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The Danish Association of
Midwives

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The Danish Association of Midwives wishes to thank the Commission for the opportunity to comment on Community Health Services.

We do not enter into commenting directly on the nine questions, but wish to underline the need to adhere to fundamental welfare principles on free and equal access to health services throughout Europe.

Access to midwifery services, regardless of country, is not at present a right guaranteed to every woman in Europe. In a number of countries women lack access to health promotion, prophylaxis, diagnostics and treatment on an evidence based appropriate technology level, provided by midwives trained to proficiency. Intervention with no background in evidence and medical specialist care for healthy women tend to counteract empowerment of women and may unbalance the delicate state of the newly formed family.

The lack of full implementation of the Directive 2005/36/EC on professional recognition, both as it concerns the training of midwives, as it concerns the midwives' access to practising midwifery according to the directive and as it concerns using midwives to their full potential, all these factors make it very clear to The Danish Association of Midwives that any future legislation on the mobility of services must draw into consideration the drawbacks on the actual situation as for reproductive health care.

There is a great potential for growth in this arena, which eventually will make it at the time reasonable, legitimate and profitable to all concerned parties to provide evidence based, high quality reproductive health care for every woman and child.

However the laws pertaining to free mobility of health care may develop, principles of easy access to free services, in reasonable proportion to the process of continuous assessment of risks in any specific pregnancy, childbirth and post partum period, should be secured.

Sincerely yours,

Lillian Bondo, RM,
President of the Danish Association of Midwives

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