

Brussels, 20 February 2012

## Very Important information for EPF Members and Applicant Members

### EPF Annual General Meeting and Spring Seminar on EPF strategy and planning for the future

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the EPF Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the EPF Spring Seminar that will take place in Brussels on 18-19 April 2012.

As we approach the end of our original strategic plan, the Spring Seminar will be the occasion to work with you, through analysis and debate to develop a new strategic plan covering the period 2014-2020, in line with the next EU Programming period.

The seminar will review what has been accomplished in recent years in relation to the strategic goals established in 2007, as well as to identify new challenges at a time when Europe and public health services are conditioned by a wide-scale economic crisis. It will be an opportunity to share your experiences and views and reflect on the organisation's development (its growth, its priorities, its relationship with different partners).

During the seminar, EPF members will be called upon to participate actively in the establishment of a new framework that will provide the direction of EPF's goals and objectives for the next years.

I would be grateful if each delegate could complete the [on-line registration](#) for these meetings as soon as possible and by 20 March at the latest. Your registration will be confirmed after that date. Please wait for the confirmation before booking your travel.

Background documentation and preparatory materials for the AGM and the Strategic Planning Seminar will be sent in due course.

All EPF members will be invited to nominate **two representatives** to both events.

In line with the decision taken at the last AGM and its [Youth Strategy](#), EPF strongly encourages its members **to register a young patient representative as a second delegate** who fulfils the eligibility criteria identified for the EPF Youth Group (see below).

#### **You have already nominated a young representative for the EPF Youth Group?**

If your organisation has already nominated a young representative member of the Youth Group, this person will be your second delegate.

Should the youth delegate be not available to come, a replacement of the young representative who fulfils the eligibility criteria for the Youth Group can be appointed. Should that be the case, EPF shall be notified in advance.

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The EPF secretariat is moving offices at the start of March.

**NEW!** The new EPF secretariat address is:  
**Rue du commerce, 31 – 1000 Brussels**

### **You have not yet nominated a young representative? Why should you do so?**

Coming to our AGM with a young delegate will give your organisation the opportunity to have a representative in the EPF Youth Group. The EPF Youth Group is the backbone of the EPF Youth Strategy. The group is currently made up of 11 young patient representatives and plays an important role in the implementation of the EPF Youth Strategy.

In order to be eligible, a young delegate shall:

- be a patient
- be between 15 and 25 years of age
- be member of a patient organisation which is member of EPF or a member of an EPF member
- have a working knowledge of English
- be available to attend 1-2 physical meetings every year and quarterly teleconferences
- show strong motivation and willingness to become a patient advocate and take a proactive role in engaging with the local young patient community

EPF will reimburse travel and subsistence costs in line with its [reimbursement policy](#).

The current two year term of office for five of the Board members Philip Chircop, Avril Daly, Anders Olauson, Susanna Palkonen and Tomasz Szlagowski comes to an end and elections for the board will take place at the AGM.

You will recall that other board members, Vida Augustiniene, Marco Greco, Robert Johnstone and Maria Dolores Navarro were elected last year and are half way through their term of office.

If your organisation is a full member of EPF and wishes to nominate a member to the board, please complete and return the attached [nomination form](#) by 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Please note that applicant organisations to be endorsed at the Annual General Meeting that meet the criteria for full membership are also eligible to put forward a nomination.

I am looking forward to working with you again at our meetings on 18-19 April. Should you have any queries linked to the AGM and the Spring Seminar, please contact Véronique Tarasovici at [veronique.tarasovici@eu-patient.eu](mailto:veronique.tarasovici@eu-patient.eu)

Yours sincerely,



Anders Olauson  
EPF President



This invitation arises from the EPF 2012 Work Programme, which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme.

Disclaimer: The content of this invitation reflects only the author's views and the Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.