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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Listening to the collective voice of patients- EPF's Annual Meeting elects new board

Brussels, May 20 – Following the European Patients' Forum's Annual General Meeting, EPF announced the election of three new board members for a two year term. EPF members voted in Philip Chircop nominated by the Malta Health Network, Avril Daily, nominated by Retina Pigmentosa Europe and Tomasz Szelagowski, nominated by the Federation of Polish Patients.

EPF President Anders Olauson and Vice President Susanna Palkonen were re-elected to serve another two-year term and current board members, Vida Augustiniene, Guadalupe Morales, Maria D. Navarro, and Timo Nerko will continue their mandate.

Congratulating EPF's new board members, re-elected EPF President Anders Olauson said "this is an exciting time to join the EPF board and to be part of an organisation that plays a significant role in ensuring a collective voice on patient-centred high quality healthcare to all European citizens. We are delighted to see such strong and diverse representation on EPF's board".

EPF thanked warmly outgoing treasurer Mike O'Donovan and Panos Englezos board member who stepped down.

In addition to governance issues, the AGM reviewed the work of the recently set up EPF Policy Advisory Group and undertook a policy update on developments in the areas of Health Technology Assessment, eHealth, Clinical Trials, and our role with the European Medicines Agency. Important reflection took place on how to build on EPF's foundation and ensure patients' prominence in the next EU Programming period.

Also present at the meeting were high level representatives from DG SANCO, stepping in for Commissioner Dalli, who was in Strasbourg making the case for the Directive on Patients' Rights Cross Border Healthcare. In a personal message, Mr Dalli said that he fully recognises the important work of EPF representing the interests of over 150 million patients with chronic diseases across Europe, and those closest to them." If we want to develop policies to the benefit of patients, we have to listen to patients themselves'.

About EPF

EPF (European Patients' Forum) is a not-for-profit, independent organisation and umbrella representative body for patients' organisations throughout Europe. Representing the EU patient community, we advocate for patient-centred equitable healthcare and the accessibility and quality of that healthcare in Europe. www.eu-patient.eu