

DECLARATION ON ADVANCING NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH DURING IRELAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Neurological disorders are the third most common cause of disability and premature death in the EU and their prevalence and burden will increase with the progressive ageing of the European population. These conditions impose substantial human, social and economic costs affecting millions of individuals across the EU.

On World Brain Day, we, a coalition of Irish and European organisations representing patients, researchers and clinicians call on the Irish Presidency to support the development of a comprehensive EU Neurological Health Strategy, promote discussion among Member States, and work with the European Parliament and European Commission going forward to advance co-ordinated action on neurological health across Europe.

Ireland assumes the Presidency of the European Union at a pivotal moment for neurological health policy in Europe. In February 2026, the European Parliament's Committee on Public Health (SANT) agreed to prepare an own-initiative report on neurological health. This represents a significant milestone and reflects growing recognition across Europe of the need for more coordinated action on neurological health.

It follows on from growing momentum which 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 momentum 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.

Neurological Health must be recognised not only as a priority for healthcare systems but as a strategic investment in the wellbeing, resilience and prosperity of EU society.

By signalling its support for neurological health during its Presidency, Ireland has a unique opportunity help to advance a policy agenda which strengthens healthcare systems and the knowledge economy and improves the quality of life of all those affected by neurological conditions.

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Ireland's Presidency of the EU Council comes at a crucial time at the beginning of a structured process of engagement by the EU Parliament on neurological health.

A coalition of European and Irish neurological organisations has signed a Declaration on Advancing Neurological Health During Ireland's Presidency of the European Union. Neurological conditions are the third leading cause of disability and premature death across the EU, affecting millions of people and placing an increasing burden on individuals, families, healthcare systems and economies.

As Ireland prepares to hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, there is a unique opportunity to strengthen European leadership on neurological health.

The 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 will be launched by the organisers and event partners for Neurology at the Forefront of Innovation in Knowledge Based Healthcare and Research Across Europe, an Associated Event for Ireland's Presidency of the European Union, taking place on World Brain Day July 22nd 2026.



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