



XIII EUROPEAN PATIENTS' RIGHTS DAY 2019

Delivering patient value throughout the healthcare system

“A Debate on citizens' expectations”

April 9th, 2019 (12:30 - 15:00) - EU Parliament, Brussels

Final Remarks

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Key messages and recommendations:

- After the European election, we will focus on the sustainable development goals, in particular on goal n. 3 “Health and Well-being”, and we will continue to advocate on and influence political priorities and to increase the cooperation among the EU Institutions and citizens & patient organizations.
- At the same time, we are aware that the post-2020 political context could be characterized by less or no meaningful EU action on health. This is not what we want. Citizens and patients are political actors that are aware of the benefit of having a strong, harmonized European health policy.
- We hope that, in the future, the institutions will continue to recognize the contribution provided by citizens organization and patients’ advocacy groups to health policies and value their role.



Follow up and possible next step:

1. To produce a **position paper**, with the contribution and the endorsement of the national partners of ACN, to be sent and presented to the new Members of the EU Parliament and the EU Commission.
2. To **follow MEPs activities inside the EU Parliament**. Our commitment will be to monitor the activities of their parliamentary groups in order to guarantee a **high-level priority for healthcare issues**.
3. To encourage the new EU Parliament **to provide continuity promoting a new MEPs Interest Group on patients' rights** following to the successful experience of [MEPs Interest Group "European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare"](#), encouraged and supported by ACN since 2015 after the widespread request of almost [100 civic and patient organizations](#) across Europe to officially recognize the value of citizens' initiatives, such as the [European Charter of Patients' Rights](#), and the [European Patients' Rights Day](#), which has been organized every year at the local, national and EU level since 2007. The MEPs Interest Group "European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare" has witnessed the direct involvement of 26 MEPs coming from 10 EU Member States and 5 European parliamentary groups, which have supported the organization of 11 different initiatives at the European Parliament, dealing with cross-border healthcare & medical travel, chronic pain & migraine, life-course vaccination, access to innovation, patient safety, healthcare associated infections & antimicrobial resistance.
4. To organize **training initiatives** focused on the main challenges in the health sector in the EU and **addressed to the leaders of patient and civic associations** all over Europe.



5. To organize a European **dialogue with the new MEPs**. With specific reference to the issue of health and well-being, Active Citizenship Network intends to promote a cycle of institutional seminars at the European Parliament targeting the new MEPs and their staff. Both the members of the new Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee and those who will be involved in other relevant parliamentary committees will be invited to the seminars. The initiative will receive the significant contribution of several experts (scholars, [members of the Expert Panel / scientists appointed by the Director-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission](#), etc.), and it will contribute to improving the level of knowledge of those main themes that specifically deal with the health and well-being of European citizens. The aim is to:
- a. provide MEPs with both scientific and civic perspectives leading them to take proper future political decisions;
 - b. open a constructive dialogue with due regard to the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders involved in healthcare issues;
 - c. present the activity and the impact of civic associations, patient advocacy groups and NGOs to the institutions in order to avoid any inaccurate evaluation which disregards the activism of thousands of European citizens constantly committed to the protection of public health as an ultimate common good.



- Finally, please let me remember that this conference was realized with the support of MDS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Copma, Kyowa Kirin and UCB, which I want to thank.
- At the same time, please let me thank the staff of ACN (Daniela, Bianca, Manuela, Elisa) and our communication office.
- We will soon send out our newsletter, comprehensive of all the documents and output of this meeting.
- We hope to see you all tomorrow here at the EU Parliament for the second day of the thirteenth Edition of the European Patients' Rights Day to discuss on Digital Health and Personalized Medicine. The appointment is tomorrow at 10.00 am - Room PHS 7c050.
- Thanks again. See you tomorrow and have a nice day.