



Council

Date of meeting:	3 December 2015
Title of Paper:	Report from the International Committee
Appendices:	None
Presented by:	Jane Clarke, Head of Governance
Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. The International Committee met on 23 September 2015.

International Alliances and Relationships

2. The Committee was updated on the plans for the 2016 CNMF business meeting and conference in London and it was noted that the three RCN abstracts submitted for the conference had all been accepted.
3. The RCN has also offered to host a reception for CNMF as part of the Centenary celebrations.

RCN/ZUNO Project

4. A report of the visit to Zambia and the RCN/ZUNO Project over the summer was discussed in detail.
5. The Committee noted that the ZUNO project officer had left in the early stage of the project but that the newly-recruited officer was excellent and would be a great addition to the project.

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6. The draft roadmap for the project and future international development work was agreed. This will include a fringe at 2016 RCN Congress to brief members on the work.
7. It was agreed that there would be a longer discussion at the next meeting of the Committee on the future direction of the RCN's international development partnership work.

Immigration/migration

8. The immigration and migration debates at Congress and the unfolding refugee crisis were discussed at length.
9. It was noted that the International team and immigration advisory service were continuing to work with NHS, employers and other stakeholders, and that RCN would also be submitting evidence to the Migration Advisory Committee on their review of the visa system and skills shortages.

European Parliament Elections update

10. We were updated on the RCN's 2014 – 19 European Parliament manifesto and in particular the Healthy Lifestyles strand.
11. This work will be developed further over the coming year and we provided some initial thoughts on areas of interest to the RCN.

EU Referendum

12. The Committee had a first discussion on a draft strategy for the RCN's preparations for the EU referendum.
13. There are still many unknowns including the timetable and the outcome of the Government's "renegotiation" discussions with other EU countries.
14. The committee agreed what our objectives should be and discussed what interventions the RCN could/should make if worker's rights would be diminished by the negotiations.
15. We noted that the RCN had taken a neutral stance during the Scottish referendum and there were some useful lessons from the communications with members during the build up to the Scottish referendum.

TTIP update and next steps

16. We were updated on the RCN's work on TTIP and on progress since the previous meeting.
17. The Committee noted that there was an opportunity to lobby the UK Governments as the focus was now at Council level following discussions in the European Parliament
18. One potential risk is that RCN's position on TTIP will be conflated with its position on the EU referendum. We noted that the RCN position on TTIP was nuanced. We are not specifically against the trade deal but are against the inclusion of health services within TTIP.