

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANDIDATES SUPPORT THE PATIENT'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE 2014 EU ELECTIONS

Brussels, 23 May 2014 – The European Patients' Forum (EPF) Elections Campaign entitled "*Patients + Participation = Our Vote for a Healthier Europe*" has gained the support of 52 MEPs, 45 of which are up for re-election, and 26 national candidates for the 2014 elections.

The campaign focuses on engaging us, the patients, collectively and proactively through our patients' organisations to increase patient empowerment, break down access barriers to high-quality healthcare, and help guide value-driven research and innovation. It also seeks to ensure that patients' rights find a place in the next Health Commissioner's portfolio.

Across political parties and member states, our campaign has generated much discussion between campaign signers:

"Creating a healthier Europe for all citizens remains a fundamental goal. It can be achieved through a combination of European and national policies. These policies must preserve the European social model by counteracting austerity-only policies that threaten national health budgets. At the same time, they must encourage Member States to use instruments at EU level such as the Health Programme and the Horizon 2020 so as to increase investments in research and innovation. I also want to engage patient organisations in the policy-making process through a transparent and comprehensive framework that will allow for better designed and more efficient health policies that adequately address current challenges." **S&D Candidate for the Commission Presidency Martin Schulz.**

"Patient safety must continue to be a high priority on the European political agenda. Healthcare is the cornerstone of a quality healthcare system as well as a fundamental right for European citizens." **MEP Oreste Rossi (EPP Candidate, Italy)**

"I support the European Patients' Forum Manifesto, « Patients + Participation = Our Vote for a Healthier Europe » as being a patient is difficult enough without lacking support and a voice on subjects that concern patients directly. Each patient must have access—without any discrimination whatsoever—to equitable and high-quality health and social services. The opinions and experience of chronic disease patients must become the key ideas in defining policies that are dedicated to them." **MEP Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE Candidate, France)**

"Patients are not passive individuals to whom things happen; they're active people. They are people who should be actively engaged within determining their own healthcare." **MEP Jean Lambert (G-EFA Candidate, UK) ([YouTube Link](#) to the full version video)**



Although the campaign's official hashtag (#patientsvote) trended on Twitter during the 15 May Presidential Debate, patients have yet to hear the presidential candidates' views on health and patients.

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More information

The campaign has been supported by EPF's **64 members** composed of European disease-specific organisations and national patients' coalitions from across the EU. Collectively, EPF represents the interests of 150+ million people living with chronic disease in Europe.

More information about the campaign is available at www.eu-patient.eu/whatwedo/EPFCampaign2014Elections/

The EPF Manifesto was deliberately kept very general so that patients' organisations could adapt the campaign to their unique needs and goals. Translations of the Manifesto in all 24 EU languages are available here: www.eu-patient.eu/library/Manifesto-all-languages/.

An official **campaign video** has also been released in 15 EU languages: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yAyEh-caOE.

A complete **list of supporters**, including MEPS, elections candidates and health stakeholders, can be found at <http://www.eu-patient.eu/whatwedo/EPFCampaign2014Elections/Who-support-us/>.

Campaign photos can be found on EPF's Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/121649528@N08/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanPatientsForum>) pages.

Follow EPF on Twitter at @eupatients and comment the campaign with #patientsvote.

The **European Patients' Forum (EPF)** was founded in 2003 to ensure that the patients' community drives policies and programmes that affect patients' lives to bring changes empowering them to be equal citizens in the EU. EPF currently represents 64 members, which are national coalitions of patients organisations and disease-specific patient organisations working at European level, and. EPF reflects the voice of an estimated 150 million patients affected by various chronic diseases throughout Europe.

EPF's vision for the future is that all patients with chronic and/or lifelong conditions in the EU have access to high quality, patient-centred equitable health and social care.

The EPF strategic goals focus on areas such as health literacy, healthcare design and delivery, patient involvement, patient empowerment, sustainable patients' organisations and non-discrimination.

www.eu-patient.eu