



*Report from:*

*Consensus Meeting*  
*Access and Equity for Patients*

Warszawa, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

*Prepared by:*

**Tomasz Szelaḡowski**  
General Director  
Federation of Polish Patients

*Editing team:*

<b>Hanna Milczarek</b>	Projects Coordinator, FPP
<b>Karolina Paciorek</b>	Communication Specialist, FPP

## ***Introduction***

The conference “Consensus Meeting” organized by Federation of Polish Patients took place in Warsaw on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at the prestigious premises of Prymasowski Palace.

The event was a continuation of the first conference in Sofia, Bulgaria and was organized by the Federation of Polish Patients (FPP) with the collaboration of the European Patients’ Forum (EPF). Reducing health inequalities is crucial for the overall health and wealth of society, and one of the key priorities of the EU Health Strategy, “Together for Health”.

Patients with chronic diseases form a distinct constituency with particular needs. While there are health inequalities between – and within – every region of the EU, there is a *gap* in health between the “old” and “new” EU Member States, and a number of common problems and unmet needs of patients from the region. Another one key component of reducing health inequalities is implementation of Cross Border Healthcare Directive will be discussed during session.

It is a part of a broader, concerted strategy to address health inequalities as experienced by patients with chronic diseases. The event aims to outline the commonalities and differences, to minimize the gap among EU Member States in access to healthcare in the regions.

The event will highlight the positive role of collaboration between countries and within and between patients and stakeholder groups, as well as best practices regarding the active role of patients.

The objectives of this meeting:

- To review briefly the diverse activities taking place on access and equity and explore how improve their functioning
- To obtain a clear understanding of some challenges and opportunities in Poland regarding access and equity issues
- To explore how a partnership and cooperation may help achieving equal access to healthcare for patients
- To launch the EPF European Parliament Campaign in Poland and obtain the commitment of key players there , through multi-stakeholder collaboration
- To home in on the scope and potential of the Directive on Patients’ Rights in Cross Border Healthcare on addressing access and equity issues, to mark the deadline for transposition of the Directive in the EU member states (25 October 2013)

### ***Plan to link our campaign with the EU elections***

This activity is continuation of previous meetings during European Health Forum in Gastein and Patients’ Meeting in Brussels. The aim is to create the possibilities to implement their findings on the Polish ground. All aspects mentioned above have been included into EPF Manifest before EU elections in 2014. They were officially presented in Polish version to increase involvement and knowledge among Polish policy makers, patients and stakeholders.

# CONSENSUS MEETING ON ACCESS AND EQUITY FOR PATIENTS

Tuesday, December 03, 2013

09:00 - 09:15	<b><u>Welcome and introduction</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tomasz Latos, Chairman of Health Commission of the Polish Parliament</li><li>• Tomasz Szelaḡowski, General Director of the Polish Patients Federation/ EPF Treasurer</li></ul>
09:15 - 09:45	<b><u>Setting the scene</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stanimir Hasurdjiev, President of the National Patients' Forum in Bulgaria and EPF Board member</li></ul>
09:45 -10:30	<b>“Access and Equity: Understanding the commitment of the key players at European level”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Andrey Kovatchev, Member of the European Parliament</li></ul> <b>“EU Perspectives”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nicola Bedlington, Executive Director European Patients' Forum</li></ul>
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00 -12:30	<b>Patients Rights' on Cross Border Healthcare – help or hindrance to access and equity?</b> Moderator: Tomasz Szelaḡowski <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employers: Robert Mołdach, Expert, Pracodawcy RP</li><li>• Pharmacists: Jerzy Łazowski Polish Pharmacists Chamber</li><li>• Insurers: Dorota Fal, Polish Insurance Chamber</li><li>• NGO: Nicola Belington, EPF Executive director</li></ul>
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK
	<b><u>Statements from Polish stakeholders, panel discussion and audience debate,</u></b> Moderator: Tomasz Szelaḡowski
13:30 -14:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medical professionals: Konstanty Radziwiłł CPME, NIL</li><li>• Pharma: Krzysztof Wojciechowski, INFARMA</li><li>• Healthcare experts: Peter Balik, Institut of Health Policy, Slovakia</li></ul>
14:45 -15:30	<b>The reality and perspectives in Poland – where a multi- stake, holder approach can make the difference –</b> Presentation of the “Health

Academy 2030” report

- Robert Mołdach, Expert Polish Employers Union RP
- Tomasz Szelański, General Director of the Polish Patients Federation

**15:30 - 16:00**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**16:00 – 16:30**

**Translating the EPF Election Campaign in Poland**

- Nicola Bedlington, Executive Director European Patients’ Forum
- Hanna Milczarek, Projects Coordinator of the Polish Patients Federation, member of EPF Policy Advisory Group

**16:30 -**

**Conclusions and next steps**

- Nicola Bedlington, Executive Director European Patients’ Forum
- Stanisław Maćkowiak, President of the Polish Patients Federation/ EPF Treasurer

## The Meeting

1. The scene was set by Member of European Parliament – Dr. Andrey Kovatchev, Executive Director of European Patients’ Forum – Nicola Bedlington and President of the National Patients’ Forum in Bulgaria and EPF member – Stanimir Hasurdjiev.
  2. Dr. Kovatchev informed the public about an important initiative taken by him and a group of other MEPs, which aims is to establish an informal group comprising MEPs from numerous member states and dealing with problem of inequalities in health in EU. Interest to participate in this initiative was also expressed by Prof. Jerzy Buzek, who declared his involvement as Polish MEP.
  3. Stanimir Hasurdjiev shed light on the outcome of previous meetings, where the model of access to health care services elaborated by developed countries could be transferred in to the emerging countries of EU. He stressed importance and necessity of establishing a professional and official body within the structures of EU closely dealing with the subject of inequalities in health. As an example of these inequalities he has mentioned all the problems similar for the countries from CEE region – low wages, administrative burden, underdeveloped health infrastructure, lack of access to innovative therapies and unfortunately – many others.
  4. Nicola Bedlington presented EPF’s historical and present initiatives regarding equal access to health care system for patients all over the Europe. She highlighted benefits of EPF work for patients and entire health system in EU as well as importance of involvement of patients’ organizations in the decision making process of EU institutions dealing with health as such.
1. After these presentations the first panel started, chaired by Tomasz Szelaowski (FPP). The panelists representing employers (Mr. Robert Mołdach, Employers RP), pharmacists (Jerzy Łazowski, Polish Pharmacists Chamber), insurers (Dorota Fal, Polish Insurance Chamber) and patients organizations from all Europe (Nicola Bedlington, EPF) discussed about Cross Border Healthcare Directive and its importance and impact on access to innovative treatment for “new” countries in EU.
  2. All panelists stressed out that the CBH Directive, which entry into force as of October 25<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Poland, is a step forward breaking the barriers in health inequalities. How to make it happen and what the time horizon it would be – these questions have been left open for further discussions and reforms which are need to take place in the healthcare systems of the new 15 member states including Poland. What was very important – both employers and insurers are open for cooperation with the patients’ organizations for creating common solutions for this problem.

3. After lunch break, the participants of the conference had occasion to listen the statement of the Member of Polish Parliament – Prof. Barbara Czaplicka, who also represents interest of patients with rare diseases in the Health Committee in Parliament. Mrs. Czaplicka gave the insight of her work in the Health Committee and the progress of implementing recommendations for rare diseases patients in Poland. She expressed her disappointment for the pace of this process mainly depending on the slowdown of work of the Polish Ministry of Health. However she was positive about cooperation with the patients’ organizations and stressed the importance of continuation this relation to accelerate reaching better access to innovative therapies. This very interesting statement was followed by a panel of stakeholders: Krzysztof Wojciechowski (Infarma), Peter Balik (Institute of Health Policy, Slovakia) and Dr. Konstanty Radziwiłł CPME, chaired by Tomasz Szelański (FPP).
4. Before discussion came the presentation created by Dr. Konstanty Radziwiłł (President-Elect of the Standing Committee of European Doctors, CPME and the Vice-President of the National Chamber of Doctors in Poland). He introduced briefly the CPME institution and its role in Pan-European healthcare system, especially in context of right to health for ALL PATIENTS – also for those badly treated by faith like illegal immigrants, unemployed, handicapped. Right to health is a prime criterion of democracy and never should disappear from the sight of all stakeholders of healthcare system in EU.

He talked about co-relation between health and employment and necessity of creating new jobs in EU to enlarge access to classical and preventive healthcare. He stressed out how important for improvement in health equity are health literacy, overall education, developments of IT and strengthening of anti-discrimination policies in EU.

Panelists were discussing how and in which cases a multi-stakeholder approach to health right can make a difference. Mr. Balik elaborated on his experience in creating solutions on access to health care in Slovakia – where all the regulations are prepare and the reform of the health care system could be fired off in case the stakeholders would be able to agree on the guaranteed basket of health procedures without increasing the health insurance premiums.

Dr. Radziwiłł took up the topic of how the definition of the patient and his/her understanding of role as a patient is getting changed – with more focus on to the informed and empowered patient. This change in turn has an impact on other stakeholders and pushes them to change their approach and understanding of their role in contact with patients. In order to improve the effectiveness of public health services at **reducing health inequalities** it is crucial that public health programs are enabled to cut across different sectors and engage local communities. In response to the European Commission Communication “Solidarity in Health” CPME suggested several measures to reduce inequalities in health:

- Improving the data and **knowledge base and mechanisms** for measuring, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Improvements in infrastructure, especially **water supply and housing**
- Improved **maternal and child** care

- Securing the right to health for **disadvantaged people**, including undocumented migrants and asylum seekers.

Strong advocacy for ‘**health in all policies**’ approach to encourage cross-sectorial awareness for and action on the determinants of health is needed to prevent disease and promote good health across society.

Mr. Wojciechowski supported a multi-stakeholder approach as a factor accelerating and implying necessary changes of the health care system. He enhanced the opinion of all panelist, that better co-operation between academia, pharma, patients organizations, insurance companies and politicians should ended with results leading to equitable access to health in EU.

- This discussion followed by active involvement by the audience gave introduction to a deeper analysis presented by Mr. Artur Carvalho from DG Sanco. The presentation highlighted the access to healthcare in EU on the Polish example and revealed very interesting facts and figures from a research currently conducted by DG Sanco. As the research is still ongoing it was difficult to draw any final conclusions from the presented material, however certain aspects were very visible e.g. clear limitations in access to health care and cost inefficiencies in the Polish healthcare system. As pre-conclusions coming out of this presentation - a strategy to reduce waiting times (better management of waiting lists), strengthening of ambulatory care and improving outpatient facilities and services should be taking in to consideration by the decision makers in the Polish healthcare system.
- The last presentations by Nicola Bedlington (EPF) and Hanna Milczarek (FPP) delivered a perspective on EPF’s election campaign in Poland. EPF Manifesto to the candidates to European Parliament in election in 2014 were presented in details – both the English and the Polish version followed by the PR and marketing strategy of disseminating the voice of patients to be enhanced by the future MEPs.

## **Closing remarks**

### **Andrey Kovatchev**

The question is how to involve European Commission in our actions? Also we need to keep asking questions on this topic to MEPs. Important thing is to be clear and precise on what are we going to achieve and ask direct question on what can we expect from Commission or MEPs?

Most important thing would be to identify what is the priority on European level? What good practices we can identify to make different European healthcare system united? We also need to put effort that after 2014 EP election, those issues will be on the agenda for European institutions and we should monitor them carefully how they are going to be implemented on national level?

Wishes of success for good outcome of our meeting and further work. Commitment for continuation of our discussion in Brussels.

### **Stanimir Hasurdjiev**

The issues that were discussed previously in Brussels need to be tackled on national levels in Central European countries. Coming to Warsaw we would love to see mirroring Brussels Model on country level.

Taking the opportunities that there are many different stakeholders attending in our Consensus Meeting, we have good chance to achieve this situation. Poland could be one of the first country to achieve such model. The expertise on what is the best practice to implement Brussels Model is among national partners and can be revealed in mutual discussions.

We will be very happy to learn from each other's and pass good practices to Bulgaria, Rumania, Lithuania, etc. Poland as the biggest country in the region should play important leading role in this subject and set the example to others.

### **Nicola Bedlington**

It was a very reach day of discussions about the challenges Poland has to confront every day. There are numerous opportunities how to present the Brussels Model of collaboration for alternative strategies in healthcare system reforms in Poland. EPF and its members like NPO and FPP can largely contribute to translate the European agenda to the country level.

This is very important to underline the active role of FPP in ongoing work done in Brussels and introduction of European issues in Poland. It is good to see FPP inspired to be engage in 2014 EU election campaign.

### **Tomasz Szelągowski**

Consensus Meeting "Access and Equity for Patients" held in Warsaw on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 refers to Resolution and Call to Action of the First Conference on Health Inequalities in the New EU Member States," Policymakers and Patients – Creating the Change" sign in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2012 and Vilnius Declaration and Call for Action "Sustainable Health Systems for Inclusive Growth in Europe". We truly believe that all issues discussed during panels and addressed by speakers in their presentations will be taken further to produce tangible results for patients around Europe.

The conference was closed by Stanisław Maćkowiak (the President of Federation of Polish Patients) and Nicola Bedlington (Executive Director of European Patients' Forum).



## List of Participants

<b>Nr.</b>		<b>First name</b>	<b>Sure name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Mrs	Anna	Andrzejczak	Point of View PR
2	Mr	Peter	Balík	Health Policy Institute (HPI), Slovakia
3	Mrs	Nicola	Bedlington	European Patients' Forum
5	Mrs	Karolina	Bielawska	GlaxoSmithKline Poland Sp. z O. O.
6	Mr	Jerzy	Bochyński	Institute of Eastern Studies Foundation
7	Mr	Artur	Carvalho	European Commission, DG SANCO
8	Mr	Mariusz	Czerwiński	Chiesi Poland Sp. z o.o.
9	Mr	Cezary	Dmochowski	Young Pharmacy – Student's Assoc.
10	Mrs	Dorota	Fal	Polish Insurance Chamber
11	Mrs	Jakub	Gołąb	Active and Healthy Ageing Foundation
12	Mr	Wojciech	Gryta	Boehringer Ingelheim Poland Sp. z o.o.
13	Mr	Stanimir	Hasardzhiev	Bulgarian National Patients' Organization
14	Mrs	Elżbieta	Janaszekiewicz	Bristol-Myers Squibb Poland Sp. z o.o.
15	Mr	Tomasz F.	Kędzia	For the Good of Patient
16	Mrs	Dorota	Korycińska	Assoc. Alba Julia
17	Mr	Andrey	Kovatchev	European Parliament, MEP
18	Mrs	Beata	Kulesza	Child's Heart Foundation
19	Mr	Jerzy	Łazowski	National Pharmacists Chamber
20	Mr	Stanisław	Maćkowiak	Federation of Polish Patients
21	Mrs	Hanna	Milczarek	Federation of Polish Patients
22	Mr	Marcin	Mleczko	MATIO Foundation
23	Mr	Robert	Moldach	Polish Employers Union
24	Mr	Wojciech	Nowak	Novartis Poland Sp. z o.o.
25	Mr	Daniel	Okniński	Philips Polska Sp. z o.o.
26	Mrs	Agnieszka	Olechowska	Young Pharmacy – Student's Assoc.
27	Mr	Stanisław	Onyszkiewicz	Point of View PR
28	Mrs	Małgorzata	Pachecka	Medical Communications Sp. z o.o.
29	Mrs	Karolina	Paciorek	Federation of Polish Patients
30	Mrs	Anna	Pająk	Abbvie Poland Sp. z o.o.
31	Mrs	Dominika	Pietrzyk	Young Pharmacy – Student's Assoc.
32	Mr	Konstanty	Radziwiłł	CPME
33	Mrs	Karina	Sasin	Polish MRKH Association
34	Mr	Tomasz	Szelągowski	Federation of Polish Patients
35	Mr	Przemysław	Sobieszczyk	DEBRA Polska BrittleTouch Assoc.
36	Mrs	Magdalena	Stolecka	DEBRA Polska BrittleTouch Assoc.
37	Mrs	Matylda	Trofimiuk	Assoc. of Patients with Sarcoma Myomas
38	Mrs	Katarzyna	Wolska	Institute of Eastern Studies Foundation
39	Mr	Paweł	Wójtowicz	MATIO Foundation
40	Mrs	Janina	Zbiciak	Polish Diabetics Assoc.

## Acknowledgement

*Federation of Polish Patients, European Patients' Forum and the National Patients' Organization from Bulgaria would like to thank speakers, panelists and all participants for taking part in the "Consensus Meeting, Access and Equity for Patients".*

*Great appreciations goes as well to the Federation of Polish Patients Office Team for an extensive job done on making this meeting possible to organize.*

*Gratitude also goes to Patrons, Sponsors and Media Partners for their understanding of importance of such debate and the extensive support during preparation of the event.*

*Working together we will definitely keep our patients network alive and Access Platform run effectively.*

*Federation of Polish Patients  
European Patients' Forum  
National Patients' Organization*

## Patronage



Samorząd Województwa  
Mazowieckiego  
[www.mazovia.pl](http://www.mazovia.pl)



Rzecznik Praw Pacjenta



Pracodawcy RP  
Rok założenia 1989

## Sponsors



Samorząd Województwa  
Mazowieckiego  
[www.mazovia.pl](http://www.mazovia.pl)



**INFARMA**  
Związek Pracodawców  
Innowacyjnych Firm Farmaceutycznych

*Lilly*



**PIU**

POLSKA IZBA UBEZPIECZEŃ

## Media patronage

**Wiadomości  
Lekarskie**  
Co miesięcznik Polskiego Towarzystwa Lekarskiego

