



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 MEP Miriam Dalli,

We are writing on behalf of Active Citizenship Network and the following Maltese Patient Organizations: “Malta Health Network”, “Europa Donna Malta”, “Arka Foundation”, “Malta Food Bank Foundation”, “No Pain Foundation”, “Association of Speech Language Pathologists”, “Arthritis and Rheumatism Association of Malta”.

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”, 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, as Mrs. Therese Comodini Cachia already did, 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.

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 Day² that patients' rights are non-negotiable and universal values that has 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.

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0197+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

² <http://activecitizenship.net/patients-rights/187-programme-9th-european-patients-rights-day.html>

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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 Union³.

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

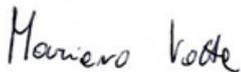
The hope is that this Parliament will be remembered for his commitment to the rights of the patients!

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*



Gertrude Buttigieg
Director of *Malta Health Network*



Gertrude Abel
Director of *Europa Donna Malta*



³ http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/docs/2015_eu_patients_factsheet_en.pdf

Emanuel Curmi
Director of *Arka Foundation*



FONDAZZJONI ARKA

Irene Schembri
Director of *Malta Food Bank Foundation*



Silvana Fanalista
Director of *No Pain Foundation*



NO PAIN
FOUNDATION

Norma Camilleri
Director of *Association of Speech Language Pathologists*



Mary Vella
Director of *Arthritis and Rheumatism Association of Malta*



Arthritis and Rheumatism
Association Malta