



Ex.ma Senhora
Dra. Maria da Assunção Esteves
Presidente da Assembleia da
República
Assembleia da República
Palácio de São Bento
1249-068 Lisboa
Portugal

21 April 2015

Dear Dra. Maria da Assunção Esteves,

Call to maintain and reinforce the legal instruments to implement the Portuguese Competence Certification System (Law 111/2009)

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Council of Nurses, a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations around the world, representing the more than 16 million nurses worldwide. Founded in 1899, ICN is the world's first and widest reaching international organisation for health professionals. Operated by nurses and leading nurses internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all, sound health policies globally, the advancement of nursing knowledge, and the presence worldwide of a respected nursing profession and a competent and satisfied nursing workforce.

We have been approached by the Ordem Dos Enfermeiros regarding the implementation of Law 111/2009 and have been asked to comment on the model.

ICN believes that this law is critically important in ensuring high quality nursing services to the citizens of Portugal. The structure of the Law and proposed processes are considered by the International Council of Nurses as best practice in supporting the dramatically changing health needs of the population. The consequences of this Law is also important in ensuring the efficient and effective use of nursing resources and will significantly contribute to the provision of value for money care, the optimal use of nurses and contribute to recruiting and retaining the necessary human resources expertise. Furthermore the processes are in alignment with the requirements of EU directives and as such position Portugal well for the transposition requirements of the recent changes to the

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professional qualifications and regulation directive as those associated with the administrative elements of the Internal Market Information System.

Finally, the wider impact of this decision also needs to be considered as a number of Lusophone Countries are also at the early stages of developing and passing legislation to develop their own regulatory systems. The centrality of professional regulation to both public safety and health systems alignment to the contemporary needs of citizens should not be underestimated. The ongoing leadership that the Portugal offers to other Lusophone countries in this regard is an additional point to keep in mind.

On behalf of the nurses in Portugal and Lusophone colleagues around the world I hope I can count on your support in this matter. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Dr. David Benton, ICN Chief Executive Officer at benton@icn.ch

Sincerely,



David C. Benton
Chief Executive Officer
International Council of Nurses