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European Council of the Liberal Professions  
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**Answer to the Consultation regarding Community action on Health services.**

On behalf of

**EFPA - European Federation of Psychologists' Associations**

**CEPLIS - European Council of Liberal Professions**

Dear Sirs,

My name is Pierangelo Sardi, and I write here on behalf of **EFPA**, the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations. I am also the vice-president of **CEPLIS**, the European Council of the Liberal Professions. CEPLIS has a health-professions' working group.

In a meeting of this CEPLIS Working Group last December, we spoke about those patients who are particularly sheltered by the EU because they are suffering from "rare diseases", and subsequently risking inadequate health care.

This issue has been widely treated by the Commission's officer Mr Durazil at that meeting in Brussels. Together we envisaged a possible help of CEPLIS, and of its mono-professional member federations, in order to build up those "European networks of centres of reference" dealt in point 3.2.1 of the "Communication from the Commission on the Consultation regarding Community action on health services". Here it is reported: "3.2.1. *European networks of centres of references. Some types of health services require a particular concentration of resources or expertise, for example for rare diseases. Establishing European networking for such centres of reference would help to provide high-quality and cost-effective care, and would thus bring benefits to both patients and healthcare systems as well as helping to promote the highest possible quality of care...*"

This point 3.2.1 ends with the question n. 3 of the consultation's questionnaire: "which issues (e.g.: clinical oversight, financial responsibility) should be the responsibility of the authorities of which country? Are these different for the different kinds of cross-border healthcare described in section 2.2 above?"

EFPA's response to these problems is the following:

*Among rare diseases, needing a very specific support, EFPA highlights the psychological crisis following a wide traumatic disaster, overwhelming the usual capacity of response, not only of the individuals but also of the competent health service, and of the normally trained psychologists.*

*In order to prevent or reduce the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and to facilitate Resilience, any traumatised person, and especially children among them, should as soon as possible be supported by properly trained "Disasters and crises psychologists", properly selected after a controlled experience in propedeutic fields, like the psychological support in case of fatal diagnosis, traffic accidents, and similar traumatic events.*

*EFPA is presently involved in a EU Commission project, aimed to build up a network of colleagues apt to provide proper psychological aid to victims of eventual terrorist attacks. EFPA Standing Committee on Disaster and Crises Psychology, supported by the EFPA National Member Associations, may guarantee the clinical oversight, the personal recruitment, and the ethical control on the professional conduct of these "Disaster & Crisis psychologists" also for other kinds of disasters and crises.*

***A Public-Private Partnership (PPP) should be established between the EU Commission and the professional organisations (EFPA within the frame of CEPLIS) in order to guarantee the stand-by period, considering the impossibility to foresee which Member State(s), and how many of them, will need this kind of assistance.***

***When the assistance will be effectively provided, the interested Member State(s) should apply a previously prepared agreement, sharing the costs of the intervention and guaranteeing the legal certainty.***

***Following the procedure "better law making", a specific set of ethic rules should shelter the particular weakness of this kind of users and the specific needs of this kind of intervention, which must be carefully separated from the investigation about the responsibilities of the disaster: any invasion and any simple mixture of this kind from the legal circuit would waste not only the single aid, but could also jeopardise this professional activity as a whole.***

***A set of these rules is going to be presented by EFPA to the CoE."***

Best regards,

Pierangelo Sardi  
Member of the Executive Council of EPFA  
Vice President of CEPLIS

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