

Westmount, July 12, 2012

Mrs. Dragica Simunec  
President ad interim  
FEPI-European Council of Nursing Regulators  
Coudenberg 70  
Bruxelles 1000  
Belgique

Mrs. Simunec,

As general secretary of the *Secrétariat international des infirmières et infirmiers de l'espace francophone* (SIDIIEF), I was just informed of your recent nomination as President ad interim of the European Council of Nursing Regulators (FEPI). I'm taking this opportunity to offer you my congratulations for this nomination. I wish you great success in this pivotal position, dealing with the many challenges and opportunities facing the FEPI and the nursing profession in Europe generally.

As an international association of nursing practice, the SIDIIEF follows the developments of the European Directive with great interest. Efforts to sustain the growth of the nursing profession are not without obstacles. I regret that you have to face strong resistance from countries such as Germany. A strong nursing profession in Europe brings positive impacts all throughout the world.

You will be happy to learn that the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the SIDIIEF, held at the end of May in Geneva (Switzerland), was a great success. I have attached an English version of its final Declaration. Representatives from 25 countries of the international francophone community asked governments from La Francophonie to implement the following resolutions of its General Assembly :

- implement a university system for nursing education at the licence, master and doctorate levels;
- establish mandatory university bachelor or licence for entry into the nursing profession;
- invite the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie to give priority support to countries through institutional, national, intra and inter-regional cooperation mechanisms.

This achievement has not been easy. We hope that the enthusiasm generated by this convention will create a ripple effect that will help bring the nursing profession well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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I encourage you to pursue FEPI's work in gathering more support for harmonizing nursing education upwards in Europe. Your work in this regard will be important and will inevitably contribute to increasing the scope of the nursing profession in the long run.

We are grateful for your contribution in making improvements to nursing education and wish you every success in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely,



Hélène Salette, RN, MSc  
Secretary General

Encl. Declaration in favour of university education for nurses in the French-Speaking countries.

***SIDIIEF is a non-profit international non-governmental organization (INGO) with consultative status with bodies in the International Organisation of La Francophonie (IOF).***

***SIDIIEF is a Francophone network made up of close to one million nurses in some thirty French-speaking countries, acting in partnership with communities facing major health challenges worldwide.***

***For more information, visit our website: [www.sidiief.org](http://www.sidiief.org).***