



Monday 10th September 2012

Oral statement in response to Health 2020: a European Policy Framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being.

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) and the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC) representing occupational therapists internationally and within Europe welcome the Policy Framework Health 2020. The values, concepts and language used throughout the document are congruent with those embraced by the occupational therapy profession.

Occupational therapists are experts in promoting health and well-being through the use of purposeful and meaningful occupations; in occupational therapy, occupations refer to everyday activities that people need to, want to and are expected to do in order to bring purpose and meaning to life. As a profession we recognise the need for evidence based practice and have occupation based outcome measures related to health and well-being.

The occupational therapy profession commends the WHO's commitment to tackle health inequities and ensure that all people have equal access to improve and maintain health. As reflected in the World Federation of Occupational Therapists Position Statement on Human Rights (WFOT, 2006; available at <http://www.wfot.org/ResourceCentre>) the occupational therapy profession promotes and facilitates people's right to participate in a range of occupations that enable them to flourish to their full potential and experience satisfaction in a way that is consistent with their culture and beliefs.

The occupational therapy profession can participate in multi-sectoral initiatives contributing to a broad view of health care, social services and environmental

priorities. The WFOT and COTEC member network includes many specialists such as practitioners, researchers, and educators who can be resources for the work envisaged through the policy framework, Health 2020. Occupational therapy is framed by a client-centred approach which crosses institution and community boundaries with our knowledge base, integrating medical, social, psychological and environmental domains. We believe this is what is needed to have a vision of holistic system, policy and programme development which mirrors the Health 2020 need for better co-ordination and integration of a societal and governmental approach.

The WFOT and COTEC work with their member organizations and welcome the opportunity to being an engaged and active partner in the dissemination and implementation of this policy framework over the coming years.

This statement is delivered on behalf of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists and the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries by Samantha Shann, Vice President Finance WFOT and Maria Daniela Farrugia, COTEC Treasurer.