

EPILEPSY ALLIANCE EUROPE

Working to make epilepsy a healthcare priority in Europe

News from the Chairs



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55 MEPs join up to support people with epilepsy and those who care for them

Dear Friends

International Epilepsy Day in Europe provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate the event in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Our delegation held private meetings with 35 MEPs, each of whom demonstrated their interest in, and dedication to, supporting people living with epilepsy in Europe and in recognising also our objectives:

- To promote research into the epidemiology, causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of epilepsy and its comorbidities.
- To advance and disseminate awareness and knowledge concerning the epilepsies.
- To establish epilepsy as a healthcare priority in Europe.
- To protect the rights of people with epilepsy by fighting stigma, prejudice and unjustified life restrictions.

The event was hosted by the European Advocates for Epilepsy working group of MEPs. Brian Hayes MEP is President of the group and Nathalie Griesbeck MEP is Vice President.

Our presence in Strasbourg, with a poster exhibition telling the personal stories of people living with epilepsy, also encouraged more than 30 MEPs to join the Advocates group. This has increased the membership of the group to 55 MEPs and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each one for agreeing to be involved. A personal membership certificate has been sent to each of the members and we hope that they will be able to use it to show to their constituents that they recognise the need for improved services and care, and greater research, to ensure that people with epilepsy have the best possible quality of life.

We are hoping to increase memberships numbers even more and would be very pleased to hear from any MEPs interested in joining the group. The commitment is not onerous and the group meets no more than 2 or 3 times each year for short one-hour meetings. You can contact the office of Brian Hayes MEP to learn more.

One of our plans is for a Global Research Initiative, possibly involving the NIH in the US and a similar entity in Asia. The support of MEPs will be very important in this venture and already we have had an initial meeting in Brussels to consider how this could be done. But more on that in our next newsletter!

With best wishes

Athanasios Covanis and Philippe Ryvlin
Co-chairs, Epilepsy Alliance Europe Task Force

Members of the European MEP Advocates working group

Becker, Heinz - Austria
Bendtsen, Bendt - Denmark
Borrelli, David - Italy
Brannen, Paul - UK
Buşoi, Cristian-Silviu - Romania
Carthy, Matt - Ireland
Casa, David - Malta
Childers, Nessa - Ireland
Christoforou, Lefteris - Cyprus
Chrysogonos, Kostas - Greece
Clune, Deirdre - Ireland
Dalli, Miriam - Malta
Faria, José Inácio - Portugal
Fountoulis, Lampros - Greece
Gieseke, Jens - Germany
Griesbeck, Nathalie - France
Griffin, Theresa - UK
Guteland, Jytte - Sweden
Gyurk, Andras - Hungary
Harkin, Marian - Ireland
Hayes, Brian - Ireland
Hedh, Anna - Sweden
Jaakonsaari, Liisa - Finland
Jäättänen, Anneli - Finland
Kappel, Barbara - Austria
Kelly, Seán - Ireland
Kumpula-Natri, Miapetra - Finland
Kyllönen, Merja - Finland
La Via, Giovanni - Italy
Lambert, Jean - UK
Marinescu Marian-Jean - Romania
Mavrides, Costas - Cyprus
McGuinness, Mairead - Ireland
Metsola, Roberta - Malta
Papadakis, Demetris - Cyprus
Papadimoulis, Dimitrios - Greece
Pavel, Emilian - Romania
Peterle, Alojz - Slovenia
Pietikäinen, Sirpa - Finland
Poc, Pavel - Czech Republic
Riquet, Dominique - France
Rübig, Paul - Austria
Sakorafa, Sofia - Greece
Schaldemose, Christel - Denmark
Sehnalová, Olga - Czech Republic
Spyraki, Maria - Greece
Sylkikiotis, Neoklis - Cyprus
Synadinos, Eleftherios - Greece
Takkula Hannu - Finland
Tănăsescu, Claudiu Ciprian - Romania
Toia, Patrizia - Italy
Ward, Julie - UK
Zagorakis, Theodoros - Greece
Zdechovský, Tomáš - Czech Republic
Žitňanská, Jana - Slovakia

Epilepsy Alliance Europe



Epilepsy Alliance Europe Ltd is an initiative of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) and the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE)
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