



Press Release

EURORDIS Welcomes New MEPs, Stressing Urgency of Health on EU Agenda

10 June 2024, Brussels – Following the recent European Parliament elections held between 6-9 June, EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe extends its congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and looks forward to working with them to enact major health policies within the EU.

This election marks a critical point, presenting the last opportunity of this decade for the new Parliament to continue to prioritise health, a top concern among EU citizens as clearly indicated in the Spring Barometer Survey. This concern is echoed by numerous appeals from civil society organisations within the EU4Health Alliance, which are alarmed by the 20% reduction in the EU4Health budget and a shift in funding allocations.

Virginie Bros-Facer, Chief Executive of EURORDIS, commented on the situation:

“With unprecedented challenges in health policy and funding, the actions of this new Parliament will shape European healthcare for years to come. It is crucial that health remains at the forefront of the EU agenda to safeguard the well-being of its most vulnerable groups, especially those affected by rare diseases.”

EURORDIS has actively campaigned for health to be a primary focus for EU leaders, as demonstrated in our recently published [Open Letter](#), endorsed by nearly 2,000 organisations and individuals. The letter asserts that “health must not be sacrificed. We must all collaborate to protect and ensure a strong and resilient European Health Union. This union should extend beyond mere crisis preparedness and be underscored by a substantial health budget allocation within the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028–2035.”

This election also saw 90 candidates support our “Championing the Rare” manifesto campaign, laying a strong foundation for a renewed network of MEPs dedicated to advocating for rare diseases. The newly elected MEPs will undertake significant legislative tasks, including reforms to pharmaceutical laws and the adoption of the future EU budgetary framework for 2028-2035.

The challenges posed by rare diseases require strengthened EU action, solidarity across borders, and collaboration beyond national capabilities. EURORDIS urges MEPs to champion bold policies that guarantee timely access to treatment, accurate diagnoses, and protect the social and mental health rights of people with rare diseases across the region.

As Europe continues to lead in protecting its most vulnerable, promoting inclusive policies remains essential. This includes advancing rights guaranteed under the Charter of Fundamental Rights, such as health rights, independent living, and non-discrimination.

EURORDIS is eager to work alongside the new Parliament to advocate for comprehensive and inclusive health policies, aiming to create a healthier and more inclusive Europe for all, especially those living with a rare disease.

About EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe

[EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe](#) is a unique, non-profit alliance of over 1,000 rare disease organisations from 74 countries that work together to improve the lives of the 30 million people living with a rare disease in Europe. By connecting people, families, and rare disease groups, as well as by bringing together all stakeholders and mobilising the rare disease community, EURORDIS strengthens the patient voice and shapes research, policies, and services.

Contact

Julien Poulain

Communications Manager

EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe

Julien.poulain@eurordis.org

+33 6 42 98 14 32