

## ***"Stroke prevention & life after stroke, during the pandemic".***

29 October 2021

11.00 to 13.00 CEST

### **FINAL REMARKS**

By Mariano Votta

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Please let me provide in two minutes our direct and indirect engagement and next steps to commit to in the coming months:

#### **Follow up and possible next steps:**

1. At the political level, we very much appreciate the initiative that was launched last September, 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, especially thanks to SAFE-Stroke Alliance for Europe, 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. 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 next week we will launch our European-wide survey on the topic of therapeutic adherence, addressed to civic & patients organizations advocating for chronic disease patients. The aim is to better contribute – starting from citizens’ and patients’ perspective – on understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the therapeutic plans for chronic patients. The ultimate goal is to enhance the actions and reactions implemented by PAGs and relevant stakeholders in front of the community of experts and institutions. You can find the link to the survey in the chat, please fill it and disseminate it, we thank you in advance for your support.
3. 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. It will be launch within this November.
4. A few days ago, while interacting with an eminent expert, he remembered to me that - although managing the recurrent waves of the COVID-19 pandemic draws the most attention for healthcare authorities - they should also prepare for the future evolution of the cardiovascular pandemic and take measures to provide thrombectomy for a more significant proportion of people experiencing a stroke. In addition to stimulating the implementation of regional stroke networks around a central 24 hours/7 days active interventional stroke center, authorities should

also train sufficient operators and invest in further research to improve the pharmacological and interventional treatment of stroke. I think that thanks to the National Recovery Plans, each Member State has a great opportunity to guarantee more resilient Health Care Systems in the coming years, including a great chance to better address the unmet needs of CVDs patients. At the same time, we need to encourage a larger involvement of all Healthcare stakeholders to co-define priority and full implementation. I hope this common field of action will encourage to join efforts across Europe. Our next European Patients' Rights Day, next 21 and 22 April, will be focused on it. Please take note in your agenda.

In the coming days, you will receive more details and the invitations to all the above-mentioned initiatives thanks our monthly newsletter and social media channels.

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

- I would like to remind you that this seminar has been realized in the framework of our EU project "EU PAGs & citizens together in the fight against stroke" realized thanks to the unconditional support of Bristol Myers Squibb-Pfizer Alliance that I want to thank for their support.
- At the same time, please let me thank all the panelists, and once again our moderator Daniela. Together with her, as always, let me thank all the staff of Active Citizenship Network (Bianca, Maira, Elisa) and our communication office.
- Let me thank particularly all the leaders of the associations that have endorsed with a statement our EU social media awareness campaign "Knowing your patients' rights and come back to cure": thanks to Penilla from FOKUS Patient, Marissa from Heart Failure Policy Network, Dr. Chiveri from Casa di Cura del Policlinico, Dr. Vrints from Antwerp University Hospital, Irene from the National Patients' Organisation of Malta, Penka from the Bulgarian Association of Patients with Cardiovascular Diseases, Plamen from the Bulgarian Association for Patients' Defense, Irene from Cyprus League of People with Rheumatism, Hui from euPrevent, Edward from European Association of Congenital Heart Disease and, last but not least, Marco Vatri, General Practitioner and resident in geriatrics.

I hope to meet you virtually next 17 of December from 11.00 to 12.30 CET in occasion of our next initiative, focused on Covid & routine vaccination. In the meantime, stay safe.

Thank you all again and goodbye from Rome.