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**PRESS RELEASE**

**150 Million Reasons to Act -The European Patients' Forum launches the Patients' Manifesto in European Parliament**

The European Patients' Forum launched today a Patients Manifesto in the European Parliament outlining vital new measures in three fundamental areas to improve quality of healthcare across the European Union. EPF calls for

- **Equal and timely access** to safe, effective diagnosis, treatments and support ;
- **Better information and resources** for patients to be partners in determining their care;
- **A patients' voice** to be heard in Brussels and throughout the European Union.

The lead-up to the forthcoming European Parliamentary Elections and new Commission is a time to set new political priorities, and commit to take action.

EPF President Anders Olauson said 'Our current health systems can be unfair, divisive and fail to put the patients' perspective first. We believe all patients within the EU have a basic right to equal access to quality medical treatment, regardless of where they live, their status or their income.

The Manifesto, developed by the EPF membership, who collectively represent over 150 million patients, citizens and voters **'call upon all the political groups within the European Parliament, MEPs, prospective MEPs, national representatives in EU Member States, and the new Commission, to commit to the legitimate rights and needs of patients and to make our proposals their priority'**.

Dagmar Roth Behrendt, MEP who hosted the launch in the European Parliament welcomed the Manifesto "This Manifesto – from patients themselves - provides a road map for all of us committed to improving healthcare in Europe. I am especially pleased to see the Manifesto calls for a comprehensive strategy on "Information to Patients" in Europe and pro-active work on health literacy – this is a crucial driver behind patients' centred, quality healthcare.

For more information – call  
 Nicola Bedlington, EPF Director (Phone: 0041 79 30 36 256),  
 Roxana Radulescu, EPF policy officer (Phone: 0032 (0) 2 380 23 36).

European Patients' Forum, Rue Belliard 65, B-1040 Brussels  
 Phone : +32 (2) 401 68 11 Fax: +32 (2) 401 68 68  
 Email: [info@eu-patient.eu](mailto:info@eu-patient.eu) Web: [www.eu-patient.eu](http://www.eu-patient.eu)

## Background for journalists

- The European Patients' Forum is a membership organisation of patients across the European Union – it is a strong and united voice of patients in EU healthcare debates.

## The launch in the European Parliament

- The reception in the European Parliament hosted by Dagmar Roth-Behrendt MEP was the opportunity to “officially” launch the EPF Patients' Manifesto with allies in the European Parliament and health stakeholders in Brussels.
- It is the opportunity to distribute the printed version of the Manifesto and for EPF to convey our main messages to the European Parliament

At the same time, EPF will launch a [new section](#) of the EPF website where readers can get more information on the Manifesto, pledge support for the Manifesto and EPF members can download an EPF Manifesto Guide on how to campaign for the Manifesto at European and at national level [www.eu-patient.eu](http://www.eu-patient.eu)