



Royal College of Nursing
Shaping nursing since 1916

Council

Date of Meeting:	21 July 2016
Title of Paper:	Report Back from the International Committee
Appendices:	None
Presented by:	Professor Kath McCourt CBE, Chair
Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. The Committee met on 2 June 2016.

International Alliances and Relationships

2. The Committee received updates on the RCN's key international alliances and relationships with the following bodies:
 - Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation
 - European Nursing Student Association
 - European Oncology Nursing Society
 - International Council of Nurses
 - European Federation of Nurses Association

3. The Chair of the Cancer and Breast Care Forum provided an update on their work as a member of EONS and we confirmed our support for this work.

Work Programme

EU and International Recruitment

4. The Committee received an update on the RCN's work in relation to the EU and international recruitment and we discussed how to link this work with diaspora groups and networks.
5. We noted how data is collected to inform this work and identify trends. Links are also being developed with sister organisations.
6. We also asked for stronger links to be developed between this work and the professional offer across the RCN group.

EU Joint Action on Workforce Planning

7. We received an update on the final outputs of the EU joint action on workforce planning and noted that the Health Workforce Network between ministries and experts was likely to be continued in some form going forward.
8. The RCN will continue to work closely with organisations on the issues identified through the joint action, in particular with respect to the potential for development of a competencies/ training framework at EU level for HCAs.

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

9. We received a report on the seminar that had been co-hosted by RCN Wales and the MEP for Plaid Cymru. The seminar was designed to inform members and the wider health community of the potential impact of TTIP and to highlight the issues relating to the NHS.

International Volunteering and RCN Support

10. The work to better support UK based RCN members involved in international volunteering has got off to a strong start with a good level of engagement from members through social media.
11. We discussed the challenges faced by UK trained nurses working in different settings.

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12. The RCN will be signposting members to well established partner organisations including Voluntary Services Overseas and Medicins sans Frontiers as well as facilitating members to share information through the dedicated Facebook page and other social media.

RCN Congress 2016

13. We are pleased to see that there will be a significant amount of content on international issues on the debating floor and in the key note speeches. There will also be a number of guests from international groups.
14. The President and Director of Professional Affairs from the RCN's partner organisation Zambian Union of Nurses Organisation (ZUNO) are also attending part of Congress as part of a longer visit to the RCN to exchange learning on services offered by national nurses associations, member engagement and strengthening advocacy. The current project focussed on safer surgery, has trained over 140 members of the theatre team, raised the visibility of ZUNO and led to closer working with key national stakeholders, including medical associations.
15. The brochure on the RCN's international work has been updated to help brief members and Council on our activities.

Committee Membership

16. At our next meeting we will discuss a timeline and process for the review of our Committee membership. This will be informed by work to establish the skills mix of the existing Committee.

The Committee next meets on 11 October 2016.

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