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## ENC General Assembly Meeting in Bucharest (12/03/18)



Newly elected President of ENC Mr. Mircea Timofte and Policy Advisor Prof. Dr. Theodoros Koutroubas

On Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, at the kind invitation of OAMR our Romanian member, ENC held its General Assembly Meeting (GAM) in the lovely city of Bucharest. No need to point out that this meeting was of paramount importance for our organization and our profession since a new Board has been elected and key documents were finalized.

The meeting was the occasion to thank our former President Ms. Dragica Simunec (HKMS) for her outstanding leadership throughout the years of her mandate. Our hosts had prepared a commemorative office decorative object to mark the occasion.



The meeting was the opportunity to continue the good work on the revision of our Code of Conduct and to bring the last amendments to our European Nursing Act. The latter was unanimously adopted. (see text on page 4)

The Assembly as per the statutes elected our new President, Secretary General and Treasurer. For the position of **President**, the Assembly unanimously elected **Mr. Mircea Timofte (OAMR)**, for that of **Secretary General Mr. Mario Gazic (HKMS)** and for **Treasurer Mr. Lampros Bizas (ENNE)**.

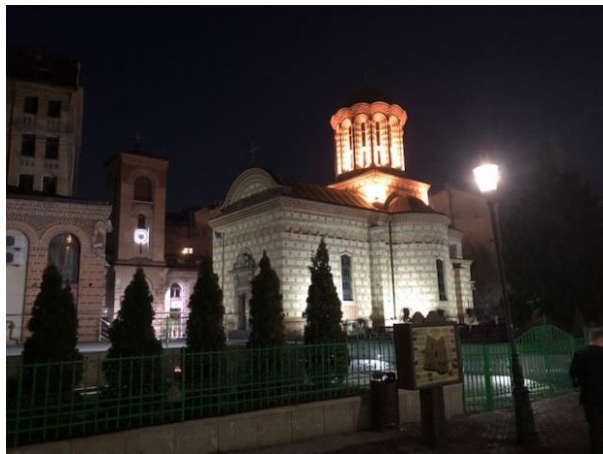


Please note that our next General Assembly Meeting will take place in Zagreb on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November at the kind invitation of our Croatian member HKMS.

*The President and some of those present pose at the entrance of the historic hotel where the GAM was held.*



*At the kind invitation of OAMR (Romania), most members-delegates had a lovely dinner in a traditional restaurant in one of the most picturesque neighborhoods of the city.*



## *The “European Nursing Act”*

As mentioned in the previous article, the European Nursing Act was finalized during the Bucharest meeting and unanimously adopted thus becoming an official document of ENC. The document in question should become our visit card to all relevant interlocutors at all levels whether they are patients, national authorities, European decision makers, etc. It expresses with clarity who we are and what we do and thus all should receive it and broadly share it in order for us to improve our visibility and to make our voices heard.



### **The European Nursing Act**

The Nursing act encompasses **all the professional action**, ie the autonomous, interdisciplinary, partnership-based and collaborative person centred care of individuals, families, groups and communities across the life span; sick or well and in all primary, secondary and tertiary care environments. The Nursing act involves the use of clinical judgement in the holistic and evidence based assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of professional nursing care. Nursing includes health promotion, health education and disease prevention, the care of sick, the injured, the disabled and the terminally ill. Advocacy, promoting both adult and child patient safety, quality care, continuous quality improvement, the conduct and utilisation of research and evidence based practice, contributing to health policy and health systems management and delivery are also dealt with by Nursing science. The nursing act is underpinned by national and international ethical values and codes which respect dignity, autonomy, justice, fidelity, the uniqueness of human beings as well as underline the duty of Nurses to engage in continuous professional development.

## ***Update on the “Proportionality Test” Directive***

An important step in the evolution of the “Proportionality Test” Directive has been made this week. The “trilogue” meetings are over and the European Parliament, the Commission and the European Council have reached a pre-agreement on the Directive.

In the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, our Secretariat has discussed with the collaborators of the "Proportionality Test" Directive Rapporteur Mr. Schwab (MEP) and they have given us indications and documents with additional information on the current text of the Directive. The Parliament has indeed insisted on the "margin of discretion" given to the Member States for the health professions.

The Commission had integrated this part in the article 12: **"It is important to ensure that public interest objectives are adequately identified in order to determine the intensity of the regulation. For example, in order to ensure a high level of protection of public health, Member States should enjoy a margin of discretion to decide on the degree of protection which they wish to afford to public health and on the way in which that protection is to be achieved."**

And the Parliament has proposed these two amendments to this part: "Account should be taken of the fact that people’s health and lives are of prime importance among the assets and interests protected by the TFEU. In order to ensure a high level of protection of public health, Member States should be granted a margin of discretion to decide on the degree of protection which they wish to afford to public health and on the way in which that protection is to be achieved." and " (12a) Where regulation of a profession is justified by the protection of public health, the special characteristics of health services should be borne in mind. Health services are very different from other services, and patients are very different from other service recipients. As a result, it should be assumed that health professions are typically subject to regulation of professions."

Mr. Schwab's assistant has also indicated us that the Directive should be voted by the European Parliament near the end of April.

We will of course keep you updated as soon as we have any other news on this topic.

## ***UK's Prince Charles praises 'unsung' work by NHS nurses***



**The Prince of Wales has praised the "unsung and unseen" hard work of Britain's nurses during a special event at Buckingham Palace.**

Prince Charles met more than 350 nurses from across the country, including first responders to last year's terror attacks and Grenfell Tower fire.

He said he was "astounded" by the stories from individuals responding to "harrowing incidents".

His Highness also recounted one of his first hospital memories.

### ***'Nice to be acknowledged'***

The prince, whose 70th birthday this year will coincide with the 70th anniversary of the National Health Service, said: *"I was rushed to Great Ormond Street with a rapidly expanding appendix.*

*"I have never forgotten how wonderfully I was looked after by the nurses there. In fact, when I went to go back home to Windsor Castle, I didn't want to leave."*

Melanie Davies, who won the Royal College of Nursing's 2017 Nurse of the Year award, was at the event.

*"I just can't believe it. I'm speechless. It is just such a privilege to be here," she said. "Nursing is always in the headlines for the pay, or lack of, so it's just nice to be acknowledged."*

*This article was published by the BBC on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March.*