

Dear Dr. Kruja,
Dear members of the Albanian ILAE Chapter,
Dear members of the Albanian IBE Association,
Dear friends from Albania,

It is a great pleasure for me to know that Albania will participate actively in the joint ILAE-IBE effort to raise the profile of epilepsy on the 3rd European Epilepsy Day. The 2013 theme, “No seizures, no side effects”, emphasises the ultimate goal of epilepsy therapy – a goal that can be achieved in over one half of people with this disease but, sadly, not yet everyone.

There is an urgent need for more efficacious therapies with less side effects, and for innovative treatments that do not just suppress the seizures, but also prevent epilepsy from developing or progressing. Another sobering point is that quality of epilepsy care is unsatisfactory in many countries, due to insufficient allocation of resources. The main goal of European Epilepsy Day is to address all these gaps and, in particular, sensitize governments and institutions to provide better funding for epilepsy research, better services for the epilepsy care, and better legislation protecting the rights of people with epilepsy.

I wish to thank all our colleagues at the Albanian League against Epilepsy and the Albanian IBE Association for supporting us in these efforts, and for joining our campaign to dispel stigma, prejudice and discrimination against the people with epilepsy. By joining forces and by speaking all with one voice, we can win our fight and finally accomplish our long term vision: a future where no person’s life will be limited by epilepsy, in Albania and in all the other countries of the world.

I am proud of working with you all and I look forward to our collaboration for many years to come!

Emilio Perucca
President-Elect, International League against Epilepsy
Co-Chair, Epilepsy Advocacy Europe, a joint ILAE-IBE Task Force