



Member of the  
European Parliament  
**INTEREST GROUP ON  
BRAIN, MIND AND PAIN**

12 February 2019

It is with pleasure that we invite you to the first meeting of our MEP Interest Group on Brain, Mind and Pain in 2019 at the European Parliament, which will address:

## **Fighting Discrimination at Work**

*for those affected by neurological disorders and chronic pain conditions*

The meeting will be hosted by MEP Jeroen Lenaers – in conjunction with the European Federation of Neurological Associations [EFNA] and Pain Alliance Europe [PAE] – on **Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 16.00 to 18.00hrs in Room JAN 6Q2 at the European Parliament, Brussels**. The provisional programme can be found attached.

The stigma and discrimination attached to long-term neurological disorders and chronic pain conditions in working age citizens can seriously impact their employment opportunities. Those affected can find it difficult to find and/or maintain employment not only because of the physical, cognitive or behavioural problems linked to their disorder, but also due to stigma and discrimination in professional settings. The subsequent unemployment and under-employment are factors that can have a profound impact on self-esteem, mental health and social interaction and, ultimately, feed isolation and discrimination.

At this meeting, our expert speakers and panellists will present the impact of these disorders, in relation to the ability of those affected to access and retain suitable employment. They will then inform us about current initiatives being rolled-out in this space which could lessen the burden, before we discuss how the MEP Interest Group could collaborate with such work/partners to advance our policy recommendations in this field – with support from the European Institutions.

Please come along to contribute to the discussion, add your expertise to our debate and work with us to identify synergies and ways forward to solve this growing problem!

To register your attendance, please **complete the online registration form before February 25<sup>th</sup>**. It is available here: <https://goo.gl/forms/MbWeUiLZfx9DI1My1>

If you have any further questions in advance, do not hesitate to contact us at: [advocacy@efna.net](mailto:advocacy@efna.net)

We look forward to welcoming you on the day. Yours sincerely,

Joke Jaarsma, President  
EFNA President



Joop van Griensven, President  
PAE President

