

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



// JUNE 2016 ISSUE



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND OUR SECRETARY GENERAL

Welcome to the June issue of the EPF newsletter.

In the light of the EU referendum in the UK, we would like to express our wholehearted support for our member organisations and allies in the UK. In these uncertain times, continued solidarity across the European Patient Movement is vital.

Our Patient Empowerment campaign has been running for more than a year now and to mark this anniversary, EPF organised a high-level roundtable at the European Parliament on the 22nd of June. We were delighted to see so many participants from various backgrounds, really acknowledging the importance of patient empowerment for the future of healthcare systems!

The meeting was co-hosted by MEPs Karin Kadenbach, (S&D, Austria), Andrey Kovatchev (EPP, Bulgaria) and Roberta Metsola (EPP, Malta) and gathered around 70 participants. The European Commission was represented by Commissioner Andriuskaitis (via video-message), DG SANTE Deputy Director General Martin Seychell, and Policy Officer Sevala Malkic, who all stressed the importance to see patients at the centre of healthcare decisions. You can read below a summary report of the meeting, and keep an eye on our social media channels and website for more pictures and quotes!

EPF was again represented in many events all over Europe, you will find reports of an International Conference on the Future of Health in Greece; of the Integrated Care Summit, and the eHealth week.

Two important activities with our members: the EPF Regional Advocacy Seminar took place in the Netherlands early June, featuring a very interactive roleplay by patients' representatives; while our Capacity Building Programme spreads its wings in Slovakia!

An important piece of legislation for patients and patient safety was adopted recently: Read our opinion on the provisions of the new medical devices regulation.

Finally, catch up with our blog with our interview with our new member Dystonia Europe; a report on the European Youth Event in Strasbourg and finally the video interview of Laurence, from the EPF Youth group!

Warmest greetings,

Marco Greco, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington,
EPF Secretary General

Handwritten signatures of Nicola Bedlington and Camille Bulot.



A COHERENT APPROACH ESSENTIAL TO MAKE EMPOWERMENT A REALITY



The closing event of the EPF campaign on empowerment took place on 22 June 2016, at the European Parliament in Brussels and delivered some strong political messages. It is now time for all stakeholders to work together towards a coherent EU strategy on Patient Empowerment.

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EXPERTS DISCUSSED FUTURE REFORMS OF HEALTHCARE IN GREECE



EPF Secretary General Nicola Bedlington participated in an international conference on the 17th of May in Athens discussing challenges and opportunities for the healthcare system in Greece.

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WATCH OUR PATIENT EMPOWERMENT CAMPAIGN VIDEO!

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/7/2016 | [CHES: The Sustainable Development Goal on health: Implications for the EU](#)

Brussels, Belgium

The Coalition for Health, Ethics and Society (CHES) aims to promote a multi-stakeholder dialogue between health and non-health practitioners on topical health issues. CHES events and publications pay particular attention to ethical aspects of health and issues regarding access, affordability and patient choice. This meeting will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals on health, and their implications for the EU.

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington

14/7/2016 | [EU Options for Improving Access to Medicines](#)

Brussels, Belgium

The aim of the workshop is to provide information and advice for MEPs on Access to Medicines as well as the future EU strategies to improve it. Access to affordable medicines is of utmost importance to improve the health of the population.

EPF attendance:
Camille Bulot

20/7/2016 | [EUPATI Workshop](#)

Berlin, Germany

The EUPATI Patients-Regulator-Industry Workshop will involve sharing how industry processes and implementation has changed to incorporate patients and advocates

INTEGRATED CARE CONFERENCE: PATIENTS AS CENTRAL PARTNERS



Kaisa Immonen from EPF Secretariat and Robert Johnstone, from the EPF board, both attended the International Conference on Integrated Care on 23-25 May 2016,

EPF REGIONAL ADVOCACY SEMINAR 2016: PATIENTS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



On 6-7 June 2016, 40 patient leaders from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands met in The Hague (NL) for the eighth edition of the EPF Regional Advocacy Seminar, held

in Barcelona. The conference is organised annually by the International Foundation of Integrated Care (IFIC).

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under the auspices of the Dutch Presidency.

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in medicines R&D processes and also discussions on patient involvement in EMA committees and regulatory authorities.

*EPF speaker:
Walter Atzori*

EHEALTH WEEK 2016: EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND PATIENTS"



MEDICAL DEVICES REGULATION NOW OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED



The Dutch Ministry of Health and the European Commission co-organised the eHealth week from 8 to 10 June 2016 in Amsterdam (NL). Laurène Souchet, EPF Policy Advisor, represented EPF as a keynote speaker in the plenary session.

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On 16 June the Medical Devices Regulation adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union has been published. EPF, which was involved in the consultation process since 2012, provides a patients' perspective on the resulting compromise.

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EPF CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME: SLOVAKIA



EPF are pleased to announce the imminent launch of the third phase of our Capacity Building Programme in Slovakia.

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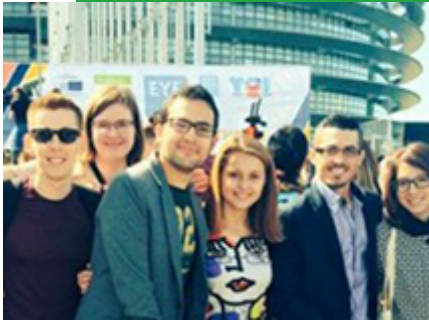
[BLOG] AN ENGLISHMAN IN BRUSSELS



For three months, Laurence Woollard, represented the EPF Youth Group within our Secretariat. Now that his time in Brussels comes to and, let's look in the mirror and ask him about his experience, in a video interview.

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(BLOG) 'YOUNG PATIENTS:
READY, BRILLIANT AND
ABLE TO WORK!'



[BLOG] 5 QUESTIONS TO...
DYSTONIA EUROPE



On Friday 20th May 2016, youth leaders from the EPF and European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP) co-hosted a workshop at the European Youth Event (EYE) in Strasbourg.

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Every month we put the spotlight on one of our members. Today, we are delighted to put Dystonia Europe to our now famous short questionnaire!

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**A STRONG PATIENTS' VOICE
TO DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE**

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