

Closing the Gaps in Stroke Care: A Call to Action for Europe

Stroke is Europe's second biggest killer and the leading cause of acquired disability. Yet across the EU, stroke services remain fragmented and under-resourced, resulting in preventable deaths, lifelong disabilities, and a widespread lack of long-term support for survivors and their families.

On **14 October 2025**, SAFE and the European Stroke Organisation (ESO) will host an event at the European Parliament in Brussels to highlight these systemic gaps and introduce the forthcoming **Stroke Action Plan for Europe (SAP-E)**. This upcoming plan will outline evidence-based, cost-effective solutions designed to improve stroke care across Europe.

The event, *Closing the Gaps in Stroke Care: A Call to Action for Europe*, will bring together:

- EU and national policymakers
- Stroke survivors and caregivers
- Healthcare professionals and researchers
- Civil society and public health partners

The speakers at the event will outline ways to provide comprehensive stroke care across the entire care pathway, from prevention and emergency response to rehabilitation and long-term support, with a focus on better aligning EU-level initiatives and national implementation, including through the upcoming EU Cardiovascular Health Plan (CVH Plan).

By uniting lived experience, clinical expertise and policy leadership, the event aims to ensure stroke receives the attention it urgently requires within Europe's health priorities and that updated SAP-E becomes a practical roadmap for meaningful, measurable change.