



Dear all,

With today's edition of our Newsletter, we would like to inform you about the Serbian fundraising campaign, meanwhile awarded in the category of humanitarian projects at the WEBIT conference in Sofia, Bulgaria.

We invite you to learn more on our latest activities in Brussels especially on our recently launched *Call to Action for Newborn Health* and *Caring for tomorrow – EFCNI White Paper on Maternal and Newborn Health and Aftercare Services*.

The first ever celebrated World Prematurity Day was an incredible success – on 17 November the world really stood united for our smallest ones. We warmly thank you for your dedication, your outstanding support and for working so hard to realise all the fabulous events and activities which took place around the globe.

The team of EFCNI wishes you a wonderful Christmas season and a good, safe start into the new year 2012.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Silke Role". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chairwoman of the Executive Board  
EFCNI- European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants

## NEWS FROM THE COUNTRIES

### Serbia



#### THE BATTLE FOR THE BABIES B92 FUND CAMPAIGN

There is a battle with no heroic stories written about it. It is a battle where no medals are awarded. A battle where there is only one reward - life. This is the battle waged by the smallest and the youngest fighters the world has ever seen.



They are brave, they never cry, they never complain. They never give up the fight, till the final victory. They are our heroes. But this is not and should not be just their battle. This is the battle for all brave people. This is the battle for life. This is the battle for the babies!  
Join us in this battle! Help our heroes to victory!

[Interested to learn more? Please click here for the full text](#)

### Germany



#### NEONATOLOGIST RECEIVES MEDIA AWARD

Prof. Dr. Mario Rüdiger, Neonatology/Pediatric Intensive Medicine Department at the Carl Gustav Carus University Clinic in Dresden, received the media award “Goldene Henne”.

The award honours a model which has the aim to strengthen the bond between parents and their preterm babies already while in intensive care.

“Receiving this award was a surprise and encourages the whole team to continue our way” commented Prof. Dr. Rüdiger.

Currently, he discusses with insurance companies and other stakeholders the possibilities to transfer this model to other intensive care units.



## WELCOME ON BOARD

As of September 2011, two new colleagues joined EFCNI.

We are delighted to introduce Elke Hermann and Gabi Thies to you today:



### *Elke Hermann*

In her function as Business Unit Manager, Elke supports EFCNI's work in different projects and will extend the network and support for EFCNI's partner organisations.

After her economic studies with degrees in Germany and the US, she worked first for one of the Big Four audit & advisory companies supporting multinational clients and later on in the headquarters of a leading German manufacturer supervising its European subsidiaries.

Being a mother of a preterm born child herself and accompanying her child's physical, psychological and nutrition treatment, Elke knows about challenges of parents.

*"My international background as well as my wide experience in the care of a preterm child is the basis for my job at EFCNI. Although it is still a long way to go, there are already lots of things that could be immediately improved in the care for preterm infants and newborns with illnesses, like the better use of existing know-how by more information and training. I am deeply convinced of the work of EFCNI and therefore am excited to support the core team of EFCNI and last but not least the European national parents' organisations."*



### *Gabi Thies*

In her function as Commercial Assistant, Gabi supports the team in the day-to-day administration and project work. She has a degree in hotel management and business administration and has gained extensive professional experience within various globally operating companies.

*„I am very grateful for having two healthy children (born in 2002 and 2004). This is one of the reasons why I would like to contribute to EFCNI's vision and aims and do my bit to give preterm children the essential attention and support they need.“*



## ERS RESPIRATORY ROADMAP EVENT IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

*6 September 2011*

As announced in our last newsletter EFCNI – in cooperation with the European Respiratory Society (ERS) - aims to generate more awareness for the risk of chronic lung diseases which are one of the leading causes of death and suffering in the EU. Preterm infants are particularly prone to chronic lung diseases due their immature lungs and higher susceptibility to infections.

EFCNI very much appreciates ERS' growing focus on preterm infants, thus, EFCNI Chairwoman Silke Mader attended the launch event for the European Respiratory Roadmap which pinpoints specific and cost-effective measures to prevent and control lung diseases in the future:

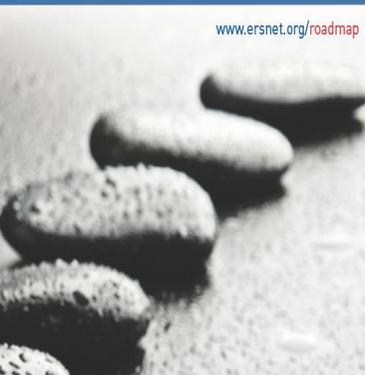
- The adoption of a specific EU Action Plan on chronic diseases including respiratory diseases;
- A significant increased investment in biomedical research and innovation;
- Accelerated implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;
- Strong actions on indoor and outdoor air pollution and climate change;
- Improving the accessibility to care for those with chronic respiratory diseases.

Please click here for more information on the European Respiratory Roadmap:

### ERS Press Release

"Is the EU looking to save €100 billion a year? Take action on lung diseases!"

[2011-09\RoadmapSummary.pdf](#)



Hosted by MEPs | Tuesday, 6 Sept. 2011  
Catherine STIHLER and | 12:30 - 14:30  
Marian-Jean MARINESCU | ROOM JAN 602



## INTEREST GROUP “MATERNAL AND NEONATAL HEALTH” MEETS MEDICAL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN PREMATURETY AND CHRONIC DISEASES

*21 September 2011*

### **EFCNI presents European challenges of preterm birth to Members of the European Parliament**

*The interest group on maternal and neonatal health, which was recently founded by Dr. Angelika Niebler and her parliamentary colleague and paediatrician Dr. Peter Liese, meets medical experts in the European Parliament*

“Preterm birth and chronic diseases – the unknown challenge” was the general theme of the interest group’s second meeting which brought renowned European medical experts and Members of the European Parliament together.

The healthcare experts presented detailed information on the impact of a preterm birth to the long-term development of preterm infants focusing on airway diseases, lung viability and the risk for chronic conditions. They also pointed out that healthy ageing starts at birth and the fact that low birth weight is one of the major causes of death worldwide.

The discussion showed the lack of public awareness and general information on preventing preterm birth as well as an inequality between Member States.

Eventually the members of the interest group agreed in the collection of respective data on differences among European countries and the importance of getting research funding to improve prevention, care and long-term outcomes of preterm births. The issues of chronic conditions and child friendly healthcare systems will also be topics to be considered in the near future.



### CALL TO ACTION FOR NEWBORN HEALTH / CARING FOR TOMORROW – EFCNI WHITE PAPER LAUNCHED IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 23 November 2011

In collaboration with the European Parliament's Interest Group on Maternal and Neonatal Health, EFCNI launched the *Call to Action for Newborn Health*, alongside *Caring for Tomorrow: EFCNI White Paper on Maternal and Newborn Health and Aftercare Services* in the European Parliament.



EFCNI, parents, health professionals and politicians from across Europe came together for the first time to demand concerted action to improve the care of preterm and newborn infants in the European Union.

They all call on European and national policy makers to address the growing health inequalities encountered by preterm infants and their families by:

- Making maternal and newborn health a top priority in public health programmes
- Establishing national plans for the care of preterm infants
- Engaging in large-scale public awareness campaigns on healthy pregnancy
- Agreeing harmonised and comparable data standards to assist with health outcome comparisons
- Investing in the necessary policies and practices to improve aftercare for families

**Our warmest thanks go to Dr. Angelika Niebler and Dr. Peter Liese, Members of the European Parliament, for kindly hosting the event.**

*“Caring for Tomorrow”* can be downloaded from the [EFCNI website](#). A last review and correction process is currently ongoing. The document will be final in January 2012 and will then be available as print version. We will provide a direct link to the final document in the next edition of the EFCNI Newsletter beginning of 2012.

*The whole project was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Abbott, Caring for Tomorrow was partially co-sponsored by Dräger, as well as Nestlé Nutrition, Chiesi and Getemed.*



[Call to Action for  
Newborn Health](#)



### **ene, mene, mini:**

#### **Give preterm infants your voice!**

Online voting for better treatment and care of preterm infants

<http://www.ene-mene-mini.eu>

## **WORLDWIDE, ONE BABY IN TEN IS BORN PREMATURE:**

Every year, about 13 million children are born too early - 500,000 in Europe alone. Thus, preterm babies meanwhile represent the largest child patient group and their number continues to grow.

**On the occasion of the first World Prematurity Day, the European campaign “ene, mene, mini” was introduced. Focus of the campaign is an online voting for better treatment and care of preterm infants.**

Alongside parents' organisations, healthcare professionals, academics, politicians and partners from all over Europe, we are campaigning for the tiniest members of our society. With the 10 points “Call to Action for Newborn Health” we call on policy makers and other stakeholders to ensure that each baby born in the European Union has the best possible start in life.

**Our warmest thanks to those of you who already gave their voice on “[www.ene-mene-mini.eu](http://www.ene-mene-mini.eu)”.**

If you have not yet done so, we would be grateful if you could give us your support and our preterm infants your voice. The European campaign "ene, mene, mini" will stay online for the next months. It will serve as an additional argument towards leading EU and national policy makers and other stakeholders for urgent action in the fields of maternal and newborn health as well as aftercare services.

*Read more on the different events and activities around this year's World Prematurity Day 2011 in our next Newsletter edition, beginning of 2012*



### 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL NIDCAP TRAINER'S MEETING IN CINCINNATI / USA *September 2011*

Since last year Silke Mader has represented parents of preterm infants in the Board of Directors of NIDCAP Federation International. In April 2011 she was elected as Chair of the parent committee. During the last trainer's meeting in Cincinnati in September 2011, she presented ideas to improve the situation of parents in the NICU and shared ideas to increase worldwide consciousness for these needs. The whole audience discussed possible ideas for activities on World Prematurity Day and the opportunity of using this special day to raise awareness for individualised developmental care.

Furthermore, the European colleagues discussed the challenge of languages to bring NIDCAP in all European countries and how they can implement NIDCAP in more and more European NICUs. The parent committee wants to publish more information about their needs on the website of NIDCAP Federation International in around six months. They also intend to develop more information material or videos for parents as you can find on our EFCNI website at: <http://www.efcni.org/index.php?id=891>

## Our Thanks

We are extremely grateful to the following for their generous support of our work and the prematurity issue:



# Dräger



*This online newsletter is issued by EFCNI- European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants  
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