

MEPs Interest Group “European Patients’ Rights and Cross-border Healthcare”

Civic society and patients’ organizations together with Members of the EU Parliament to strengthen the protection of patients’ rights in the European framework

Dear MEPs,

It is a pleasure to invite you to be part of the new Interest Group on “European Patients’ Rights and Cross-border Healthcare”. The idea is linked to the widespread request of more than 100 civic and patient organizations¹ sent to the EU Parliament to recognize officially the value of citizens’ initiatives, such as the European Charter of Patients’ Rights² and the European Patients’ Rights Day. A request launched last May 2015 at the European Parliament during the IX Edition of the European Patients’ Rights Day, and already included in the “Report on safer healthcare in Europe: improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance (2014/2207(INI))”, approved unanimously on the 16th April 2015 by the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee first, and then in plenary by the European Parliament on the 19th May 2015.

We, the undersigned, have decided to support the new EP Interest Group because we believe that the new European Parliament has the opportunity to play an active role in order to improve the protection of patients’ rights in the European framework.

Across Europe, the sustainability of healthcare systems is a common good to be safeguarded. The new MEPs Interest Group could represent an effective message of the European Institutions’ commitment that any action towards a sustainable healthcare system should be done by putting patients’ rights at the forefront.

With the involvement of civic and patient organizations we can improve the contribution to the European Institutions’ activities in the field of patients’ rights, promoting initiatives to implement the benefits of being a patient in the European Union³.

Overcoming the difference among the political groups, all together we can reinforce among citizens the feeling of European citizenship.

The hope is that this European Parliament will be remembered for its commitment on patients’ rights!

Read more on the objectives of the Interest Group in the attached document.

To be part of this important Group please contact the Secretariat of the Interest Group that is led by the Representative office to the EU of Active Citizenship Network (the platform of more than 100 civic and patient organizations deeply involved in the field of patients rights and promoter of the European Charter of Patients’ Rights in 2002 and the European Patients’ Rights Day from 2007⁴).

¹ <http://www.activecitizenship.net/primo-piano/173-support-the-european-patients-rights-day.html>

² http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/co_operation/mobility/docs/health_services_co108_en.pdf

³ http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/docs/2015_eu_patients_factsheet_en.pdf

⁴ <http://www.activecitizenship.net/patients-rights/projects/155-european-patients-rights-days-what-has-been-done.html>

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Sincerely,

Gianni Pittella

Chair of the Group of the
Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats



David Borrelli

Co-Chair of the Europe of Freedom
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