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2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education

The Executive Committee of the ER-WCPT is pleased to announce that the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education, entitled “*Lifelong learning, developing the physiotherapy profession – Linking education, the profession and employment*”, will take place on 25-26 September 2008, in Stockholm (Norra Latin), Sweden. The Congress will be organised by the ER-WCPT and hosted by the Swedish Association of Registered Physical Therapists (L.S.R.).

The Region wishes Member Organisations to promote the Congress as widely as possible and encourage their members to attend this event and reserve the dates now in their agendas. Further information will be available shortly.

Network of WCPT CEOs

On 5 September 2006, the WCPT Network of Chief Executive Officers (CEO) met in Berlin, Germany, to discuss and share ideas for improving the development of the organisations. Points on the agenda included Clinical Guidelines/Evidence Based Practice, EU Commission Internal Market Information (IMI) pilot project, Problem areas and highlights of the associations and the WCPT GM and Congress 2007. The meeting was attended by CEOs from Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the U.K. and by the WCPT Secretary General and ER-WCPT General Secretary.

The next meeting will take place on 4 March 2007, in

Dublin, Ireland. If your CEO is interested in participating or in receiving further information, please contact the WCPT Secretary General bjmyers@wcpt.org or the ER-WCPT General Secretary info@physio-europe.org

IMI – Collaboration EU Commission and the ER-WCPT

The Region has been invited by the EU Commission to collaborate in the development of the Internal Market Information (IMI) pilot project. The Executive Committee studied the invitation and agreed to answer the EU Commission expressing its willingness to participate in the project and also asking for further information. The EU Commission was pleased with the Region's offer and invited us to a meeting that took place on 12 July 2006.

At that meeting, Mrs. Pamela BRUMTER (Head of Unit of the European Commission, Internal Market, Regulated Professions (Unit D3)) and Mr. Nicholas Leapman (Deputy Head of Unit, Administrative Cooperation and Member States Networks), met the General Secretary and explained to him the aim of the project and the task to be developed by the Region.

The IMI project is a tool that seeks to facilitate the implementation of EU Legislation in the 25 Member States. This tool is necessary due to the problems of implementation of the legislation such as: different languages, no clearly identified partners, different administrative cultures

and structures, lack of agreed procedures and 300 bilateral relationships to manage among others. For this reason, an administrative support is needed. To solve this problem the EU Commission started this project one year ago with the cooperation of the Member States since this tool, at least at the beginning, will only be used by the Authorities. The result was a preliminary tool to facilitate the communication among authorities of the Member States, avoiding the referred to problems, but which needs to be reviewed.

One directive was chosen as the first to be implemented through this tool, since the aim of this project is to implement directives in general. That directive was the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. After this, the Service directive will follow.

The Member Organisations and Working groups of ER-WCPT were asked to review the tool with its questions and send their comments to the secretariat before the 10 October 2006, since on 13 October 2006 was scheduled a meeting with the EU Commission to present a first revision.

On 13 October 2006, the EU Matters WG

and the Common Platform Task Force held a meeting with the Commission in Brussels where the tool was explained and the Region presented its comments. The Commission appreciated the comments and invited to present them in a meeting on 25 October 2006 with the other three professions invited by the EU Commission to review the tool (Accounts, Doctors and Pharmacists).

On 25 October 2006 Eckhardt Boehle, Executive Committee member and the General Secretary attended the meeting

and presented the region comments suggesting the classification of the questions in clusters and also with a classification of the questions following the clusters. The EU Commission was so pleased with those comments since they identified as well the same clusters and for this reason suggested to use our document as a work paper for the EU Commission and the other three professions.

The document and further information would be sent to the Member Organisations asking them to review it.

ER-WCPT website

Following the 2006 General Meeting, the ER-WCPT website has been updated. Valuable information can be found there on the activities for the next two years, and material for improving the position of the profession. We would like to encourage Member Organisations to review their information and update it if necessary. The

login and password for the Members area for those who do not have it already can be obtained by contacting the General Secretary.

Further Information:
<http://www.physio-europe.org/>

Fifty-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

The ER-WCPT Regional Representative, Anne Lexow, participated in the fifty-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, held in Copenhagen on 11-14 September 2006 representing the region and presenting a statement. The participants discussed important issues, such as the European strategy on non-

communicable diseases; the proposed programme budget 2008-2009; the medium-term strategic plan for 2008-2013; the future of the WHO Regional Office for Europe; and, health security.

Further Information:
<http://www.euro.who.int/rc>

Physio delight as self-referral gets Government go-ahead – CSP, the U.K.

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) has welcomed government plans to pilot new schemes that will change the way patients access healthcare services.

Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt has announced the rollout and evaluation of pilot self-referral schemes across England. The schemes will allow patients to gain treatment and advice from physiotherapists and other allied health professionals without having to see their GP first.

Ms Hewitt said:

'We look forward to seeing the results of the self-referral pilots. It is clear that physiotherapists have already made good headway in delivering high quality projects in this area.'

'Patients want to see the right specialist at a time of their choosing. For some this will mean going direct to a physiotherapist rather than more visits to their GP. These pilots will allow us to assess and potentially take forward greater direct access for patients.'

Welcoming the announcement, CSP Chief Executive Phil Gray said:

'This announcement offers a real opportunity for revolutionary change in how people access NHS treatment and will put English patients on a par with their

counterparts elsewhere in the UK.

'Physiotherapists have been at the heart of developing self-referral schemes for some time. Evidence from pioneering programmes shows this practice offers up real solutions to some of this Government's toughest health challenges for England.'

'Waiting times are slashed, demands on GPs are reduced, NHS money is saved – especially where musculoskeletal and long-term conditions are concerned – and patient outcomes are improved.'

'Rapid physiotherapy access through self-referral can also help the Government deliver on two major policy areas it has been pushing recently: helping people off incapacity benefit and the White Paper on care outside hospitals. We are looking forward to working with the Government to make self-referral a realistic prospect for all patients.'

Further examples of physiotherapy led self-referral schemes www.csp.org.uk

Public consultation on EU framework for health services – Health Service Directive:

After the exclusion from the Services Directive of public and private healthcare, the European Commission decided to set up a specific EU health services framework to guarantee cross-border access to healthcare. As a first step, the Commission has launched a public consultation till the 31 January 2007, based on a Communication of the European Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner, Markos Kyprianou, providing ideas for an EU framework for safe, high-quality and efficient healthcare services. After the

consultation, the Commission should make a formal proposal in 2007.

Further information:

- http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/co_operation/mobility/community_framework_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/co_operation/mobility/docs/comm_health_services_comm2006_en.pdf
- [http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/06/348&forma](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/06/348&format=)

WHO and Obesity

The WHO European Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity, organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and hosted by the Government of Turkey, will take place in Istanbul on 15-17 November 2006. The Conference aims to place obesity high on the public health and political agendas, in order to foster greater

awareness and high-level political commitment towards action and to promote international and inter-sectorial partnerships. The Ministers will agree on a European Charter of measures to counteract obesity that will be implemented by the Member States.

New EU qualifications framework to enhance student and worker mobility

The European Commission recently adopted a proposal for a Recommendation on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF), aiming to make national

academic and professional qualifications more understandable to the Member States, employers and individuals, in order to increase student and worker mobility. The draft recommendation foresees that

Member States relate their national qualifications systems to the EQF, by 2009.

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/com_2006_0479_en.pdf

Ganstein European Health Forum (4-7 October 2006)

The 2006 Gastein Forum will be held under the general theme "Health sans frontières" on 4 – 7 October 2006. At the meeting, in various fields, challenges will be assessed and potential solutions developed in discussion with delegates. In addition to following the traditional Gastein approach of engaging a broad range of stakeholders, a particular focus will be given to involving and serving citizens in Europe.

Participants in the meeting will include senior policy and decision-makers representing politics and government at EU, national and regional levels; business and industry; health care funders and service providers; civil society; as well as experts and researchers in health care and public health.

Further information:

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

2007 – European Year of Equal opportunities for all.

The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All in 2007 will seek to make people in the EU more aware of their rights to enjoy equal treatment (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/rights/robl_en.htm) and a life free of discrimination. These are two of the basic principles underpinning the Union. The Year will also launch a major debate on the benefits of diversity for European societies.

will focus on the discrimination some individuals suffer owing to their race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability, all of which are grounds for discrimination that may be addressed at European level.

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equality2007/index_en.htm

The activities undertaken during the Year

Finnish EU Presidency - “Health in All Policies”

The Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, published a book entitled “Health in All Policies - Prospects and Potentials”, which aimed to serve as background for the high-level expert conference on 'Health in All Policies', that took place on 20-21 September 2006, in Kuopio, Finland. The objective of the conference was to present how measures in sectors other than the

health sector affect population health and how population health can be promoted by measures in other sectors. The Council conclusions on the issue are expected to be published on 30 November 2006.

Further information:

<http://www.stm.fi/Resource.phx/eng/subjt/inter/eu2006/hiap/index.htx.i1153.pdf>

Patients' better access to healthcare info

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) recently published the results of a survey on patients' perceptions of healthcare. The survey highlights the need for a more patient-centred approach to healthcare and more efficient communication on disease and treatment options for patients. It includes an analysis of the quality of healthcare and

identifies the major challenges for improvements of government healthcare policies.

Further information:

<http://www.patientsorganizations.org/attach.pl/751/343/Patient%20Survey%20Report.pdf>

ENPHE Conference in Brussels, Belgium

On 26 – 28 October 2006, the ENPHE Conference entitled *Competence-based physiotherapy education: the stepping stone to international education and improved mobility* took place in Brussels, Belgium. The ER-WCPT Chairman,

Antonio Lopes, was invited to the Conference as a Key note speaker on the subject of Labour mobility.

For further information:

<http://www.enphe.org>

EU Report - The “Connected Health: Quality and Safety for European Citizens”

The EU Report; “Connected Health: Quality and Safety for European Citizens” is now available online.

Developed with input from both the i2010 subgroup on eHealth (formerly known as the eHealth Working Group) and the eHealth stakeholders' group, this paper contributes to enhancing the continuum of care and ensuring that the flow of information between primary care (local health centres, general practitioners' offices), secondary care (hospital), and tertiary care (specialised consultative care) is promoted, on behalf of better patient care, safety and quality of life as well as better or new citizen-oriented services.

A systemic approach, that establishes a collaborative network among all health professionals and organisations, will be extremely beneficial for achieving the proposed goals. Health technologies should also be used to reinforce the information tools available to citizens,

helping them for example to inform themselves better about health issues, particularly preventative health measures. This paper outlines priority issues which must be pursued vigorously in order to reach all of these health systems goals – improve patient safety, encourage well-informed citizens and patients on health matters, and create high-quality health systems and services – and, at the same time, face international competition in the eHealth sector. It focuses on the overriding theme of comprehensive eHealth interoperability: eHealth solutions must be interoperable to facilitate and foster the collaboration of health professionals and health care organisations, and the various stakeholders must cooperate and involve themselves to resolve legal, organisational and policy barriers.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/health/docs/policy/interoperability_report_final092006-cover.pdf

