

## SPEECH Adriano Friganovic

10 October 2024

Dear all, ladies and gentlemen, here in this room and online at YouTube channel. Special thanks to Istvan, making this possible and also to Anna and Christophe assisting us in organisation this all, I feel hugely privileged to be here with you.

So thanks to you all, taking the effort coming to Brussels, the European heart of democracy. It also a great thanks to Istvan inviting our members and organisation to this venue and platform.

With this event, we also experience the recognition of the health professionals in the nursing and care domain in all its specialisations and levels of expertise, to become visible and above all: present. And it was about time, because over the past years we have been too busy in dealing the covid crisis and also the aftermath, towards preparedness. And while we are here, it also is in line with an other special momentum, as this very day, it's also global Mental Health day.

Our purpose here is to explain what 'we do and what we are' but as ESNO is not to only promote our organization per se, but rather to assist policymakers in making informed decisions and to ensure that they do not overlook critical elements that deserve their attention at an early stage. Furthermore, we seek inspiration from the policy domain to guide us in charting new directions. We cannot afford to remain within our comfort zones or in positions where our presence is not felt.

We experience formidable health challenges on the horizon,

- including shortages in the health workforce,
- challenging working conditions,
- the need for educational reforms that emphasize sustainable and contextually relevant professional development over excessive granularity in skills,

- the evolving landscape of job roles,
- the interplay between public health and private equity interests in the healthcare sector,
- budgetary constraints impacting healthcare sustainability,
- new environmental demands to address climate change, and finally,
- the issue of salaries. Across most European regions, healthcare professionals find themselves at the lower end of the pay scale, despite being among the most trusted in their respective fields. This glaring disparity must be disheartening.

However, the majority of us, both present here and those joining us remotely, share a common ethos: when faced with adversity, we don't ask, "Why me?" but rather, "Try me."

Today, we are having our first meeting in the European Parliament, with the expectation that we are going to be here at least once a year. With this, we start a tradition but also share our expertise, knowledge, insights and all we have to contribute to the greater challenges we as members of the European civil society experience and where we as professionals in the nursing care domain, wish to contribute.

During the day, we are going to hear a lot of sessions in speaking slots, and we also hope that we are able to catch time for questions.

With these last sentences, I ask Ber in his role as moderator, guiding us through the afternoon. Later I will be back for some elaborations on the Report, as a result of the outcome of the World Café and the ESNO congress.

Wish you a fruitful event, and again, so highly appreciated to join is in Brussels, and those at home, tuning with us for this special occasion.

Adriano