

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



// MARCH ISSUE

A WORD FROM EPF PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR

A warm welcome to the March issue of the EPF Newsletter!

We were extremely honoured that MEP Dagmar Roth-Behrendt (S&D, Germany) hosted our Election Campaign Exhibition at the European Parliament last week from 17 to 20 March 2014. We were able to bring our campaign to the heart of European democracy and talk to many MEPs about why this campaign is so important. Our warm thanks to the many of you who joined us at the Exhibition Reception on 19th March!

We are also delighted to share the testimonial of Emma Rogan from the MS society, who is featured in our Elections Campaign Video ([link](#)), and who provides her thoughts about what is at stakes for patients in this electoral period.



We are looking forward to our forthcoming Regional Cross-Border Healthcare Conference on 7-9 April 2014 in Athens, Greece ([link](#)). This will be a key opportunity to take stock of how Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Italy are implementing the EU Directive, through the eyes of patients' representatives, and based on the results of the first conference organised with their Belgian, Dutch, French and Luxembourg peers ([link](#)).

Key highlights of the last month include the joint open letter we wrote to Mr Barroso with the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) to express our views on the Europe 2020 Strategy.

We also brought the patients' perspective to landmark conferences such as "Health in Europe, making it fairer", the Careum Congress, the 2014 European Congress of Radiology and the 50th Anniversary of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Health Care (EDQM).

This month also marked the launch of the recruitment procedure for the European Patient Academy course scheduled to start this September.

We hope you enjoy reading more in this Newsletter

Warmest greetings,

Anders Olauson, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Director

CALL FOR TENDERS 2014
EXTERNAL EVALUATION

PATIENTS CAMPAIGN AT THE

WHAT PATIENTS EXPECT FROM

UPCOMING EVENTS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Our European Parliament Election Campaign Exhibition closed on 20 March 2014 on a positive note. We were able to bring our campaign to the heart of the European democracy as many Members of the European Parliament (MEP) and/or candidates for the next elections signed our Manifesto "Patient + Participation = Our Vote for a Healthier Europe".

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BALL IS IN COUNCIL'S COURT TO END HEALTH DISCRIMINATION



The multiple forms of health and other discrimination faced by patients with chronic diseases and vulnerable groups, as well as the political commitment needed to combat this, were the focus of 'Health in Europe, making it fairer' – a landmark conference organised on 18 March 2014 by DG SANCO in Brussels. Our Board Member Robert Johnstone represented EPF at the event.

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CAREUM CONGRESS: WHAT DO PATIENTS WANT FROM POLICY-MAKERS?

THE EU ELECTIONS?



EPF discussed with Emma Rogan, one of the -patients featured in our 2014 campaign video, about our 2014 European Elections Campaign. Emma lives daily with multiple sclerosis and offered us some valuable insights into the potential real-life impact EPF's campaign can have for patients.

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HEALTH ACTORS WRITE TO BARROSO PROPOSING STRONGER HEALTH DIMENSION



2014 will be a year of change for the EU with upcoming European parliamentary elections, the appointment of the new Commission and the new President of the European Council. At the same time, a new Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 goes into effect and this runs in parallel with the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy.

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A NEW MODEL FOR WORKING WITH MEDICAL SOCIETIES

29 to 31/03/2014 | [IAPO Global Patients Congress](#)

London, UK

The theme of the 6th Global Patients Congress is: Better access, better health: A patient-centred approach to universal health coverage. This event is the global event for patient leaders and others working to improve healthcare systems globally.

EPF speaker:
Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous

31/03/2014 | [EUPATI series of events](#)

Warsaw, Poland

On 31 March, the Executive Committee will meet to prepare the Annual General Assembly on the following day to be followed by two workshop days.

EPF speaker:
Liuska Sanna

01/04/2014 | [Coordinated/Integrated Health Services Delivery](#)

Brussels, Belgium

This WHO-Europe High-Level International Consultation will provide high-level representatives from stakeholders and Member States, policy-makers and international experts, the opportunity to discuss face-to-face the progress to date on developing the Framework for Action.

EPF speaker:
Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous

01/04/2014 | ['Hand in hand – fighting Alzheimer's disease and dementia together'](#)

Brussels, Belgium

The aim of the meeting is to discuss how the future European health policy can consider dementia as a priority.

EPF attendance:
Camille Bullot

02/04/2014 | [Access to Kidney Care & Transplantation in Europe](#)

Brussels, Belgium

The event will bring together medical and policy experts who will explore health inequalities across the EU with regards to renal care. The objective is to unveil the reasons underlying these inequalities and start to set up the path to mitigate them.

EPF attendance:
Camille Bullot

02 - 04/04/2014 | [14th International Conference on Integrated Care](#)

Brussels, Belgium

The International Foundation of Integrated Care (IFIC) is delighted to present the 14th International Conference on Integrated Care "Taking integrated care forward: people,



The Careum Congress 2014 took place on 17-18 March 2014 and provided a platform for over 300 participants from 22 countries to network and exchange ideas. Our Board Member Philip Chircop provided five key messages to answer the question "What do patients want from policy-makers?"

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WHAT IS TO BE A PATIENT TODAY IN EUROPE?



In 2014, the European Pharmacopoeia and its secretariat, provided by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Health Care (EDQM), celebrate 50 years. EPF took the occasion of this celebration to bring our patients' campaign for the 2014 EU Elections to the Council of Europe on 11 March 2014 in Strasbourg, France.

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EUPATI EXPERT TRAINING COURSE FOR PATIENTS



The 2014 European Congress of Radiology took place on 11 March in Vienna, Austria, and marked the first time that patient representatives were actively involved. Over the last year, EPF has developed a strong cooperation with the European Society of Radiology (ESR) and we are now chairing a newly - established advisory body within the Society, called the Patient Advisory Group on Medical Imaging, PAGMI.

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10TH ANNIVERSARY OF EUROPACOLON



Our Membership Officer Camille Bulloz attended the 10th anniversary celebration of our provisional member EuropaColon on 5 March 2014. The event was hosted by MEP Petru Luhan (EPP, Romania) with Health Commissioner Borg as special guest.

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policy and practice".

EPF speaker:
Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous

[03/04/2014 | Long-term Access to Quality Healthcare in Europe](#)

EPF is hosting a panel discussion on long-term access to quality healthcare in Europe. The event is a side event to the European Commission's Chronic Diseases Summit, and takes place immediately after day 1 of the Summit.

EPF speaker:
Stanimir Hasurdjiev

[03 - 04/04/2014 | Chronic Diseases Summit](#)

Brussels, Belgium

This first EU summit on chronic diseases will discuss medical, social and economic benefits of sustainable investments in health, ways to reduce the burden of chronic diseases, and how to strengthen the prevention and management of chronic diseases, with a focus on EU added value and action.

EPF speaker:
Robert Andrew Johnstone

[07 - 09/04/2014 | EPF Cross-Border Healthcare Regional Conference II](#)

Athens, Greece

Patient organisations' representatives from Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Malta will learn and share experiences about how the Directive works for patients and how they can contribute a strong patient's perspective. Further conferences will be organised in 2014 in other EU countries.

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington

[10 to 11/04/2014 | European Health Literacy Conference](#)

Aarhus, Denmark

The 2nd European Health Literacy Conference, organised by Aarhus University, Health Literacy Europe and the HLS-EU Consortium aims to promote health literate populations and societies by sharing evidence-based research on health literacy measurement, interventions and policies providing a platform for knowledge-exchange for professionals working in the field of health literacy in Europe.

[15/04/2014 | "Patient empowerment in healthcare – what role for European collaboration?"](#)

Brussels, Belgium

This is the first workshop of the EMPATHIE



The EUPATI Expert Training Course is a unique opportunity for patient advocates to receive expert-level training in medicines research and development, specifically tailored for them. The certificate course will be a mixture of online and face-to-face education modules over a 13-month period, beginning September 2014.

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project and consists in a stakeholder brainstorming workshop to share your experiences and opinions on possible future scenarios for European-level collaboration on patient empowerment.

EPF speaker:

Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous

24/04/2014 | [InterQuality Final Conference](#)

Brussels, Belgium

The InterQuality project "International Research on Quality in Healthcare" will hold its final conference to share the key findings from the project.

24/04/2014 | [How can we meet the needs for high quality, sustainable and affordable health care?](#)

Stockholm, Belgium

This WE CARE workshop will focus on how care can be carried out on a micro level to improve quality and at the same time contain costs.

EPF attendance:

Anders Olason

23 - 25/05/2014 | [2014 EU Elections](#)

Europe

Every five years European voters get the opportunity to have a say on what is important to them with the European Parliament Elections and new Commission. This year the EPF Campaign for the EU Elections is our chance to encourage politicians and policy-makers to commit to a healthier Europe where patients are part of the solution to make health systems more effective and quality-oriented. When we will cast our vote on 22-25 May 2014, we will be confident to vote for patients' friendly candidates who work towards achieving this ideal healthcare. In other words, working for a healthier Europe, as outlined in our Manifesto "Patients + Participation = Our Vote for a Healthier Europe"

20/09/2014 | [Save the date! European Unity Walk 2014 \(EUW 2014\)](#)

Luxembourg

This annual event is organised by our member, the European Parkinson's Disease Association (EPDA). The first ever European Unity Walk was held in 2012 and attended by more than 1,000 of the EPDA's friends and supporters from 25 countries across the world – including hundreds of people with Parkinson's and their family members. The success of this event has since inspired eight (and counting) national unity walks by EPDA members across Europe.

A STRONG PATIENTS' VOICE TO DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE

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