



## **“THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN – A ROAD MAP FOR ACTION”**

In 2001, the European Federation of the International Association for the Study of Pain Chapters (EFIC) published its Declaration on Pain which called on national governments and the EU Institutions to increase the level of awareness of the societal impact of pain. Ten years on from the EFIC Declaration on Pain, national and EU policy action has been very limited. At the same time, basic and clinical science have demonstrated the feasibility of pathways out of pain for many types of acute and chronic pain, but health care systems currently do not guarantee general access to these.

According to the 2007 Eurobarometer survey on “Health in the European Union”<sup>1</sup>, almost one third of respondents experience musculo-skeletal pain which affects their day-to-day life. The burden of suffering that pain imposes on individuals and the enormous costs that society has to bear not only by healthcare systems but also the social, economic and employment sectors only illustrate the urgency for European governments and the EU Institutions to act and to put, as a priority, the societal impact of pain on their policy agenda.

### **We call on European governments and the EU Institutions to:**

1. Acknowledge that pain is an important factor limiting the quality of life and should be put on the top of the priority list of the national health care system.
2. Activate patients, their family, relatives and care-givers through the availability of information and access to pain diagnosis and management.
3. Raise awareness of the medical, financial and social impact that pain and its management has on the patients, their family, care-givers, employers, and the healthcare system.
4. Raise awareness of the importance of prevention, diagnosis and management of pain amongst all healthcare professionals, notably through further education.
5. Strengthen pain research (basic science, clinical, epidemiological) as a priority in EU framework programme and in equivalent research road maps at national and EU level, addressing the societal impact of pain and the burden of chronic pain on the health, social, and employment sectors.
6. Establish an EU platform for the exchange, comparison and benchmarking of best practices between member states on pain management and its impact on society.

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<sup>1</sup> Eurobarometer survey on “Health in the European Union”, Special Eurobarometer 272e, September 2007  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_publication/eb\\_health\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_publication/eb_health_en.pdf)



7. Use the EU platform to monitor trends in pain management, services, and outcomes and provide guidelines to harmonize effective levels of pain management to improve the quality of life of European Citizens.

This “Road Map for Action” to address the societal impact of pain in the EU has been endorsed by the following organisations and was signed at the Symposium “Societal Impact of Pain 2011”, 3-4 May 2011, Brussels by the following persons or organisations:



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## Albania



### Albanian Pain Association

Hodo Beg, No 26, Tirana.  
1001, Tirana  
Albania

[www.health-pain.al](http://www.health-pain.al)

E-mail: [revistadhimbja@yahoo.com](mailto:revistadhimbja@yahoo.com)

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## Austria



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Günther Bernatzky  
Präsident elect der Österreichischen Schmerzgesellschaft Universität Salzburg,  
Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät Fachbereich für Organismische Biologie Arbeitsgruppe  
für <sup>3</sup>Neurodynamics & Neurosignaling<sup>2</sup>

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## Austria



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## Belgium



Belgian Back Society  
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## Belgium



European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)  
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[www.efnweb.eu](http://www.efnweb.eu)  
E-mail: [efn@efn.be](mailto:efn@efn.be)

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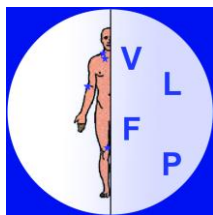
## Belgium



European Network of Fibromyalgia Associations (ENFA)  
Keizerinlaan 3  
Postbus 2 centraal station  
1000 Brussel / Belgium  
[www.enfa-europe.eu](http://www.enfa-europe.eu)  
E-mail: [contact@enfa-europe.eu](mailto:contact@enfa-europe.eu)

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## Belgium



Vlaamse Liga voor Fibromyalgie-Patiënten vzw  
Impulsstraat 6 C  
2220 Heist-op-den-Berg / Belgium  
<http://fibromyalgie.be>  
E-mail: [info@vlf.be](mailto:info@vlf.be)

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## Belgium



**Bart Morlion, MD**  
**President of the Belgian Pain Society**  
**Belgian Chapter of the International Association for the Study of Pain**



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## Croatia



Croatian Association for the Treatment of Pain

Mira Fingler – President

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## Czech Republic



**Czech Pain Society (SSLB)**

President: Richard Rolyta, prof. MD, PhD, DSc

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## Estonia

EESTI VALU SELTS



**Estonian Pain Society**

Ravi tn. 18,10138 Tallinn

Estonia

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## France



Société Française d'Etude et de Traitement de la Douleur

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## Finland



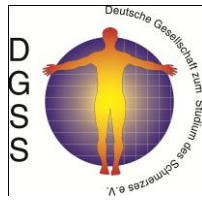
Suomen Kivuntutkimusyhdistys ry  
Föreningen för smärtforskning i Finland rf

Finnish Association for the Study of Pain  
President: Petteri Maunu, MD



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## Germany



President : Wolfgang Koppert, Prof. M.D., M.A.

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## Germany



Berufsverband der ärzte und Psychologischen Psychotherapeuten  
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## Germany



**Palliatives Netzwerk für die Region Aachen e.V.**  
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## Greece



Hellenic Society of Algology  
President: Dr. Emmanouil Anastassiou

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## Italy



President: Prof. Giustino Varrassi



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## Italy



Maria Adele Giamberardino – AISD President

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## Italy



Governor of the Abruzzo Region

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## Ireland



Irish Pain Society  
Dr. Liam Conroy, MD, President

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## Ireland



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E-mail: [info@chronicpain.ie](mailto:info@chronicpain.ie)

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## Israel



Dr Silviu Brill  
Director, Pain Clinic  
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center  
President , Israel Pain Association

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## Latvia



Latvian Association for Study of Pain - LASP



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## Norway



Norsk Smerteforening – Norwegian Pain Society  
Dr. Gunnvald Kvarstein, MD, DMedSci. President

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## Netherlands



Nederlandse Vereniging ter Bestudering van Pijn / Samen Werkings Verband  
Pijndisciplines  
President: Robert J. Stolker MD, PhD

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## Netherlands



Foundation Pijn-Hoop  
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E-mail: [p.roetering@hccnet.nl](mailto:p.roetering@hccnet.nl)

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## Netherlands

DPS Dutch Pain Society

Dutch Chapter of the International Association for the Study of Pain

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## Netherlands



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## Portugal



**Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo da Dor (APED)**  
President: Dr. Duarte Correia

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## Russia



Mikhail Kukushkin,  
Gen. Secretary RASP

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## Romania



Asociația Română pentru Studiul Durerii

Romanian Association for the Study of Pain (RASP)  
President: Elena COPACIU MD

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## Romania



**Myeloma Euronet Romania**  
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## Slovenia



Prim. Nevenka Krceviski Skvarc, MD, MS, PhD,  
SZZB Secretary  
Slavica Lahajnar, MD, MS,  
SZZB President

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## Serbia



Prof. Miroslava Pjevic – UITBS President

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## San Marino



**Associazione Sammarinese per lo Studio del Dolore**  
President: Vitalba Vitale, MD





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## Sweden



Swedish Pain Association – Svenskt Smart Forum  
President: Marcelo Rivano Fisher, PhD

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## Spain



Asociación Coruñesa de Fibromialgia y Syndrome de Fatiga Crónica (ACOFIFA)  
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## Spain



**Sociedad Española Del Dolor**  
**President: Manuel A. Camba Rodriguez**

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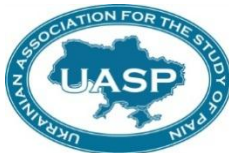
## Spain



**Sociedad Madrileña del Dolor**  
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## Ukrainia



Ukrainian Association for the Study of Pain (UASP)

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## UK



The Pain Toolkit Team

- Pete Moore
- Dr Frances Cole
- Jean Thomson MBE
- Dianne Wright



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**UK**



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**UK**

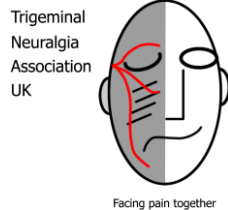


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**UK**



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