

CALL FOR ORGANISATIONS TO SIGN UP TO THE DECLARATION ON ADVANCING NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH DURING IRELAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Neurological disorders are among the leading causes of disability and premature death across the EU, with their impact expected to grow as Europe's population ages. Despite their significant health, social and economic burden, neurological conditions continue to receive fragmented policy attention and insufficient investment both in terms of healthcare and research budgets.

With the decision of the European Parliament SANT committee on public health to develop a report on neurological health, Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2026 comes at an important time to raise awareness and support for neurological health at EU level.

>>***The Joint Declaration on Advancing Neurological Health*** calls on Ireland to provide leadership in advancing a coordinated European approach to neurological health and to support the development of a future European Neurological Health Strategy.

Background and Strategic Context: A Neurological Health Strategy for Europe

Stakeholder groups throughout Europe have increasingly called for a dedicated coordinated European approach to neurological conditions. Growing momentum has seen dedicated funding streams for brain research and the explicit integration of neurological conditions into the EU Healthier Together initiative on non-communicable diseases. The adoption of the World Health Organisation Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Neurological Disorders and Epilepsy (IGAP) 2022-2031 by the EU in 2022, provided further impetus for aligned action on neurological health. The inclusion of brain health within the Science 7 Joint communique in June this year signals recognition by the world's major economies and reinforces the urgency of sustained European leadership through the development of a comprehensive EU Neurological Health Strategy.

A significant advance was reached in February 2026, when the European Parliament's Committee on Public Health (SANT) agreed to develop an own-initiative report on neurological health. Ireland's Presidency of the EU Council therefore comes at a crucial time at the beginning of this structured process of engagement by the EU Parliament on neurological health.

Joint Declaration on Advancing Neurological Health During Ireland's EU Presidency

The Joint declaration was launched at >>**Neurology at the Forefront of Innovation in Knowledge Based Healthcare and Research Across Europe**, an Associated Event for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union which took place on World Brain Day July 22nd 2026. The Declaration has been developed and adopted by the Neurological Alliance of Ireland, FutureNeuro Research Ireland Centre for Translational Brain Science, European Academy of Neurology, European Federation of Neurological Associations and the Global Brain Health Institute.

The Joint Declaration calls on Ireland to champion the development of a comprehensive EU Neurological Health Strategy, promote discussion among Member States, and work with the European Parliament and European Commission to advance coordinated action on neurological health across Europe. The Declaration does not commit signatories to specific actions or policy positions. It is intended as a broad public statement of support for a commitment to advancing an EU wide strategic approach to neurological health during Ireland's Presidency term.

How the Declaration will be used

The Declaration will form part of a coordinated advocacy programme throughout Ireland's Presidency together with the recommendations from the keynote event, Neurology at the Forefront of Innovation in Knowledge-Based Healthcare and Research Across Europe, held in Dublin on World Brain Day 2026. Organisations who sign up to the declaration will be publicly recognised as signatories through an ongoing awareness initiative that will run throughout Ireland's Presidency.

Sign Up to the Declaration

Support is welcomed from organisations with an interest in advancing neurological health and improving outcomes for people living with neurological conditions. This includes patient and advocacy organisations, professional bodies, academic and research institutions, industry partners, and European and international organisations working in neurological health, research, policy and care. You can sign up directly at >>**DECLARATION ON ADVANCING NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH.**

More Information

If you would like an opportunity to discuss your organisation's participation, please email advocacy@nai.ie with a contact name and details making clear the organisation you are representing.