

Brussels, 27 March 2014

## **Invitation to the EPF Annual General Meeting, Brussels, 12-13 May 2014**

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the **EPF Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will take place in Brussels on 12-13 May 2014.**

Following last year's meeting dedicated to the celebration of EPF's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, this Annual General Meeting marks the start of the effective implementation of our Strategic Plan 2014-2020.

This year again, the AGM will provide you with the opportunity to share your experiences and views and reflect on EPF's development and your role therein.

Our yearly meeting is also the one occasion in the year for all EPF members to meet, exchange, and to celebrate their being part in an umbrella organisation that drives patients' rights in Europe.

### **On the programme: European Elections, Healthcare Access and Quality, Patient Empowerment and Youth**

2014 is an Election Year! During the first day (12 May), we will explore the themes that play a central role in EPF's Campaign "Patients + Participation = Our Vote for a Healthier Europe".

Through parallel sessions, we will launch the first meetings of Healthcare Access and patient empowerment working groups which will form the backbone of our Strategy Plan 2014-2020 and will accompany us along the next years. For more information on these 2 working groups, please click on the working group' names:

- [Healthcare Access;](#)
- [Patient Empowerment;](#)

A third session "Understanding youth and strengthening the involvement of the Youth Group in EPF" will be organised. The objective is twofold:

1. To share the main outcomes of the EMPATHY project (Europe meets young patients) and enable discussions on how to take them forward in the framework of the new EPF strategic Plan;
2. To enable a discussion on how to strengthen the involvement of the EPF Youth Group within EPF and reinforce youth participation within EPF member organisations.

You can make your choice of working group in the registration form. We encourage you strongly to participate!

Besides, for the first time, a “Forum” will take place the topics of which will be chosen by the members. Do you wish to start a discussion with your peers on a particular topic? This is your opportunity to make the agenda. You may do so by suggesting a theme on the registration form. The themes that have been most often suggested will be selected for discussion during the Forum.

Our networking dinner will be preceded by a speech by one of the leading analysts of the European Parliament elections, with an opportunity for you to pose your questions.

The second day (13 May) will be dedicated to the business session. It will be an opportunity to learn about what has been achieved over the past year and to discuss and adopt the strategic priorities for the year to come. EPF members will be called upon to participate actively.

## Governance

The current two-year term of office for five of the Board members Philip Chircop, Avril Daly, Anders Olauson, Susanna Palkonen and Tomasz Szelagowski comes to an end and elections for the board will take place at the AGM. Avril Daly has informed us that she is standing down from her role in the EPF board, given her extensive responsibilities at national level. We would like to thank Avril for her fine contribution to our work over the last 4 years.

You will recall that other board members, Vida Augustiniene, Marco Greco, Robert Johnstone and Stanimir Hasurdjiev 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 22 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.

## Registrations and Practical Information

The draft agenda can be found by [clicking here](#).

I would be grateful if each delegate could complete the [on-line registration](#) for these meetings as soon as possible and by 20 April at the latest. Your registration will be confirmed after that date. Please wait for the confirmation before booking your travel as you will receive a link to EPF online travel agency. This way EPF will be directly invoiced.

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

All EPF members are invited to nominate one representative.

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

I am looking forward to working with you again at our meetings on 12-13 May. Should you have any queries linked to the AGM, please contact Véronique Tarasovici; [veronique.tarasovici@eu-patient.eu](mailto:veronique.tarasovici@eu-patient.eu).

Yours sincerely,



Anders Olauson  
EPF President