**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE 06.00 AM CEST, THURSDAY 28/04/16**

**a lot more to be done to clarify patients’ rights in europe – EPF review**

**BRUSSELS, 27 April 2016 – The European Patients’ Forum publishes a position statement on the implementation of the Directive on Patients’ Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare.**

After a series of regional and national workshops with local patient organisations, the European Patients’ Forum (EPF) prepared a report on the implementation of the Patients’ Rights in Cross-border Healthcare Directive. Gathering feedback from EPF members, the statement indicates a clear lack of information regarding the Directive.

An online survey conducted by EPF show that more than 70% of the respondents (2015 data) feel they have not received the necessary information regarding cross-border healthcare. These findings and the overall feedback received indicate that more needs to be done to ensure that European patients are well informed about their rights and to meaningfully involve patient organisations in monitoring the implementation of the Directive.

Commenting on the statement, EPF Secretary General Nicola Bedlington said “*the original purpose of the Directive was to clarify patients’ legal rights. However, as based on implementation to date, from the patient perspective this objective has not been achieved*”.

The position statement also elaborates on the key areas of the Directive identified by patients, which are patients’ rights, information to patients, equity of access, rare diseases patients, safety and quality of care and European collaboration. On all of these topics EPF, in collaboration with its members, shaped recommendations to address the current flaws in the implementation of the Directive.

This paper constitutes an important milestone of EPF’s long-standing focus on the Cross-border Healthcare Directive. We will continue to ensure monitoring at the European and national level with our members. Follow-up activities will take place in 2017 to review the progress achieved so far in the implementation of this important piece of legislation for patients’ rights in Europe.

The statement is available on [EPF website](http://www.eu-patient.eu/News/News/cross-border-healthcare--epf-paper-on-state-of-the-implementation/).

Further information on our work on [Cross-border Healthcare](http://www.eu-patient.eu/whatwedo/Policy/Patients-Mobility/).

* END -

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 67 members, which are national coalitions of patient 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](http://www.eu-patient.eu).

**Contact:**

Laurent Louette

Communications Officer

E laurent.louette@eu-patient.eu

T +32 (0)2 280 23 35

**More information**

[www.eu-patient.eu](http://www.eu-patient.eu)

[@eupatientsforum](https://twitter.com/eupatientsforum) | **#PatientsPrescribE**

[@EuropeanPatientsForum](https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanPatientsForum)