



EFN Brussels Office
Clos du Parnasse 11a
B-1050 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 512 74 19
Fax +32 2 512 35 50

E-mail efn@efn.be
Web www.efnweb.org

Registration Number
NGO0476.356.013

To :
Ms Geneviève Fioraso
**Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur
et de la recherche**
1 rue Descartes
75231 Paris cedex 05 - France

Ms Marisol Touraine
**Ministère de la santé et des affaires
sociales**
14, avenue Duquesne
75350 PARIS 07 SP - France

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Concern: Reshaping of the nursing degrees: 'Master sciences cliniques infirmières' & 'Master Sciences cliniques en soins infirmiers'

Dear Ministers,

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) has been informed about the future reshape of the nursing degrees titles, proposed by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, which does not take into account two Masters in clinical nursing sciences, representing a downturn of the nursing career development.

As the nurses' voice at EU level, representing National Nursing Associations from 34 European Countries, and working to ensure a highly qualified and competent nursing workforce to deliver high quality care and an equitable and accessible health service in the EU, the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) is extremely worried about your decision that will directly affect the nursing care continuum, the health workforce as a whole, which will result in a default to respond to societal health care needs across the country. Furthermore, being the nursing profession a predominant female profession represented by 95% of women, the EFN questions the gender dimension embedded in this decision which in a way, reduces women's opportunities to further develop their professional development through high level university education.

Moreover, nursing education at university level is absolutely paramount for patient safety. Having a well-educated nursing workforce is central to delivering a high quality and safe care. Having nurses educated through such Masters is in the interest of the entire healthcare sector, as well as of the patients! Preserving these two Masters will encourage the education, training, professional development and professional competence of the nursing workforce to the largest extent possible, and this is of great importance to your healthcare system. In contrast, failure to support the development of a competent nursing profession through a qualified education will potentially have long-lasting negative consequences.

Therefore, the EFN calls on the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Health to maintain the two nursing Masters ('Master sciences cliniques infirmières' & 'Master Sciences cliniques en soins infirmiers'), providing nursing education at the highest level.

I am looking forward to a positive outcome.

Best regards,

Marianne Sipilä
President
European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)