



## Health First Europe (HFE) looks back with satisfaction after adoption of EU Directive on protection of healthcare workers from needlestick injuries

European Parliament, 23 March 2010



Most of the campaigners who had struggled for several years for the adoption of the directive attended the event. 50 participants from patient organisations, occupational federations, European Parliament Members, MEP collaborators and the European Commission listened to speeches made by Roy Bridges (HFE member), Elisabeth Lynne (MEP, rapporteur), Máximo González (President of the Spanish nurses' association), Ana Salegui (nurse-patient) and Paul de Raeve (General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses).

The campaign started in 2004 when HFE organised an event on World Aids Day in the European Parliament. Subsequently, a European Parliament resolution with recommendations for a legislative solution was adopted in 2006. And finally, on 8 March 2010, the European Employment and Social Affairs Ministers adopted a Directive to prevent injuries and infections to healthcare workers from sharp objects such as needle-sticks.



Bert Van Caelenberg, Secretary General of Eurofedop, closed the event in the European Parliament. He thanked all who had contributed to the realisation of this important directive and underlined that now the work begins to have the directive implemented in all parts of the EU, including the new member countries.