

**PRESS RELEASE: embargoed until 18.00 Tuesday 19 February 2013**

## **STAND UP FOR EPILEPSY & STAND UP FOR VERONIKA!**



**STAND UP FOR  
EPILEPSY®  
NO SEIZURES  
SIDE EFFECTS**

Please Join Us!  
**Photographic Exhibition  
and Gymnastic Display**  
to celebrate  
**EUROPEAN  
EPILEPSY DAY 2013**

**Hosted by:** Gay Mitchell MEP  
**Date:** Tues 19th February  
**Time:** 18.30  
**Venue:** ASP G block, Ground Floor  
(beside MEP restaurant)

European Epilepsy Day is organised by Epilepsy  
Advocacy Europe Task Force, European Advocates for  
Epilepsy MEP special interest group, and by national  
epilepsy associations across Europe

11 FEBRUARY 2013  
**eed**  
EUROPEAN EPILEPSY DAY

 Epilepsy  
Advocacy  
Europe

  

Photo: Attila Balogh

### **Veronika is 12 years old Her dream is to become a famous gymnast**

All Veronika wants to do is to practice her sport so that one day her dream might become a reality.

So, what's preventing her from achieving her dream?

Come and meet Veronika, watch the talented young Hungarian perform a delightful gymnastic display and find out how unfair regulations are preventing her from realising her dream.

You can also enjoy a photographic exhibition of famous international athletes pictured with people with epilepsy - some of whom are talented athletes in their own right.

This initiative is one of a series of events taking place in the European Parliament on 19th and 20th February, to mark European Epilepsy Day 2013.

#### **European Epilepsy Day aims to highlight that:**

- epilepsy still remains a hidden disease due to the **stigma** attached;
- it is **treatable**, yet **40%** of the estimated 6 million people with epilepsy in Europe do not receive appropriate treatment;
- lack of treatment imposes a huge **financial burden** on national health systems;
- **research** and **legislation** remain key issues in improving the quality of life of persons with epilepsy.

Organised by the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) and the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE).

**IBE** (founded 1961) is an international umbrella organisation of national patient epilepsy associations.

**ILAE** (founded 1909) is an international association of healthcare professionals in the area of epilepsy.

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11 Priory Hall, Blackrock, Co Dublin, Ireland. E: [ibedublin@eircom.net](mailto:ibedublin@eircom.net). Web: [www.ibe-epilepsy.org](http://www.ibe-epilepsy.org).

## Fact about Epilepsy

- Epilepsy is a collective term for a large group of disorders of the brain that are characterized by seizures.
- A seizure is like an internal electrical storm. It is the consequence of abnormal, excessive discharges of nerve cells.
- Seizures are symptoms of the disorder, they are not the disorder itself, yet it is the seizures and associated stigma, rather than the condition itself, which ruin the lives of people with epilepsy.
- Epilepsy is the most common serious brain disorder and a global problem that recognizes no class distinction or global boundary, affecting all ages, races, social classes, and countries.
- It is estimated that 50 million people have epilepsy, six million of these live in Europe.
- Three hundred thousand (300,000) new cases are diagnosed in Europe each year.
- Forty per cent (40%) of children with epilepsy have difficulty at school; people with epilepsy in Europe experience high levels of unemployment; and people with epilepsy are exposed to stigma and prejudice.
- Based on a UK government report, it has been shown that SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) is responsible for 33,000 deaths in Europe each year, of which 40% are preventable.
- With appropriate treatment, up to 70% of people with epilepsy become seizure-free. Yet only 40% of people with epilepsy in Europe receive appropriate treatment.

## About the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE)

### WWW.IBE-EPILEPSY.ORG

- **IBE** is an international umbrella organisation of national lay (patient) epilepsy associations, which was founded in Rome in 1961.
- **IBE** exists to improve the social condition and quality of life of people with epilepsy and those who care for them and has a vision of the world where everywhere ignorance and fear about epilepsy are replaced by understanding and care.
- **IBE** works to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge of epilepsy and to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge of how best to meet the needs of people with epilepsy and those who care for them.
- **IBE** currently has a membership of 122 epilepsy associations, based in 92 countries worldwide.

## About the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)

### WWW.ILAE-EPILEPSY.ORG

- **ILAE** was founded in 1909 and is the world's preeminent association of Epileptologists, neurologists and other healthcare professionals working in the field of epilepsy.
- **ILAE** is working towards a world where no persons' life is limited by epilepsy.
- **ILAE's** mission is to ensure that healthcare professionals; people with epilepsy and their care givers; governments and the public, have the educational and research resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating persons with epilepsy.
- **ILAE**, with a membership policy of one member association (chapter) per country, has 107 chapters.

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