



**European Federation of Neurological Associations written statement on agenda item “Matters arising from resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board”.**

Neurological conditions, such as stroke, headache, and multiple sclerosis, rank as the third leading cause of mortality and Disability-Adjusted Life Years in the WHO EURO region. Addressing these conditions has ascended as a global and European priority, especially with the adoption of the WHO’s 10-year Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP).

The IGAP outlines a comprehensive, coordinated strategy to tackle the immense burden of neurological conditions. It aims to fill gaps in care and services, promote brain health, and set concrete targets for European nations, such as the development of comprehensive national plans focused on neurological conditions and brain health.

Now is the time for Europe to spearhead the implementation of the IGAP. This plan offers a unique opportunity for the EU to deliver a holistic, cross-sectoral response to neurological health challenges. Investment in this integrated approach promises both health and economic dividends by reducing the incidence and complications of neurological conditions, enhancing survival rates, lowering treatment costs, and ultimately improving the quality of life for affected individuals.

National action plans focused on neurological or brain health can serve as pivotal instruments in implementing the IGAP. These plans should adopt a co-ordinated approach to address the common challenges and solutions associated with neurological conditions.

Meaningful patient involvement is crucial in the formulation of these plans and all related activities. Their voices and experiences must be central to these initiatives.

We acknowledge the vital role of WHO EURO in steering the IGAP's implementation across Europe. Initial steps should focus on enhancing the visibility of the IGAP and establishing a robust evidence base. WHO can spearhead efforts to assess key domains such as epidemiology, disease burden, and service availability. We urge European countries to allocate sufficient resources to WHO to facilitate this important work.

Together, we can reduce the prevalence of neurological conditions in Europe and elevate brain health as a valued and protected asset, benefiting society at large.