



Dear Members of the Albanian IBE/Member
Dear Members of the Albanian ILAE Chapter
Dear Friends

On behalf of IBE and the European Regional Executive Committee I would like to welcome you into the International Community. This day as you know is the celebration of the 3rd European Epilepsy Day, an event that all European Member Countries join together to promote epilepsy as a special issue of the day.

Stand Up for Epilepsy: No Seizures, No side effects, is the slogan of this year's event.

Epilepsy the 4th most common brain disorder, affects six million people in Europe. In spite the progress made the last few decades, even today, in some European countries, epilepsy is not considered as a brain disorder, and up to 40% of people with this condition may be untreated (treatment gap).

- Six million people with epilepsy in Europe deserve a better treatment
- Six million people with epilepsy in Europe want to go to school, to obtain employment and develop relationships like any other European.
- Six million people with epilepsy in Europe want the misconceptions, prejudice and subsequent stigma to be eliminated by educational programmes based on accurate scientific data.
- Six million people with active epilepsy in Europe cost over 20 billion Euros per year

Dear All

The European Epilepsy Day is celebrated today, *Monday February 11th*, across Europe. The primary aim is to improve awareness, give scientific information on epilepsy, discard wrong attitudes and behaviors and improve access to better treatment for all people with Epilepsy, for better quality of life.

Furthermore, a week later

IBE/ILAE Joint Task Force Epilepsy Advocacy Europe is organizing a week of celebrations in the European Parliament Brussels starting Monday February 18th, with the following main events

- A photography exhibition on **stand up for epilepsy** (45 images of famous faces with people with epilepsy)
- A workshop on epilepsy with the theme **costs and prevalence**
- An evening reception, February 19th, hosted by Gay Mitchel, Irish MEP, with various speeches

Good luck Albania with your activities and

STAND UP FOR EPILEPSY, YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Athanasios Covanis
Chair of European Regional Executive Committee
IBE President Elect