



## Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in Europe Update: October 2016

**Welcome to the October edition of Update for members of FORE. This bulletin complements our meetings, providing news and features relevant to osteopathic regulation in Europe**

### Osteopathy together in Europe



September saw the formal launch of the *European Standard on Osteopathic Healthcare Provision* (EN16686) at a European Parliament seminar in Brussels, organised jointly with our EFO colleagues.

Sponsored by [Tom Vandenkendelaere MEP](#), this event provided a valuable platform to raise awareness of the standards that patients should expect from osteopaths, wherever in Europe they seek treatment. Along with Members of the European Parliament, attendees included standardisation bodies, public representatives, EFO and FORE members. We even made it to the *Brussels Times*: <http://www.brusselstimes.com/eu-affairs/6629/a-first-step-to-recognition-of-osteopathy-across-europe>

Gert Jan standing together with EFO President Marika Jevbratt in the European Parliament

If you were unable to attend, a film of this event is available to watch at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PR4y0SgbxFO>

### CEN publications

To help you to promote the Standard at a national level, two sets of public information have been developed and made available in a number of languages:

*What to Expect from Your Osteopath* is designed for prospective patients, while *The European Standard on Osteopathy* targets policymakers and other health professionals, with a focus on the more technical aspects of the Standard.

Both publications are available in a range of languages (Dutch, English, French, German, Greek Italian, Maltese, Norwegian and Spanish). To order your copies, email the [FORE Secretariat](#)



## Parliamentary question



Belgian MEP [Frédérique Ries](#) has questioned the European Commission on whether it monitors the implementation of the recently adopted osteopathy standard across Europe.

In response, the Commission confirmed that it has no competence to monitor the application of standards adopted by the European Committee for Standardisation. Each member state is able to decide whether to regulate osteopathy. Eight member states have done so. We are in discussion with EFO colleagues about a joint briefing/delegation to meet with Ms Ries and other key MEPs, particularly following last month's Brussels event.

## European dentists, doctors, trade unions and hospitals warn against standardisation of healthcare services

While the profession has developed for the first time pan-European standards of osteopathy in collaboration with CEN, not everyone supports the development of standards through standardisation.

The Council of European Dentists, the Standing Committee of European Doctors, the European Public Service Union, the European Trade Union Confederation and the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation have launched a joint appeal to national and European standardisation bodies, the European Commission and member states asking them to reject activities by standardisation bodies relating to healthcare and social services.

This joint work was prompted by a recent series of initiatives aiming to standardise medical treatments and elderly care services. In their appeal, the co-signatories emphasise the contribution of health and social services to the public interest. They argue that existing mechanisms regulating health and social services are embedded in a democratic decision-making process ensuring optimal transparency, representativeness and accountability, as opposed to the 'pay to play' approach followed in standardisation processes. These existing mechanisms they feel are driven by patient safety and quality of care, leading amongst others to evidence- and science-based guidelines for practice while at the same time allowing the exercise of professional autonomy, all with the objective of serving a patient's best interest.

## Join our European Advocacy Strategy workshop

Following the success of his Luxembourg workshop, Andras Baneth from the Public Affairs Council will be joining us again at our next General Assembly meeting in Cyprus.



This event builds on the Luxembourg workshop, providing us with further information and support on key lobbying/promotional methods, with actionable steps to advance national interests in terms of the regulation and recognition of osteopathy.

If you have any particular questions or concerns to address at the workshop, please email the [FORE Secretariat](#) by the end of October.

If you are attending our Cyprus meeting, **we would encourage you to stay on for this event** which will finish at 13.00 on the Sunday (20 November).

## A step closer to an EU strategy on patient empowerment

The vision and mission of the European Patient Forum (EPF) – an umbrella organisation working with patients' groups in public health and health advocacy across Europe – is to ensure that patients across Europe are empowered and involved in the decision-making and management of their condition.



To strengthen this commitment, in May 2015 EPF launched the Patient Empowerment campaign, a one-year campaign calling for the development of an EU strategy on this topic relating to all aspects of health, from health promotion and prevention to self-management of chronic diseases. The campaign succeeded in raising awareness about the positive impact of patient empowerment both on patients' lives and on healthcare systems and, above all, involving crucial stakeholders that can actually make a difference.

During the campaign, EPF published a [Charter on Patient Empowerment, which encapsulates the 10 fundamental principles of patient empowerment and outlines what really matters to patients.](#)

More information on the campaign is available at:  
<http://www.eu-patient.eu/campaign/PatientsprescribE>

## Patient safety to be strengthened in Denmark

Denmark now has a new public authority fully dedicated to patient safety.



The Danish Patient Safety Authority is set to supervise healthcare professionals and organisations, and issue authorisations to 16 groups of healthcare professionals and recognised medical and dental specialists. Currently its remit doesn't cover osteopathy which is not yet a recognised health profession in Denmark, although FORE members from Danske Osteopater will be seeking a briefing meeting with officials.

The authority will also:

- resolve patient complaints about the infringement of patient rights as well as complaints about care provided in the Danish healthcare sector
- administer the reporting system for adverse events in the healthcare sector and endeavour to translate errors into education and knowledge
- play an important role in issuing authorisations to healthcare professionals trained in Denmark and abroad.

More information is available at: <https://stps.dk/en>

## FORE at the Healthcare Professional Crossing conference

FORE's Vice-Chair, Philippe Sterlingot, will be speaking at the Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders conference in London on 28 October. Entitled [Promoting patient safety across borders](#), this high profile event will bring together healthcare professionals, regulators and Government representatives from across Europe, with a focus on professional mobility and patient safety.



Together with representatives from the dental, medical and nursing sectors, Philippe will be on a panel exploring patient safety through CPD and revalidation – providing an important platform to raise awareness of osteopathic standards in Europe.

If you want to come along to support Philippe, you can register for this free event via email at: [HPCB@gmc-uk.org](mailto:HPCB@gmc-uk.org)

**If you haven't yet filled in our brief questionnaire on the CPD scheme in place in your country, please email the [FORE Secretariat](#) as soon as possible, as your feedback will feed into Philippe's presentation.**

## Update on European Commission review of regulated professions

In order to develop proposals to improve the Single Market and revive EU Member States' economies, the European Commission has been reviewing what professions are regulated in which country and in what way. The thinking being that in some instances regulation may place unjustified burdens upon European economies.

Starting in 2014 the 'mutual evaluation exercise' required Member States to review the impact of their professional regulations and to consider their value in protecting public interests, such as public health or safety, while minimising any negative impact upon the market. During this process over 5,000 regulated professions were reviewed, including osteopathy.

The information gathered showed that the regulation of similar professions varies substantially between countries. While numbers alone do not necessarily indicate a problem, this variety and the impact regulation has on the economy make it essential that regulation be grounded in solid reasoning and be as least restrictive as possible.

Following these findings, the introduction of an analytical framework for proportionality has been developed to support Member States in thoroughly assessing the need for regulation before its introduction. This assessment will vary depending on the profession concerned, but health professions, such as osteopathy, guard important public interest objectives and instances of clearly disproportionate rules would therefore be very rare.

More information is available on the [European Commission's website](#).

## FORE on facebook



Thank you to everyone who has liked us on facebook. Since launching in June, we now have 567 likes, with recent posts reaching over 9,000. The [FORE facebook page](#) is a great way to raise the profile of FORE, but also the achievements of our members – you! So, don't forget to tell us what's going on at a national level, so we can support you and help promote your hard work.

## Upcoming Events

### **Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders Conference**

**28 October 2016: London.** FORE is a member of the [Healthcare Professional Crossing Borders network](#) which explores the impact and challenges of EU policy on healthcare delivery across Europe.

FORE members are welcome to attend this free conference which will focus on professional mobility and patient safety, and also where Philippe will be presenting.

To reserve your place email [HPCB@gmc-uk.org](mailto:HPCB@gmc-uk.org)

### **21st FORE General Assembly meeting**

**19-20 November 2016: Cyprus.** We look forward to welcoming you to the 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly meeting of FORE.

We are finalising the programme, so if you have any suggestions for the agenda please email the [Secretariat](#).

## Any questions?

If you have questions about the content of this issue of *Update* or suggestions for future issues, please do get in touch.

**Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you in Cyprus!**

FORE Secretariat

Tel: +44 207 357 6655 x245

Email: [foresecretariat@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:foresecretariat@osteopathy.org.uk)

Website: [www.forewards.eu](http://www.forewards.eu)