

# European Patients' Forum Newsletter

## A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



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//OCT 2017 ISSUE

**W**elcome to the latest issue of our Newsletter!

Registrations are now open for our **campaign on Access to Healthcare** meeting (06/12)! Places are going fast, don't delay! International experts, MEP Champions and the Health and Food Safety Commissioner Andriukaitis have already confirmed their participation. The meeting will be the opportunity to present the **Roadmap** to Universal Health Coverage by 2030, the main outcome of the campaign, proposing avenues to achieve this ambitious goal.

In the meantime, read the **interview of MEP Katerina Konečná** on why she decided to champion the campaign area on a holistic approach towards healthcare systems. **#Access2030**

Achieving Universal Health Coverage requires the contribution of the entire civil society. This is why EPF is proud to be elected member of **SDG Watch Europe**, a coalition of civil society organisations, working together on sustainable development goals.

Once again, key meetings to report this month: the **European Medicines Agency** Patient and Consumer Working Party meeting on antimicrobial resistance, and the 20th anniversary of the **European Health Forum Gastein**, focusing on the future of health in all politics.

On the 16th of October, EPF organised its first **National Coalitions meeting**, gathering 30 representatives of national coalitions of patient organisations, to exchange best practices and discuss the benefits of setting up such important structures for European patients.

The **European Health Parliament** officially kicked-off its 3rd round! This initiative aims to bring together young health advocates to brainstorm and define future priorities of EU public health. EPF is very proud to join as an official partner, representing patients in this multi-disciplinary enterprise.

On the occasion of **World Mental Health Day**, our member Mental Health Europe organised a roundtable at the European Parliament, debating the importance of mental health at the workplace, and its consequences for patients and society in general.

This month our **Blog** hosts the opinion editorial of **Professor Ian Graham**, from Dublin, on the new healthcare plan for **Ireland**, and its potential roadblocks. And do not miss the report of the recent Fall Meeting of the **EPF Youth Group**, where **Andreas Christodoulou** was elected as new President!

Finally, a warm welcome to our new colleague **Ruth Tchapanian** as EPF Office Coordinator!

Happy reading

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



**TAKING ACTION: A ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL BY 2030**

**EPF JOINS SDG WATCH EUROPE AS A MEMBER!**

**[SEE OUR VIDEOS ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE](#)**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**04-08/11/2017** | [ISPOR 20th Annual European Congress](#)

**Glasgow**

EPF speaker  
Nicola Bedlington



In the context of our 2017 Campaign on Universal Health Coverage, EPF is currently in the process of developing a Roadmap Towards Achieving Universal Health Coverage for All by 2030. This Roadmap is a key milestone and deliverable of our campaign.

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EPF is pleased to announce that we have become a member of SDG Watch Europe! SDG Watch Europe is an EU-level, cross-sectoral civil society organisation alliance of over 100 NGOs from development, environment, social, human rights and other sectors. Its goal is to hold governments to account for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

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**08-10/11/2017** | [OECD PROMs workshop & HCQI experts group](#)

**Paris**

*EPF attendance*  
Kaisa Immonen

**14/11/2017** | [EMA/DIA Pharmacovigilance info day](#)

**London**

*EPF attendance*  
Kaisa Immonen

**15/11/2017** | [European Antibiotic Awareness Day](#)

**Brussels**

*EPF attendance*  
Kaisa Immonen

**21-22/11/2017** | [EMA training & plenary with eligible organisations](#)

**London**

*EPF attendance*  
Kaisa Immonen

**23/11/2017** | [SDG Watch Europe plenary meeting](#)

**Brussels**

*EPF attendance*  
Katie Gallagher

**29-30/11/2017** | [EAPM Conference on personalised medicine](#)

**Belfast**

*EPF attendance:*  
Kaisa Immonen

**MEP KONEČNÁ: 'WE NEED A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT IN THE WAY HEALTH SERVICES ARE FUNDED, MANAGED AND DELIVERED'**



MEP Katerina Konečná (GUE/NGL, Czech Republic) is one of the 5 champion MEPs of the EPF Campaign on Access to Healthcare. A member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety at the European Parliament, Mrs Konečná supports the campaign workstream on holistic approach to healthcare.

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**EMA FOCUSES ON ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE: A FUTURE GLOBAL THREAT?**



The September meeting of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) Patient and Consumer Working Party (PCWP) focused on a topic that is becoming an urgent public health concern: antimicrobial resistance. An information session on AMR was held on 19 September, jointly with the Healthcare Professionals Working Party (HCPWP)..

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**EUROPEAN HEALTH FORUM GASTEIN 2017: A BETTER FUTURE FOR PATIENTS?**



For its 20th anniversary, the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) focused on "Health in All Politics - a better future for Europe". EPF was invited to present the patients' perspective on numerous key topics, advocating for health literacy and

**EPF NATIONAL COALITIONS MEETING: DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, SIMILAR GOALS**



On 16-17 October, more than 30 representatives of national patient coalitions from 28 countries across Europe gathered together in Brussels for the first EPF National Coalitions Meeting. The aim was to grow synergies between national coalitions and to

equitable access to medicines.

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EUROPEAN HEALTH PARLIAMENT:  
MEET HEALTHCARE'S NEW YOUNG  
HEROES



The third edition of the European Health Parliament (EHP), an initiative bringing together young experts in healthcare, was officially launched on the 17/10 in Brussels. The programme gives young Europeans the opportunity to present their priorities on the upcoming challenges for healthcare in Europe.

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BLOG: WHAT PLACE FOR  
HEALTHCARE IN IRELAND? ARE  
THERE IMPLICATIONS FOR  
EUROPE?



May 2017 marked a landmark in Irish healthcare planning. Under the leadership of Parliamentarian Roisin Shortall, the report of the Houses of the Oireachtas (National Parliament) was published and signed up by all political parties. Professor Ian Graham warns against the many barriers towards its proper implementation.

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WARM WELCOME TO RUTH: EPF  
OFFICE COORDINATOR!

learn how to advocate effectively at all levels,  
for better outcomes for patients in Europe.

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BLOG: WORLD MENTAL HEALTH  
DAY: WELLBEING AT WORK IS AN  
ASSET



"Mental health at work should be considered as an asset". That was the key message sent by experts on World Mental Health Day (11/10). A better dialogue between employees and organisations, implementation of existing guidelines, and a reduction in stigma around mental health in the workplace can make that happen.

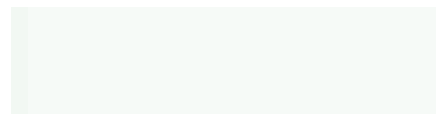
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EPF YOUTH GROUP FALL MEETING  
- DRAWING PRIORITIES AND  
FUTURE ACTIONS



The EPF Youth Group fall meeting took place early October in Leuven, Belgium, for three days of brainstorming on future projects and strategic objectives. The meeting also saw the election of a new Board and President, opening a whole new chapter in the group's life!

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Let's all welcome the new addition to EPF's Secretariat! As of October 2017, Ruth Tchapanian is our new Office Coordinator! She is in charge of office management, information management and management support, including the handling of the Secretary General's agenda and travel.

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

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