**Call for support the**

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

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

Dear (name of MEPs)

We are writing on behalf of (name and nationality of civic & patients organisations) and of Active Citizenship Network.

It is a pleasure for us, civic & patient organisations working at national and European level, 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 organizations , as ours, sent to the EU Parliament to officially recognize the value of citizens’ initiatives, such as the European Charter of Patients’ Rights and the European Patients’ Rights Day. The request was launched in May 2015 at the European Parliament and is already included in the “Report on safer healthcare in Europe: improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance (2014/2207(INI))[[1]](#footnote-1)", 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.

Across Europe, the sustainability of healthcare systems is a common good to be safeguarded and patients' rights are non-negotiable and universal values that has to be guaranteed to all the European citizens.

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 contribute to improve the activities of the European Institutions in the field of patients’ rights, promoting initiatives to implement the benefits of being a patient in the European Union[[2]](#footnote-2).

By overcoming the difference between the political groups, together we can strengthen the citizens' feeling of European citizenship.

The hope is that this Parliament will be remembered for his commitment to the rights of the patients!

Please read more on the aims of the Interest Group in the attached document: among others you can find our idea to establish in 2017 the European Year of Patients’ Rights!

For further information or to take part in the Interest Group please contact its Secretariat, guaranteed by Active Citizenship Network, recognized by the EU Commission-DG Santé as a European stakeholder in the healthcare field and composed by more than 100 civic & patient organizations, promoters of the European Charter of Patients’ Rights in 2002 and the European Patients’ Rights Day since 2007.

Sincerely,

Mariano Votta

Director of *Active Citizenship Network*

1. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0197+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/docs/2015_eu_patients_factsheet_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)