



## EFN Policy Statement on EFN Members support to the EU Global Health Resilience Initiative

In her 2025 State of the Union (SOTU), Ursula Von Der Leyen announced a new Global Health Resilience Initiative, which builds on the EU Global Health Strategy, adopted in November 2022 (EFN [2023 Policy Statement on the EU Global Health Strategy](#)). EFN welcomes this new European Commission Initiative, which will support the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), and support efforts towards Universal Health Coverage. EFN and the EFN Members, thanks to their expertise on the Global Health Arena and international partnerships, stand ready to support the European Commission in this important Initiative.

The EU already has in place several frameworks, which can support the delivery of this initiative, like DG HERA, which is leading on Preparedness, with the new [EU Preparedness Union Strategy](#), supported by the HERA Civil Society Advisory Forum, to which EFN was recently reappointed for a new term as expert. Furthermore, the European Commission is stepping up actions against the spread of AMR, including through the work of the AMR One Health Network, where, as a member, EFN has already provided extensive expertise on the nurses' contribution to fighting AMR.

With these frameworks in place, the true challenge lies in “*translating complexity into clarity, ambition into action, and policy into lasting, meaningful impact.*” (SOTU, 2025). Whilst the EFN acknowledges the positive benefits and action to develop and deliver these important frameworks, it is concerned at the increasing threat and impact of climate change. The European Environment Agency is clear that Europe is not prepared for rapidly growing climate risks and that Europe is the fastest warming continent in the world. This pace of change and its effects risk undermining ambitions to meet the 2030 SDG's and preparedness strategies. Adaptation actions are needed at pace across the continent to protect health, enable resilient health and care services and meet the needs of vulnerable populations including nurses as a predominantly female global profession.

Therefore, the EFN is calling on the EU Institutions and the EU and European Member States to:

- Match the promise for action with the Global Health Resilience Initiative with adequate funding and resources to ensure effective implementation. This needs to be integrated in the next Multiannual Financial Framework ([EFN 2025 Position Statement on the next MFF](#)).

- Ensure to engage and work closely with civil society partners at EU level, including EFN, through the existing frameworks like the HERA Civil Society Advisory Forum and the AMR One Health Network, but also at National level, by engaging closely with the EFN Members, the National Nurses Associations (NNAs), which have extensive experience in working on Global Health through their international partnerships.
- Match the efforts towards global health leadership with concrete efforts towards strengthening the EU domestic capacities, including by investing in the EU domestic nursing workforce capacity building and development. Unless the EU's own health systems are resilient and well-prepared, the EU cannot hope to lead on the global arena.
- Leadership on Global Health requires fairness, therefore the EU and the Member States must stop recruiting nurses from countries on the [WHO health workforce support and safeguards list \(2023\)](#), in line with the [WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel \(2010\)](#) , which is an unethical practice that undermines efforts towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Rapidly review and escalate the EU climate change adaptation strategy ensuring nurses, representing the largest cohort of health professionals and community advocates, are present and active in delivery of the strategy.

#### **Further readings:**

- EFN Policy Statement on One Health AMR Appr (2023). Available at: <https://efn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/EFN-Policy-Statement-on-AMR.pdf>
- EFN Policy Statement on the Key Role of Nurses for Preparedness (2025). Available at: <https://efn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/EFN-Policy-Statement-on-the-role-of-Nurses-for-Preparedness-October-2025.pdf>
- EFN Report on Member States Preparedness on Ebola (2015). Available at: <https://efn.eu/wpcontent/uploads/2022/02/EFN-Report-MS-Preparedness-Ebola-Final-Sept.2015.pdf>
- EFN Report on Lessons Learned with Ebola and COVID-19 (2020). Available at: <https://bit.ly/3e76mZn>
- EU Preparedness Union Strategy (2025). Available at: [https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/526806b6-c4e1-43d1-81b7947308efbab1\\_en?filename=eu-preparedness-union-strategy.pdf](https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/526806b6-c4e1-43d1-81b7947308efbab1_en?filename=eu-preparedness-union-strategy.pdf)
- Hera Civil Society Forum (2023). Discussion paper on Training of Healthcare professionals: an important pandemic preparation. Available at : [https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4d986d72-b138-41c6-84a4604e4716b375\\_en?filename=hera\\_csf\\_wg3\\_hcp-training\\_en.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4d986d72-b138-41c6-84a4604e4716b375_en?filename=hera_csf_wg3_hcp-training_en.pdf)

- International Council of Nurses (2025). International Nurses Day 2025: Caring for nurses strengthens economies. Available at:  
[https://www.icn.ch/sites/default/files/202504/ICN\\_IND2025\\_report\\_EN\\_A4\\_FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://www.icn.ch/sites/default/files/202504/ICN_IND2025_report_EN_A4_FINAL_0.pdf)

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