

# 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)  
[EpilepsyAllianceEurope.org](http://EpilepsyAllianceEurope.org)