

Newsletter n.4- April 2004

European Region News

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General Meeting of the European Region of WCPT

The General Meeting will take place in *Amathus Beach Hotel*, on 13-15 May 2004 in Limassol, Cyprus, with the following schedule:

- 13 May 2004: 2pm-6pm
- 14 May 2004: 9am-6pm
- 15 May 2004: 9am-1pm

A set of 33 documents for the General Meeting 2004 were sent by email, in order to facilitate the distribution among the Members of each Association. If you would like to receive hard copies by mail, please inform the General Secretary.

For more information about the Hotel, please consult: <http://www.amathushotel.com>
Looking forward to meeting you all

Registration available for the European Congress on Physiotherapy Education

Under the theme "Physiotherapy Education in the New Europe – Linking education, profession and employment", the European Congress on Physiotherapy Education will be held in Estoril, Portugal, on 4-5 November 2004. If you register now, you will be able to take advantage of a huge reduction in the registration fee.

A wide range of hotel accommodations will be offered, all within a short distance to the Congress Centre. You will be able to make your choice when you fill out the Registration Form. The list of Associated and Social events is also available on the Congress website.

The Scientific Committee has already made the final decisions regarding the selection of proposed abstracts. A total of 84 abstracts, from 21 different countries, have been accepted.

The Congress Organisers are delighted with the responses to the call for abstracts, which will provide an interesting programme of parallel sessions, and poster presentations, covering a wide range of topics on education. An intermediate programme and the registration form are now available on the congress website <http://www.apfio.pt/ecpe>

European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement

On invitation of the Organisers, the Chairman of the European Region of WCPT has had the opportunity to present the key features of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement, at the last workshop held by ENPHE (European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education), 12-14 of March, in Dublin.

EU's Directive on Working Time

The Commission launched, on 5 January 2004, an open consultation to determine how to amend the EU's Directive on Working Time (93/104/EC), which aims to protect the health and safety of workers by limiting their hours of work to 48 hours per week (including overtime), defining the rest periods at 11 consecutive hours a day and one day per week, and establishing a statutory right to four weeks of paid leave per year. The deadline for comments was 31 March 2004.

For further information:

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/1|0|RAPID&lg=EN

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/labour_law/docs/workingtime_communication_en.pdf

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/labour_law/docs/directive93_104_en.pdf

Injury prevention at the European Commission

The Injury Prevention Programme of the European Commission is based on two activities. First, the collection of data on injuries and accidents in the Member States, and secondly on epidemiological projects which are based on the collection of the above data and/or the collection of additional information.

Under the New Public Health Programme (2003-2008) the Injury Prevention activities will continue within the "Health Information Strand" and within the "Health Determinants Strand".

For your information, please consult http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/environment/IPP/ipp_en.htm

Commission proposal for a Directive on Services

On 13 January 2004, the European Commission presented its proposal for a Directive on Services in the Internal Market. This proposal aims to facilitate the administrative requirements in order to provide services in another Member State by removing legal barriers to the freedom of establishment and the free movement of services. It recognises the importance of professional orders and professional associations in the regulation of services.

Besides establishing a list of forbidden requirements to access a service, the Directive will oblige Member States to assess the adequacy of certain requirements – such as quantitative or territorial restrictions, particular legal forms for service providers or bans of having more than one establishment on the same national territory – with the provisions of the directive.

The Commission envisages that the proposal should be adopted in 2005 and be put into force by 2010.

For further information:

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/37|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/services/services/docs/2004-proposal_en.pdf

Eurobarometer – Physical Activity

Due to the European Year of Education through Sports, the European Commission has published a **Eurobarometer on Physical Activity** in the European Union, taking into consideration many variables. For more information please consult

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/nutrition/documents/ebs_183_6_en.pdf

World Health Report 2003 – Shaping the future

Every year the World Health Report takes a new and expert look at global health, focusing on a few specific themes, while assessing the current global situation. For your information, please note the Annex tables which present a summarized comparison of some indicators in all Member States. The report can be downloaded at the following website <http://www.who.int/whr/en/>

Benefits of physical activity

WHO is putting physical activity on the agenda. ER WCPT appreciates this initiative.

The Physical Activity Unit is part of the Department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Health Promotion. The aim of the the Physical Activity Unit is to promote higher levels of physical activity within the world population of all ages and conditions, men and women in all life settings. Among their strategic products are promotion of the Annual Global Move for Health, and development of partnerships and networks for increasing population participation in physical activity. The Member Organisations of ER WCPT should offer support to WHO in their struggle for achieving numerous health gains. As physiotherapists we are may be the health profession which has most knowledge about the benefits of physical activity.

Free movement of workers after enlargement: Frequently Asked Questions

For your information, please consult the following webpage for a very lucid press release on **Free movement of workers after enlargement**, published by the European Commission.

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/24/0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

The European Parliament adopted the proposed Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications COM(2002) 119 - C5-0113/2002 - 2002/0061(COD)) at first reading, on 11 February 2004, in Strasbourg. The text as adopted by the European parliament can be found at

http://www3.europarl.eu.int/omk/omnsapir.so/pv2?PRG=CALDOC&FILE=20040211&LANGUE=EN&TPV=PROV&LASTCHAP=6&SDOCTA=3&TXTLST=1&Type_Doc=FIRST&POS=1

Over 350 amendments had been proposed and over 100 amendments were adopted.

Many amendments have been made that make the proposed Directive clearer and more transparent. In many cases amendments have been made to articles were the European Region of WCPT had commented on and had concerns about.

The main amendments that have implications for physiotherapists are the following:

It was adopted to have ONE Directive instead of two directives, one sectoral and one general Directive.

Two committees for the recognition of professional qualifications must be set up and an appropriate way of involving the professions' representatives ensured for this purpose. One committee should comprise the professional groups at present regulated sectorally, and the second the other professional groups.

An individual professional card should be introduced. This card shall contain information on the professional's training, his professional experience, and any professional sanctions imposed on him".

It was adopted to delete the proposal from the Commission on 16 weeks



provision of professional activity in a host Member State.

There was adoption of a new paragraph on Recognition of professional experience as determining factor in advancing the university level of those with such experience to the level immediately above, in the classification laid down in Article 11 (that relates to levels of qualifications)".

The proposal of Common Platforms of European professional organisations was adopted.

There was an adoption of language skills necessary as the migrant shall ensure that he/she acquires the language knowledge necessary for performing his/her professional activity before undertaking such activity in the host Member State.

The text as amended by the Parliament will be debated by the Council of Ministers, which is expected to adopt a Common Position at the Competitiveness Council, to take place on 17 May 2004.

Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting in Estoril, Portugal, on 13-15 February 2004

Due to the General Meeting of the European Region, which will take place in May 2004 in Limassol, Cyprus, the last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region focused primarily on the finalization of all documents, which will be discussed and eventually approved at the General Meeting. All these documents from the 3 Working Groups, i.e. Education Matters, Professional Issues and EU Matters, have been submitted for input and agreement by the Executive Committee. Each Working Group will also present their own report at the General Meeting regarding the work developed during the period 2002-2004 and a set of recommendations for 2004-2006.

Tackling health determinants through health promotion is emphasized as one of the major objectives under the EU Programme of Community Actions in the field of Public Health 2003-2008. The Executive Committee has therefore decided that a Discussion Session entitled "Network on Prevention and Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles" will take place at the General Meeting 2004. This discussion will assess the level of interest of the Member Organisations, and their willingness to create a European Region Network on Prevention and Healthy lifestyle. In the Discussion Session, Member Organisations will be called upon to provide their comments and feedback to the following questions:

- Should the European Region of WCPT create a network for MO's who are interested in sharing projects on health promotion and prevention?
- Would MO's be willing to share current (2004) projects (and contact names) on health promotion and promotion of healthy lifestyles?
- In the future should the General Meeting discuss and agree themes for promotion of healthy lifestyles that reflect European Health Policy priorities? e.g. Ergonomics in offices/ factories, Children and exercise

The aims of this Discussion Session is to achieve a set of conclusions, that will be presented as the Final Recommendations for Adoption at the General Meeting 2004.

**EUROPEAN REGION OF THE
WORLD CONFEDERATION
FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY**



A document entitled "The Framework for Clinical Guideline Development in Physiotherapy" will be presented and submitted for approval at the General Meeting. This framework for clinical guideline development, was written to create a common basis for the development of guidelines in Physiotherapy. This framework aims to assist Member Organizations of the European Region of WCPT for several reasons:

- To assist Member Organizations who may be considering, or already involved in, the development of a clinical guideline.
- To set out the methodology for clinical guideline development as a standard for Guideline Development Groups (GDG), in the European Region of WCPT.
- To assist Member Organizations in their understanding of clinical guidelines and their development.

The Executive Committee has agreed to collect information in order to revise and update the Report on the Practice of Physiotherapy in the European Region of WCPT. The report should address four major items: Regulation of the Profession, Access to Physiotherapy Services, Autonomy of the Profession and Reimbursement Systems. The information collected will be available on the European Region website.

A questionnaire on Standards of Practice was approved by the Executive Committee in order to gather information from the Member organizations about the ongoing process to implement Core Standards.

Taking into consideration the 15th International Congress WCPT 2007, the European Region of WCPT has received proposals from 11 candidates for Member of the International Scientific Committee 2004-2007.

Seven of the candidates proposed by the Member Organisations, are physiotherapists with a relevant academic scientific curriculum and are clearly adequate for the job. Since it is necessary to select only 2-3 candidates, it was decided that special attention be paid to each candidates "*familiarity with WCPT's International Congresses*".

Following this criteria, and according to what is explicit in their Curriculum Vitae, the Executive Committee of the European Region unanimously agreed to nominate two candidates as preferential ones. This decision was forwarded to the WCPT, who are expected to reach a final judgment on the Nominees applicants soon.

The nomination forms for the Working Groups for the period 2004-2006 were approved by the Executive Committee. Member Organisations will be invited to submit nominations for participation in the 3 Working Groups of the European Region. Each nomination must have the approval of their national Member Organisations since they will be responsible for fully supporting the nominee financially to attend meetings. The application form, enclosed with the Guidelines for Working Groups, will be sent to the Member Organisations in April with a reply deadline of 1st June 2004. Candidates will be asked to prepare a Statement of intent and to enclose their Curriculum Vitae.

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