 2006 on common values and principles in European Union Health Systems and the EU Health Strategy for 2008-2013. The three Presidencies will launch work on a possible EU Health Strategy beyond 2013 and on the third programme of EU action in the field of health.

Non-communicable diseases and healthy ageing, diseases without borders and innovation and best practice will be the three headlines encompassing the health priorities of the trio Presidency:

The three Presidencies will pay special attention to non-communicable diseases and healthy ageing. Non-communicable diseases pose an increasing challenge for the health care systems in the entire European Union. Emphasis will be given to health



from early childhood, as a prerequisite and integral part of a healthy ageing process. In the area of health determinants, special attention will be given to anti-tobacco policies, nutrition and physical activity, rare diseases and alcohol related harm. In this respect, the revision of Directive 2001/37/EC concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco products ("Tobacco Products Directive") is envisaged. The Presidencies will prepare the 5th Conference of the Parties under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, scheduled to take place in the autumn 2012. A possible Commission proposal for a revision of the EU strategy on alcohol and health could be also be discussed

The three Presidencies will focus on diseases without borders for the protection of EU citizens from cross-border health threats in EU and neighbouring countries. Furthermore, a discussion will be undertaken regarding the "Health Security Package" aiming at the development of a long-term solution for health security in the EU, notably by reviewing the existing structures under a possible new mandate of the Health Security Committee (HSC) and an update of the Decision 2119/98/EC on communicable diseases and Regulation 852/2004 establishing the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control and reinforcing the cooperation at EU level on serious cross-border health threats, regardless of the origin of the threat

(biological, chemical, radio-nuclear etc.).

The three Presidencies will wherever possible cooperate with WHO and other relevant international health organisations in order to enhance efforts on important health issues.

The three Presidencies will focus on how innovation and best practice in the health care sector can mitigate the challenges of the demographic change in the EU Member States, talking into account the present financial situation in Europe. This offers a great opportunity to the EU's health care industry, for which the trio Presidency will actively seek to promote an attractive business environment by making the legislative framework less cumbersome and more efficient without compromising patient safety. Innovative approaches to healthcare will be explored, as a cost effective way to meet the healthcare needs of the European citizens.

Furthermore, due attention will be paid to the e-health action plan on the basis of a communication and roadmap to be submitted by the Commission.

Spreading out best practice in the health care sector can help to close the existing health gaps when it comes to health within the European Union.

## Green Paper on Professional Qualifications

The EU Commission has published a Green Paper modernising the professional qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC) adopted by the Commission on 22 June.

The Green Paper outlines possible ways forward that are of particular relevance to the health sector. For instance, the introduction of a professional card closely linked to the Internal Market Information System (IMI) could make it considerably easier for professionals to have their qualifications recognised in another Member State. A professional card issued by a competent authority in the professional's home Member State could then allow the professional to demonstrate his/her credentials (having the necessary qualifications, being authorised to practice) to consumers, employers and relevant authorities in another Member State.

Similarly, stakeholders are invited to give their input on two options for an alert system for health professionals: Either extending the alert mechanism as foreseen under the Services Directive to all professionals, including health professionals, whereby the initiating Member State would decide to which other Member States the alert should be addressed, or introducing the wider and more rigorous alert obligation for Member

States to immediately alert all other Member States if a health professional is no longer allowed to practice due to a disciplinary sanction.

In addition, the minimum training requirements of certain professions (including some health professions) could be reformed. To that end, certain adjustments to the duration and content of training, as well as possibly changing the requisite language skills for health professions, could be necessary. This would also strengthen the legitimacy of automatic recognition of qualifications.

Stakeholders are invited to respond to the consultation by 20 September 2011. The Green Paper can be found under the link below, where also the replies can be posted. It is currently available in English, French and German, but the remaining language versions will follow shortly.

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/consultations/2011/professional\\_qualifications\\_directive\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2011/professional_qualifications_directive_en.htm)

Press release can be found here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/767&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## EU wants to steer innovation on Active and Healthy Ageing

The number of Europeans aged 65+ is expected to grow by 45% by 2030, thanks to better health and increased life expectancy. Although a major achievement, this demographic shift could put a significant strain on the economy, society and the sustainability of public finances.

Public and private healthcare spending in the EU already stands at 8.3% of GDP (2008 figures) and by 2030, age-related public expenditure is expected to increase by 2.7% of GDP. The EU is poised to transform this challenge into an opportunity, for delivering better quality of care for elderly, ensuring the sustainability of European care systems and unlocking the innovation potential from Europe's industry.

In order to do that an Innovation partnership for Active and Healthy Ageing has been set up with the aim of using European public and private funds to spend on research and innovation more efficiently. The results should directly benefit patients and citizens. The Partnership will also identify and remove barriers to the use of life improving and life saving technologies. It will connect research and innovation, from the lab to the citizen. The partnership aims to speed up and scale up the uptake of innovation, including information & communication technology (ICT) based solutions.

The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing is part of the EU's Innovation Union Strategy, one of the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives, to turn ideas into jobs, green growth and social progress. The Innovation Union has a three-fold goal: 1) to make Europe into a world-class science performer; 2) to revolutionise the way public and private sectors work together, notably through Innovation Partnerships, and 3) to remove bottlenecks – like expensive patenting, market fragmentation, slow standard setting and skill shortages - that currently prevent ideas getting quickly to market.

The [Digital Agenda for Europe](#) foresees concrete support for this European Innovation Partnership through its actions to harness the potential of ICT to boost prosperity and improve people's quality of life. The Digital Agenda seeks inter alia to ensure that ICT allows a more independence for people who are frail or suffer from chronic conditions and for persons with disabilities.

Similarly, "fostering good health in an ageing Europe" was identified as one of the three main objectives of the EU's Health Strategy "Together for Health".

For more information

<http://ec.europa.eu/active-healthy-ageing>

## Increasing healthy life years:

### report on the public consultation for an Innovation Partnership on Ageing

The public consultation on the pilot European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Active and Healthy Ageing, which closed on 28 January 2011, sought views on how the Partnership could deliver on its aim. Over 530 contributions were received providing the European Commission with a very rich, diverse and unique feedback.

With this consultation the European Commission gathered opinions on how Europe could scale up innovation to meet the challenges of the ageing population in Europe. Between 2010 and 2030, the number of Europeans aged over 65 will indeed rise by nearly 40%, posing challenges, yet offering opportunities for Europe's society and economy.

The report on this public consultation is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/docs/eip\\_active\\_healthy\\_ageing\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/docs/eip_active_healthy_ageing_en.pdf)

Furthermore, the Competitiveness Council

adopted Council Conclusions on the pilot innovation partnership on active and healthy ageing,

The Council welcomed the ongoing work in preparation of the pilot European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Active and Healthy Ageing (AHA), and the main goal to increase on average, by 2020, the healthy lives of Europeans by two years.

In the development of the pilot EIP, the Council stressed the role relevant existing initiatives in the areas of research, development and innovation (including relevant research infrastructures) as well as the sectors of health and information society. Synergies should be reinforced amongst them to create a more simplified and transparent research and innovation environment.

## Health statistics: Eurostat compact guide

Publication. Health is an important priority for Europeans, who expect to be protected against illness and disease at home, in the workplace and when travelling.

[http://ec.europa.eu/sanco\\_slims/statistics?appld=7&redirect=true&addInd=website=newsletter;language=en;issue=69;category=new\\_publications;&red\\_url=http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-30-10-690/EN/KS-30-10-690-EN.PDF](http://ec.europa.eu/sanco_slims/statistics?appld=7&redirect=true&addInd=website=newsletter;language=en;issue=69;category=new_publications;&red_url=http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-30-10-690/EN/KS-30-10-690-EN.PDF)

## Report on Long-term Care published

The OECD has published a report co-financed by DG Health & Consumers entitled: "Help Wanted? Providing and Paying for Long-term Care »

It is estimated that people aged 80+ in the OECD countries (which includes the 27 EU Member States) will grow from 4% in 2010 to 10% in 2050. At the same time, family ties are becoming looser. This will challenge long-term care services and systems. The report published by the OECD today looks at how countries can provide the necessary care for older people, despite the ageing demographic and societal changes.

The report is the result of a 2-year project conducted between 2009 and 2010 through a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods. It is organised in 10 chapters and covers the following topics:

- The growing demand for long-term care in the context of ageing societies.
- Demographic projections and their implications for long-term care labour markets and expenditure.

- The role of family carers and the impact of caring on carers' mental health, poverty and labour market participation. Policies to support family carers.
- A review of employment and work conditions in formal long-term care labour markets. Strategies to attract and retain care workers to the sector.
- An analysis of public and private coverage schemes for long-term care in OECD countries.
- Financing policies to improve access while keeping costs under control.
- Options to improve value for money from long-term care services. Efficient management of the interface between health and care.

Full report:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/reports/docs/health\\_guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/reports/docs/health_guide_en.pdf)

## New health systems directorate in DG Health and Consumers

The European Commission Directorate in charge of health and consumers has been reorganised. The main change is the addition of a new Health System and Products Directorate.

The Commission has published its new organigram for DG SANCO, which will come into effect in the next few months.

The main change to the current structure is the creation of a new directorate in DG SANCO to deal with health systems and products. The Directorate will be headed by Andrzej Jan Rys, a Polish national, and is currently the Director Public Health and Risk Assessment Unit.

The Directorate will deal with healthcare systems, pharmaceuticals, tobacco control and risk assessment, as well as with strategy.

The second Deputy Director General position under Paola Testori Coggi has been appointed. Ladislav Miko, a Czech national, will take up the position of Deputy Director for the Food Chain, joining Michael Seychell, Deputy Director for Consumers and Health.

Mr. Miko was previously the Director of Environment, for DG Environment from 2005-2010. Mr Seychell, Maltese national, held the post of Director of Environment in Malta between 2006 and 2011.

# European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

## Cross-border health care in the European Union. Mapping and analysing practices and policies

Cross-border health care has become a much more prominent phenomenon in the European Union. When in need of medical treatment, patients increasingly act as informed consumers who claim the right to choose their own providers, including those beyond borders.

This book explores such trends and also looks at the legal framework for cross-border care as well as examining some of the uncertainties surrounding it. After the adoption of the Directive on the application of patient rights in cross-border care, Member States will now have to start implementing these provisions. One of the

challenges will be to see how various national practices related to access, benefits and tariffs, quality and safety, patient rights, cooperation etc. will be affected by these new rules. The information and analysis presented in the study can be of considerable use to policy-makers and those with an interest in key aspects of cross-border health care to accompany or follow this process.

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/135994/e94875.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/135994/e94875.pdf)

