

HEINZ BECKER

Member of the European Parliament, Austria

European People's Party (EPP)



"I fully support the Societal Impact of Pain platform. Our strategy on active ageing in Europe has to take into account the impact that untreated pain can have on the quality of life of elders as well as their age of retirement and inactivity. Together with SIP, I want to raise awareness of the impact of pain and identify policies on European level to improve pain care."

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/107041/HEINZ+K._BECKER_home.html

SIRPA PIETIKÄINEN

Member of the European Parliament, Finland

European People's Party (EPP)



"Untreated pain is a problem for those who experience it, but also for society as a whole. We tend to think of pain as a normal manageable part of life, but for many people chronic pain can mean early retirement and negative psychosocial consequences. I believe that SIP can offer us policy solutions to tackle the societal impact of pain."

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/40599/SIRPA_PIETIKAINEN_home.html

MERJA KYLLÖNEN

Member of the European Parliament, Finland

Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)



“Pain can be a huge burden for patients, their families and society. Adequate pain treatment is essential for healthcare systems and I call upon national governments to address this. I would like to offer my support to the Societal Impact of Pain in 2016, the year of action!”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124736/MERJA_KYLLONEN_home.html

SABINE VERHEYEN

Member of the European Parliament, Germany

European People’s Party (EPP)



“Pain treatment is something which I consider to be very important because untreated pain can cause great distress to patients. It is therefore crucial to raise awareness of these problems, offer guidance and especially to encourage targeted training for doctors and nursing staff.”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96756/SABINE_VERHEYEN_home.html

NICOLA CAPUTO

Member of the European Parliament, Italy

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)



“As a MEP I have a strong interest in defending the rights of European citizens. One of those rights should be the ability to access medicines and treatments in other Member states, when required. I am supporting the Societal Impact of Pain symposium as I would like to work with pain experts to ensure that the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive functions in the way it was intended, namely protecting patients' right to seek treatment outside their home country when they are experiencing a high degree of pain. This implies that Member States have properly transposed the Directive into their national legislation and, consequently, put in place mechanisms to assess the patient's level of pain.”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124851/NICOLA_CAPUTO_home.html

ROBERTA METSOLA

Member of the European Parliament, Malta

European People's Party (EPP)



“People in pain should not have to suffer in silence. Too often their plight is overlooked or underestimated and together we can do something about that. We need to raise awareness as to the impact that chronic pain can have on people, those who care for them and on their ability to work and enjoy life. Dealing with chronic pain must be put on EU Member States' health care agenda. It cannot be ignored.”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/118859/ROBERTA_METSOLA_home.html

MARIAN HARKIN

Member of the European Parliament, Ireland

Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)



“The Societal Impact of Pain is a campaign I have supported for a number of years. Chronic pain can have a significant impact on patients individually as well as on our health systems and societies. This year I want other Members of the European Parliament to join me to push for improved policies affecting pain care.”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/28116/MARIAN_HARKIN_home.html

JOSÉ INÁCIO FARIA

Member of the European Parliament, Portugal

Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)



“The effect pain has on patients and societies is something which policy makers in Europe should take very seriously. I have asked the European Commission to fully implement legislation affecting pain such as the Patients’ Rights Directive, and will continue to fight for patients in need of adequate pain treatment.”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/125101/JOSE+INACIO_FARIA_home.html

CLARA EUGENIA AGUILERA GARCÍA

Member of the European Parliament, Spain

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)



“Pain and its impact in society should be addressed by the European Union. I fully support the Societal Impact of Pain platform and consider the symposium the greatest forum to unite healthcare professionals, patients, policy makers and politicians to discuss how to move forward to address the quality of life of pain patients at the European”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/125045/CLARA+EUGENIA_AGUILERA+GARCIA_home.html

JEROEN LENAERS

Member of the European Parliament, Netherlands

European People’s Party (EPP)



“We have to focus on retention and integration of people affected by chronic diseases as well as to support reasonable adaptation of workplaces, which will ensure a timely return to work; we call on the European Commission to promote integration and rehabilitation measures for people with disabilities and to support Member States’ efforts by raising awareness and identifying and sharing good practices on accommodations and adjustments in the workplace”

For more information visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/95074/JEROEN_LENAERS_home.html

FRANÇOISE GROSSETÊTE

Member of the European Parliament, France
European People's Party (EPP)



“On October 11 2001, I hosted the launch, in the European Parliament, of the inaugural EFIC European Week Against Pain. The purpose of the Week was to raise awareness of chronic pain as a disease in its own right amongst decision-makers, doctors and the general public, with a view to improving access by patients to the treatments available for it.

10 core objectives of the Week were identified. Three of them are as follows:

- To inform decision-makers of the significant impact that chronic pain has on patient morbidity and quality of life, avenues for improvement, and anticipated social and economic benefits for Europe.*
- To inform decision-makers of the cost-effectiveness of available pain relief modalities and encourage their incorporation into health fund coverage and*

management modalities.

- To seek ways of reducing governmental obstacles to analgesic availability and use.*

15 years and many “European Weeks Against Pain” later, there is little evidence that these objectives have been heard by European governments, let alone met. Most critical of all, however, is that the fundamental message of the “European Week Against Pain”, that chronic pain is a disease in its own right and should be treated as such, continues to be ignored. Whilst strategies are developed to combat other diseases across Europe, there is no such strategy for chronic pain, only an irregular hotchpotch of policies that provide little by way of a framework for improvement.

I therefore wholeheartedly support the objectives of the symposium on the Societal Impact of Pain where all stakeholders seek to improve pain policy under the motto “Time for Action!”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/2025/FRANCOISE_GROSSETETE_home.html

MIRIAM DALLI

Member of the European Parliament, Malta

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)



“Even though we registered significant advances in medical treatments and also treatment options, unfortunately until this very day, pain continues to be poorly managed and under treated. I strongly believe that the issue of pain must be addressed effectively. The European Union must provide guidelines to all the Member States to consider pain in its own right.

Member States need to be provided with the necessary information and support, in order for them to be able to introduce the proper policies which can really make a difference. Better pain treatment at an early stage is fundamental for our patients’ wellbeing. Awareness, education and further budget allocations are tools that are required to address pain as a condition in its own right. Ultimately our citizens’ health should always be our main priority.”

For more information, please visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124970/MIRIAM_DALLI_home.html

TAKIS HADJIGEORGIOU

Member of the European Parliament, Cyprus

Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)



“Chronic pain affects a large proportion of the adult population in Europe. It is our duty as elected representatives of this people to do our utmost to ensure that European policies in the health sector have at their core this population group. As Vice-Chair of the intergroup for rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases, I closely track the developments in the health sector and I must say that Europe is still far away of achieving that “basic need” of universal access to health care and to provide to people affected the essentials for their living.”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96907/TAKIS_HADJIGEORGIOU_home.html

THERESE COMODINI CACHIA

Member of the European Parliament, Malta
European People's Party (EPP)



"Everyone must be relieved from unnecessary pain. Relevant solutions must be used to address the negative impact that pain has on people, in order to address the burden on people's quality of life, healthcare and employment. Please join me supporting the societal impact of pain platform."

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124968/THERESE_COMODINI+CACHIA_home.html

SOLEDAD CABEZÓN RUIZ

Member of the European Parliament, Spain

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)



"Pain and chronic pain are issues that impact European society. Pain patients should be granted access to healthcare services and treated in all countries with the highest standards. From the European Parliament we should push for the proper implementation of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive which already states that pain should be a quality indicator to grant this overdue European access."

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/125041/SOLEDAD_CABEZON+N+RUIZ_home.html

PERNICOLA PEDICINI

Member of the European Parliament, Italy

Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group (EFDD)



“Through my previous experience as an expert in radiation and oncology, I am familiar with the links between cancer and pain. The SIP symposium is an important opportunity to address the issues of pain and cancer care, in terms of pain caused by tumours, pain experienced through radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surgery, as well as post-operative chronic pain.”

For more information, visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124844/PIERNICOLA_PEDICINI_home.htm
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THERESA GRIFFIN

Member of the European Parliament, UK

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)



“Throughout my political career I have held the strong belief that everyone should have access to quality employment - regardless of their circumstances. One difficult and under-debated barrier into work is poorly managed pain. Chronic pain and lack of proper holistic pain management often pushes individuals into early retirement, or keeps them out of work, when they would otherwise chose to keep working.”

For more information, please visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124961/THERESA_GRIFFIN_home.html

AGNES JONGERIUS

Member of the European Parliament, The Netherlands

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)



“It is my sincere belief that we should take pain and especially chronic pain seriously. Pain can have a devastating effect on people's physical and mental wellbeing. Although our knowledge of pain and how to prevent it has increased in the past years, I believe that there is still a long way to go. More research on pain therapy is needed and successful therapy should be promoted more, as well as training to cope with pain. It is time for real action.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/125021/AGNES_JONGERIUS_home.html

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