



**Call for support the
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

Jan Philipp Albrecht, Burkhard Balz, Reimer Böge, Elmar Brok, Klaus Buchner, Udo Bullmann, Reinhard Bütikofer, Daniel Caspary, Birgit Collin-Langen, Michael Cramer, Fabio De Masi, Albert Dess, Stefan Eck, Christian Ehler, Cornelia Ernst, Ismail Ertug, Markus Ferber, Knut Fleckenstein, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Michael Gahler, Evelyne Gebhardt, Jens Geier, Arne Gericke, Sven Giegold, Jens Gieseke, Ingeborg Gräßle, Matthias Groote, Thomas Händel, Rebecca Harms, Hartin Häusling, Hans-Olaf Henkel, Maria Heubuch, Iris Hoffmann, Monika Hohlmeier, Peter Jahr, Petra Kammerevert, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Ska Keller, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Bernd Kölmel, Dietmar Köster, Constanze Krehl, Werner Kuhn, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Bernd Lange, Werner Langen, Jo Leinen, Peter Liese, Arne Lietz, Norbert Lins, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Bernd Lucke, David McAllister, Thomas Mann, Gesine Meissner, Susanne Melior, Martina Michels, Ulrike Müller, Norbert Neuser, Angelika Niebler, Maria Noichl, Markus Pieper, Marcus Pretzell, Gabriele Preuss, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Julia Reda, Terry Reintke, Herbert Reul, Ulrike Rodust, Helmut Scholz, Martin Schulz, Sven Schulze, Joachim Schuster, Andreas Schwab, Peter Simon, Birgit Sippel, Renate Sommer, Martin Sonneborn, Joachim Starbatty, Jutta Steinruck, Beatrix von Storch, Michael Theurer, Ulrike Trebesius, Helga Trüpel, Sabine Verheyen, Udo Voigt, Axel Voss, Manfred Weber, Jakob von Weizsäcker, Martina Werner, Kerstin Westphal, Rainer Wieland, Hermann Winkler, Joachim Zeller, Gabriele Zimmer

We are writing on behalf of Bürger Initiative Gesundheit e.V. and Active Citizenship Network, civic & patient organisations working respectively at national and European level.

It is a pleasure for us to invite you to take part in 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 & patient organizations¹, as ours, 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 and already included in the “Report on safer

¹ 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

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healthcare in Europe: improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance (2014/2207(INI))³, approved unanimously by the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee first, and then in plenary by the European Parliament on the 19th May 2015.

We are encouraging our national MEPs to join the new 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.

You have already received a communication⁴ from your colleagues to support the new Interest Group. The Members of the European Parliament David Borrelli, Co-Chair of the Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group, and Gianni Pittella, Chair of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, are the first MEPs that have decided to support this Interest Group, having officially pointed out during the IX Edition of the European Patients' Rights Day⁵ that patients' rights are non-negotiable and universal values to be guaranteed to all the European citizens. 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 & patient organizations you can improve the contribution to the European Institutions's activities in the field of patients' rights, promoting initiatives to implement the benefits of being a patient in the European Union⁶.

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!

Please read more on the objectives of the Interest Group in the attached document: among others you can find our idea to dedicate 2017 as the European Year of Patients' Rights!

For further information or to take part in the Interest Group please contact us or the Secretariat (brussels@activecitizenship.net). It is guaranteed by Active Citizenship Network, the platform of more than 100 civic & patient organizations promoters of the European Charter of Patients' Rights in 2002 and the

³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0197+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

⁴ <http://activecitizenship.net/gallery-home/194-presidents-of-two-parliamentarian-parties-invite-meps-to-join-interest-group-promoted-by-acn.html>

⁵ <http://activecitizenship.net/patients-rights/187-programme-9th-european-patients-rights-day.html>

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/docs/2015_eu_patients_factsheet_en.pdf



European Patients' Rights Day since 2007, and recognized by the EU Commission-DG Santé as European stakeholder in the fields of public health and healthcare.

Sincerely,

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Wofram-Arnim Candidus
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