

Brussels, 4th December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to call your organisation to an EPF Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) 2021, which will take place online on the 23rd January 2021, prior approval of all EPF Full members. This meeting will provide you with the opportunity to vote on the change of the EPF Constitution, allowing EPF to hold its Annual General Meetings and vote online in case of need and by decision of the EPF board. This is considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as EPF's highest priority continues being the safety of its members and the European Patient Community.

You will also get the chance to share your experiences, views, and reflections on the ongoing health pandemic.

You can revise the proposed agenda for the event [here](#).

On the programme:

EPF Constitution Change Proposal regarding holding online AGMs

EPF holds its biggest annual membership event, the AGM, every year around April. During this event important updates are shared with the representatives of all EPF Members, and essential votes are held – such as on the applications of new membership organisations being accepted into the EPF family, as well as changes of Board Members within the Governance Structure.

In 2020, EPF held its first ever online AGM, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very grateful for the level of engagement and excitement that all our members showed during this event, ensuring its success despite the difficult circumstances.

However, since last April, legal rules within Belgium (EPF's country of registration) have changed. **Currently it is not lawful to hold online AGMs with live voting unless the organisation's Constitution explicitly allows it. This EGM would allow you, the EPF Members, to vote on whether you agree with such a Constitutional amendment.**

While we are not sure if 2021 would certainly require an online AGM yet, for the sake of the safety of our community, we would like to have that option. A positive EGM vote would allow this.

The Continuing Impact of COVID-19 - Members' Experiences, Views, and Needs – Discussion and Q&A

EPF invites all its members to share their experience and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on them as patients with chronic conditions, their communities and on patients' organisations. The recent EPF Survey on the COVID-19 impacts has been greatly illuminating in terms of our members' experiences and has impacted our policy and advocacy work.

A live discussion would be part of EPF's continued efforts to gather COVID 19-related experiences and insights from the patient community.

European Patients' Forum • Chaussée d'Etterbeek, 180 • 1040 Brussels • Belgium
Office Phone Number: +32 (0) 2 280 23 34 • Email: info@eu-patient.eu • www.eu-patient.eu

Profile of participants

Due to the scope of this meeting, please note that participation is specifically reserved to the organisations' high-level representatives.

Registration and Practical Information

Please register for the event by following [this link](#).

Note that only one representative per full member organisation will be able to vote during the EGM. I would be grateful if each delegate could complete the online registration form for this meeting as soon as possible and by the 20th of December 2020.

Should you have any queries linked to the EGM, please contact our Membership and Governance Officer, Desislava Ekzarova, at desislava.ekzarova@eu-patient.eu .

I look forward very much to seeing you at our meeting on the 23rd January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Marco Greco'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Marco' being more prominent than the last name 'Greco'.

Marco Greco

EPF President