



EFN Policy Statement

EU Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare

The EFN welcomes the EU Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare, which is a major step forward to improve "Patients Rights", "Quality and Safety" and "Cooperation". The Common Values and Principles underpinning the healthcare system, "solidarity", "accessibility" and "sustainability" can only be achieved if:

- The system is NOT primarily based on the ability to pay; otherwise the EU will have a two-tier health system in which those who can afford to pay are served first.
- Patients coming from the lower cost Member States can NOT be exposed to top-up payments; otherwise the inequalities will increase within the EU.
- Continuity in patient care is ensured by setting out a clear line of responsibility. An EU patient's Ombudsman is an important mechanism to address complaints and to act as an advocate for the patient.
- A system is in place taking into account patient sensitive quality indicators.

Please contact **Mr. Paul de Raeve**, General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses Associations for more details on this issue.

efn@efn.be or Tel: +32 2 512 74 19