

Initial Planning for EU Presidencies 2018-2021

EPF works closely with successive EU Presidencies. In 2018-2021 we will aim to proactively involve our member patient organisations and other healthcare allies in the Member States concerned, helping to define health priorities in which the patient community can both contribute to and reap benefit from.

Bulgaria (First half of 2018)

EPF will work with our member patient organisations, the National Patients Organisation, Confederation of Health Protections, and Bulgarian Association for Patients Defence, to support the organisation of a national parliamentary meeting on Universal access to healthcare.

We will be an active partner in a Presidency conference following up the Vilnius Declaration and Riga Roadmap, with a major focus on HTA; this is likely to be held in April/May 2018.

Austria (second half of 2018)

Austria does not currently have a national patients' coalition, but EPF has outreach there through our EU-level disease specific member organisations. We will explore the patients' priority for this Presidency, likely in the framework of the foreseen Austrian priority of market regulatory failures and access to medicines following the Dutch EU Presidency conclusions, and/or on shortages of medicines which is particularly urgent in some Member States and where an EU response is needed. We will further look into the possibility of supporting a national meeting of Austrian patient groups in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Romania (first half of 2019)

EPF members in Romania is the Coalition of Patients' Organisations with Chronic Diseases (COPAC), and we will work closely with this organisation to agree a priority theme. This could be around the Bulgaria-Romania collaboration on medicines, or on shortages / cross-border exchange of medicines in short supply to ensure continuity of access.

Future trios will be **Finland – Croatia – Germany (2019-20)**, and **Portugal – Slovenia – France (2021-22)**. EPF will follow-up on the Valletta Declaration on cooperation on joint procurement (Cyprus, Spain, Malta, Italy, Greece & Portugal), and the recent agreement between Portugal and Spain regarding joint negotiations.

Generally, EPF will work with the Presidencies to advocate for the priority of health on the EU agenda, and on particular topics such as on eHealth, HTA, food and nutrition, and the new regulations on medical devices and data.