



Newsletter n.12 - April 2006

European Region News

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2006 ER-WCPT General Meeting and Workshop on a Common Platform and Legislation - Regulation

The European Region of the WCPT would like to remind all the Member Organisations of its invitation to participate in the General Meeting of the European Region 2006, to be held on 25-27 May 2006 in Šibenik, Croatia and in the Workshop on Common Platforms and Legislation-Regulation to be held on 24 May 2006 at the same venue. Please note that Member Organisations may send no more than three delegates.

We would also like to announce that the documents for the General Meeting have been posted on the ER-WCPT website as well the final programme for the Workshop.

Detailed information on accommodation, registration forms and other supporting documents are published on the ER-WCPT website.

Please note that the nearest airport to Šibenik is Split, Croatia (SPU) situated approximately 55 km from the venue hotel. Organisation of transport from the airport to the hotel will be arranged by the Croatian Association.

Further information:

<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=124>

<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=125>

Common Platform Task Force 3rd Meeting

The third meeting of the Common Platform Task Force took place on 24-26 March 2006 in Estoril, Portugal. At that meeting, the information gathered from the Member Organisations and Competent Authorities was reviewed and further activities were decided to achieve the first step in establishing a

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platform: the inventory on the existing Physiotherapy situations in the different E.U. Member States. The Task Force also finished all the arrangements for the Workshop on a Common Platform and Legislation – Regulation.

2006 ER-WCPT Conference on Clinical Guidelines

The European Region of WCPT would like to announce to all the Member Organisations that the programme for the European Region Conference on Clinical Guideline Development and Implementation to learn and to exchange information to be held on 10-11 November 2006 in Amsterdam, Netherlands, has been posted on the ER-WCPT website.

The objectives for the conference session are:

1. To strengthen the existing network on Clinical Guidelines developers in the ER-WCPT
2. To facilitate Member Organisations involvement in Multi-disciplinary guideline development within their country which would expand the number of physiotherapists involved in Multi-disciplinary Clinical Guidelines development.
3. To obtain information from the Member Organisations to facilitate the development of strategies for the implementation of evidence based Clinical Guidelines.

After the presentations, there would be workshops led by the speakers. In this way, Member Organisations will choose a workshop according to their different situation.

Detailed information on accommodation and other supporting documents will be provided in the near future for the Member Organisations.

Further information:

<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=123>

2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education in 2008

It is with pleasure that the ER-WCPT inform all the Member Organisations that the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education “**Lifelong learning developing the physiotherapy profession – Linking education, profession and employment**” will take place in September 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Detailed information on the aims and objectives, accommodation and other supporting documents will be provided in the near future for the Member Organisations.

EU Health Policy Forum

The ER-WCPT is pleased to announce that it has obtained membership of the EU Commission Health Policy Forum.

The aim of the Forum is to bring together umbrella organisations representing stakeholders in the health sector to ensure that the EU's health strategy is open, transparent and responds to public concerns. The intention is to provide an opportunity to organise

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consultations, to exchange views and experience on a wide range of topics, and to assist in implementation and follow-up of specific initiatives.

The EU Health Policy Forum is, as agreed in the response of the Commission to the public consultation on the creation of the forum in early 2001, part of a three-tiered structure additionally consisting of the Open Forum and, in the future, the Virtual Forum. The EU Health Policy Forum has a limited attendance whereas the Open Forum and the Virtual Forum enable a wider audience to participate.

Its membership provides to the ER-WCPT an opportunity to make contributions to health policy development, its implementation and the setting of priorities for action. And it also confirms the ER-WCPT as the recognised voice of the profession at European level.

The EU Health Policy Forum meets twice a year in Brussels, normally in June and in December. The meetings review the EU work in various areas of public health and adopt recommendations on them.

Stakeholders

The Forum seeks to cover evenly four groups of organisations:

1. Non-governmental organisations in the public health field and patients' organisations,
2. Organisations representing health professionals and trade unions,

3. Health service providers and health insurance,
4. Industry with a particular health interest,

The NGOs which are members of the EU Health Policy Forum all cover a broad range of issues and have members in all or most of the EU member states.

Open Forum

The Open Forum extends the work of the Health Policy Forum to a broader set of stakeholders, having approximately 300 participants. The format of the Open Forum is a plenary session followed by three parallel sessions led and organised by NGOs.

The first Open Forum was held on 17 May 2004 in Brussels and the last one was held on 8 November 2005. The ER-WCPT attended both.

Policy Making

The last recommendations produced by the EU Health Policy Forum for the European Union Members States are:

- Recommendations on Health Information (May 2005)
- Recommendations on Health Services and the Internal Market (May 2005)
- Recommendation on Health and EU Social Policy (December 2003)
- Recommendation on Mobility of Health Professionals (December 2003)
- Recommendations on Health and Enlargement (November 2002)

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**2nd European Parliament- 25
Member States Football
Tournament - ER-WCPT Trophy**

The ER-WCPT, through its General Secretary, is organising and sponsoring the **2nd European Parliament- 25 Member States Football Tournament – ER-WCPT Trophy** that will take place on **2nd and 3rd June 2006** in Brussels.

The main idea of the tournament is to promote a sporting weekend and physical activities with its values and also to foster networking among the players at the same time. The teams are going to be composed of individuals working in the European Union Parliament and from the 25 Member States, not the political groups.

**2006 EU Commission Priorities
on Health and Consumer
Protection**

Commissioner Kyprianou outlines some of the key priorities identified by DG Health and Consumer Protection for 2006, and the contribution that these will make in helping to meet the Commission's overall goals

In 2006, the European Commission wants to address the disconnection between the Union and its people, by demonstrating the positive role it can play in addressing those things that matter most to them.

EU policy areas have a direct impact on the well-being of EU citizens, and its commitment to make Europeans healthier, safer

and more confident is as strong as ever.

The biggest challenge facing the EU at the moment is avian influenza. Never before has an animal disease posed a global threat of such a dimension. Addressing avian influenza at source and helping partner countries, particularly the ones most in need, to cope with the mounting threat will be the top priority for the European Union. The Commission will continue to take all the necessary steps to prevent the spread of the virus into the EU and to improve the EU readiness for a possible flu pandemic.

Among the other actions included in the Commission's work programme for 2006 are:

- A Green Paper on the review of the consumer policy acquires;
- A Communication on the donation and transplantation of human organs;
- A Communication on alcohol policy;
- A White Paper for better training for food safety professionals;
- A proposal for new legislation on pesticide active substances;
- A proposal to amend the legislation on animal by-products.
- A Communication on mental health policy, to follow up the 2005 Green Paper;
- A Communication on diet, physical activity and health, to follow up the 2005 Green Paper.

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**e-Health 2006 High Level
Conference and Exhibition -
Malaga, Spain - 10-12 May 2006**

The main idea of the conference is better healthcare for less money. The way to achieve that is e-Health, since it is the major challenge facing Europe's healthcare systems. It could potentially become the third largest industry in the healthcare sector.

What is e-Health? Information and communication technologies are at the service of a wide range of actors in the health sector, from doctors, hospital managers, nurses, data processing specialists, social security administrators to - of course - patients and citizens.

e-Health is developing in at least three areas:

1. research and technology development;
2. policy; and applications
3. deployment

Further information:

<http://www.ehealthconference2006.org/>

Child-resistant lighters to be imposed in the EU

The European Commission is set to adopt a Decision requiring all lighters placed on the market in the EU to be child-resistant.

The move follows the vote by Member State experts on 9 February in favour of the Commission's proposal to make all lighters safe for children.

The Decision will require manufacturers to add child-resistant devices to all lighters, at a cost of around four cents per lighter. The move could prevent an annual 34-40 deaths, over 1,500 injuries and extensive material damage – all caused each year by children playing with unsafe lighters.

More than one billion lighters are sold on the European market each year, but they do not currently have to be safe for children. Many other countries already have such stipulations in place, including the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

**Rue de Pascale 16, B 1040 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 231 50 63 Fax: +32 2 231 50 64
Email: physio.europe@tiscali.be Web-site: www.physio-europe.org**