

**BTTI** is a member of **FICTA** and by association a member of **EFCAM**. Below is an explanation of FICTA and EFCAM with a summary of their relevance to **BTTI** and why it is important for **BTTI** to support **FICTA** and **EFCAM**.

Currently **BTTI** pays annual membership fees to **FICTA**. In addition, **BTTI** members can contribute an additional fee of Euro 5.00, which goes to **FICTA** to support **EFCAM** lobbying activities at the EU parliament on behalf of CAM (Complimentary Alternative Medicine). Currently EFCAM is lobbying the European Commission, MEPs and other appropriate bodies to have the practice of CAM recognised in all EU states as practiced by suitably qualified providers, and to allow such providers to practice legally in any EU state. This activity is in reaction to an emerging trend where some EU countries have restricted the practice of certain CAM services to medical doctors.

**FICTA** - <http://www.ficta.com>

**FICTA** (Federation of Irish Complementary Therapy Associations) champions the common interests of complementary therapists and alternative medicine practitioners. The Federation provides a neutral platform in which its members meet to discuss issues of common interest or concern to the Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) sector in Ireland. FICTA is a member of Member of EFCAM

The FICTA **mission** is to contribute significantly to the maintenance of 'best practice' standards; enhancement of the quality of complementary therapy education and training programmes at all levels; and to act as the driving force for the inclusion of complementary therapies and alternative/traditional medicines (CAM) in healthcare service provision in Ireland.

### The purpose of FICTA is:

- To represent its members at national and European levels, especially in the political decision-making processes and in co-operation with relevant stakeholder organisations; (principally through **EFCAM**)
- To function as a think tank for developing education programmes and suitable quality assurance processes and assessment systems;
- To function as a communication platform for sharing and disseminating information among members and relevant stakeholders.

**EFCAM** - <http://www.efcam.eu>

**EFCAM** (European Federation for Complimentary and Alternative Medicine

Mission "Promoting Equality of Access to Holistic Healthcare in Europe"

EFCAM supports the right of citizens to make the healthcare choices that they consider best for each individual and family. CAM professionals offer a range of practices for maintaining health, preventing illness and providing more personally and financially sustainable treatment for many common illnesses.

**EFCAM** unites European Federations of specific CAM modalities such as BTTI and national CAM Associations of multi modalities. Its principal objectives are to gain equality of access for citizens to CAM across Europe, and, to gain the right of all appropriately trained providers of CAM to practice.

What **EFCAM** is trying to achieve, over the term of the present EU Parliament is:

- (a) Assure the rights of CAM users to access to CAM services provided by professionally trained providers
- (b) Assure the right of therapy specific providers to work legally
- (c) Assure internal market rights for such providers (cross border rights)
- (d) Promote, through regulation based on the nature and range of application of specific CAM services, the safety, quality and effectiveness of CAM to citizens
- (e) Promote the allocation of research funds to projects developed and designed with stakeholder collaboration
- (f) Explain how CAM could be integrated into national health services