

European Election Manifesto

www.rcn.org.uk/europeanelections2009

**European Parliament
Election 2009
Nursing counts**

The UK elects its MEPs on 4 June 2009.

With up to 50,000 members in a single constituency, and nearly 400,000 members across the UK, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is a significant voting force.

RCN members are calling on MEPs to support five priorities and use their influence to help:

1. ensure enough nursing staff to meet patients' needs ✓
2. stop nurses getting injured at work ✓
3. meet health and social care needs of patients with long-term or age-related conditions ✓
4. prevent health care associated infections ✓
5. provide the best possible nursing care through excellent education and training ✓

RCN members are taking action

- Questioning MEP candidates about how they will influence the EU's impact on UK health and employment
- Engaging with the press on the significant issues MEP candidates need to address
- Rallying members to make their vote count

Act now

To find out how you can campaign on these issues, email international.office@rcn.org.uk with the subject line 'nursing counts'. For more information visit www.rcn.org.uk/europeanelections2009

Turn over to read our detailed call to action.

Nursing counts

RCN call to action for MEP candidates

1. Ensure enough nursing staff to meet patients' needs

The RCN calls on MEP candidates to engage effectively at the European Parliament and nationally in consultations and debate about the health care workforce.

2. Stop nurses getting injured at work

The RCN calls on MEP candidates to ensure that the current negotiations between employers and trade unions to prevent needlestick injuries produces a Framework Agreement by autumn 2009. If it does not, then the European Parliament should demand EU legislation.

The RCN calls on MEP candidates to use EU health and safety legislation and their role in the public eye, to address the scandal of violent incidences at work and to ensure that measures are taken to prevent third-party violence.

3. Meet health and social care needs of patients with long-term or age-related conditions

The RCN calls on MEP candidates to ensure governments across the EU develop an action plan for prevention, research and early diagnosis of these conditions; provide health and social care treatments; and support the delivery of this care.

4. Prevent health care associated infections (HCAIs)

The RCN calls on MEP candidates to ensure that effective, systematic and reliable research on HCAIs takes place across Europe so that it supports learning to minimise the risks posed by HCAIs.

5. Provide the best possible nursing care through excellent education and training

The RCN calls on MEP candidates to use the EU's legislative framework to help move the EU's mutual recognition system for nursing to a competency based approach, achieving an even higher-quality education and competency framework, including regulation of nurses and health care assistants.

Act now

To find out how you can campaign on these issues, email international.office@rcn.org.uk with the subject line 'nursing counts'. For more information visit www.rcn.org.uk/europeanelections2009

Members – use this manifesto to engage with your regional MEP candidate

