



EFN PRESS RELEASE INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

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"Delivering Quality, Serving Communities Nurses Leading Primary Health Care"

Primary Health Care is back on the global health agenda and nursing is leading the way in bringing essential health service to communities everywhere. Due to the demographic changes, it is key for the future to focus on prevention and primary healthcare.

At the Health Minister meeting in April it was stressed that cooperation between the EU Commission and the Council is essential in order to implement the EU Health strategy. When it comes to health and prevention, it is essential to build synergies between the policy-making processes of the WHO, the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Member states will need to adapt their national health systems to prepare for the increase in long-term healthcare needs. Nurses play a pivotal role in designing and managing these future services as nurses' are caring for patients and clients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To combat the major shortage of nurses dedicated to long-term healthcare and elderly care, Governments, employers, educators and policy-makers need to work with the profession to make nursing attractive by increasing wages, improving working conditions and being proactive in the field of patient safety and quality of care. Effective retention strategies are essential to keep the nurses in the profession.

Please contact **Mr. Paul de Ravee**, General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses Associations for a position paper on this issue.

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