

***Promoting civic information to better address the collateral damage of COVID-19
on cardiovascular disease across Europe***

29 September 2021

11.30 to 13.00 CEST

FINAL REMARKS

By Mariano Votta

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Please let me provide in one minute our engagement and next steps on the topic to commit to in the second part of the year.

Follow up and possible next steps:

1. At the political level, we very much appreciate the initiative that was launched two days ago, the “European Alliance for Cardiovascular Health” with the aim to raise awareness on the burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and call for action from European decision-makers. At the same time, we hope to open a dialogue with the leading expert organisations in order to involve PAGs across Europe, thus ensuring greater involvement while avoiding the typical limitations of a Brussels-based initiative.
2. In the meantime, as anticipated in our last [monthly newsletter](#) – totally devoted to our commitment on CVDs prevention at the EU level – next 29 Oct. 2021, in occasion of the World Stroke Day, we’ll realize a EU training seminar in the framework of our new EU project called: “EU PAGs & citizens together in the fight against stroke”. The event is addressed primarily to the leaders of civic and patient associations and participation is free, so you are all obviously invited to attend. We will send you now in the chat links to know more about the event and to register for it.
3. The difficulty of access to care for CVDs patients was also mentioned today. The same could have been said for other chronic disease patients. This is why in October we will start a European-wide survey on the topic of therapeutic adherence, addressed to civic & patients organizations advocating for chronic disease patients.
4. On the same subject and with the aim of helping to promote a culture that leads from therapeutic adherence to an effective therapeutic alliance, we are working on a massive communication campaign together with many other associations.
5. I would also like to take this opportunity to suggest you to participate in an upcoming European event “AFib-Related and CVD-Related Stroke: Public Policy Recommendations for a Changing Environment’, which will take place on Thursday 14 October from 15.00 – 16.30 CEST.

Finally, as always, I have my list of acknowledgements.

- Please let me thank our media partners: the peer-reviewed, open-access journal “Clinical Cardiology Updates” (CCU), and the valuable platform to the health sector Health Europa.
- I would also like to remind you that this conference was kindly supported by the MEPs Interest Group "European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare", which today was represented by MEP Kateřina Konečná (Czechia) from the Left Group, that I want to thank again.
- Please let me also thank Bayer for supporting our multi annual project “Increasing consciousness and access to treatment, reducing the burden of cardiovascular diseases across Europe”, aimed at increasing the awareness of a growing number of patients’ rights associations on the importance of the prevention and management of CVDs pathologies.
- At the same time, please let me thank all the panelists, starting from the representative of the EU Commission, and once again our moderator Jacqueline Bowman-Busato.
- As always, thank you to the staff of Active Citizenship Network (Daniela, Bianca, Maira, Elisa) and to our communication office.

I hope to meet you virtually next 29 of October in occasion of our next initiative. In the meantime, stay safe.

Thank you all again and goodbye from Rome.