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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Brussels, 17 April 2015

Concern: European Federation of Nurses Associations calls the Portuguese Parliament to implement the Competence Certification System for nurses

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Nurses Associations gathered in Brussels in the 16th and 17th of April of 2015 in the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) General Assembly calls the Portuguese Parliament to implement the *Competence Certification System* for nurses approved in 2009 by a unanimous decision of the Portuguese Parliament.

This process represents a good practice of licensing professionals giving higher accuracy to the process of professional competences certification necessary to guarantee safety and quality for citizens.

This system includes a period of clinical supervision for nurses, in both professional induction and in the transition to new competency profiles, which is highly recommended in the international experience and in literature.

The clinical supervision is of critical importance because it focuses in how practitioners engage with patients and clients for their benefit, to improve care and standards, and to develop personal and professional skills, as well as satisfaction to patients and professionals¹.

The Portuguese Model for certifying competences for nurses is an excellent example of policies built to guarantee that professionals acquire, develop and maintain proficiency in practice, ensure their accountability and aid their specific personal and professional growth and development¹.

Clinical supervision models, as approved by the Portuguese Parliament in 2009 in the *Ordem dos Enfermeiros Statute*, offers protection to independent and accountable practice and supports continuous professional development as requested by the Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013, amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ('the IMI Regulation').

For the reasons stated, the Nurses Associations members of the EFN approved this call to the Portuguese Parliament to maintain and reinforce the legal instruments to implement the *Competence Certification System* for nurses approved in Law 111/2009, of 16th of September.

Yours sincerely,

Marianne Sipilä
EFN President

¹ Bond M.; Holland S.; *Skills of Clinical Supervision for Nurses – a practical guide for supervisees, clinical supervisors and managers*; Second Edition; McGrawHill Open University Press; New York, 2010; ISBN 978-0-33-523815-6