



PRESS RELEASE

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Leading stroke experts urge Europe to end the “stroke care lottery”

1. **New survey presented in European Parliament reveals large disparities in access to highly effective therapy**
2. **Stroke is the 2nd most common cause of death**
3. **Therapeutic breakthroughs in acute stroke treatment greatly improve outcomes for stroke survivors**
4. **Recommendations to reduce inequalities in stroke remission and survival rates**

10 October 2017

Brussels – Stroke experts from across Europe gather in Brussels today under the umbrella of the European Stroke Organisation – the pan-European society of stroke researchers and physicians. They call on political leaders to recognise stroke as an EU-wide health priority and end inequalities in access to the current stroke management standards. The adoption of new clot removal technologies (mechanical thrombectomy) can greatly improve stroke survival rates and outcomes for victims of stroke and alleviate the societal impact. A new survey reveals that many patients throughout Europe do not yet have equal access to this highly effective therapy. This partly explains the large disparities among member states regarding stroke survival and remission rates.

Today, representatives from the European Parliament, the European Stroke Organisation, physicians and patients will be considering how to remove barriers to acute treatment and support EU member states in translating best practices in stroke management into real life.

Hosted by MEP Aldo Patriciello and moderated by Prof. Valeria Caso, President of the European Stroke Organisation, the findings of the survey were presented at the event by Prof. Urs Fischer, the ESO Secretary General.

Prof. Valeria Caso said: *“We have an opportunity to restructure the pathway for acute stroke and enhance endovascular treatment. It’s a revolution...Don’t forget stroke has significant economic and social implications on survivors, families of stroke victims, and society as a whole.”*

“There are huge inequalities with regard to stroke treatment. All stakeholders across the stroke care chain need to work together to address them. Governments should be aware of just how cost-effective it is to treat stroke more effectively and efficiently”, said **Prof. Urs Fischer**.

Aldo Patriciello MEP said: *“Stroke is a major, pan European, public health concern. We are discussing concrete options to ensure equal access across Europe to quality healthcare. If we improve exchange of best practices, cross-border cooperation and capacity building we can end this stroke care lottery.”*

ESO's Call to Action is attached to this email.

About the European Stroke Organisation: The [European Stroke Organisation \(ESO\)](#) is a pan-European society of stroke researchers and physicians, national and regional stroke societies and lay organisations that was founded in December 2007. The ESO is an NGO comprised of individual and organisational members. The aim of the ESO is to reduce burden of stroke by changing the way that stroke is viewed and treated. This can only be achieved by professional and public education, and by making institutional changes. The ESO provides assistance in achieving this goal and in harmonising stroke management across the whole of Europe and taking action to reduce the burden of stroke regionally and globally. Europe allied against stroke.

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