

2ND EU STROKE SUMMIT

Launch of the Stroke Action Plan for Europe

Wednesday, 23 May, 13:00 to 15:00

Room ASP3G3, European Parliament

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Elena GENTILE, Member of the European Parliament (S&D, IT)



Elena Gentile was elected Member of the European Parliament in 2014. She is a member of the Socialist & Democrats group (S&D), a member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) and a substitute member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) and the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT).

MEP Gentile is a paediatrician by training and was working in a hospital in Cerignola before being elected to the European Parliament. She began her political career in the Italian Communist Party and later the Democrats of the Left and the Democratic Party. From 2005 to 2010 and again from 2010 to 2014, she served on the Regional Council of Puglia, where she was mainly concerned with social welfare, employment policies and equal opportunities.

Jon BARRICK , President, Stroke Alliance for Europe



Jon Barrick is the President of the Stroke Alliance for Europe, a coalition of Stroke Support Organisations, as well as a Board member of the World Stroke Organisation and Chairman of the WSO World Stroke Campaign. Both his Mother and Father had strokes. Until July 2016 he was Chief Executive of the Stroke Association, the UK wide charity dealing with all aspects of stroke. In 12 years in that post the charity grew threefold, providing over 350 services at local level to stroke survivors and their families, with over 450 affiliated stroke clubs and long term support groups throughout the country. Jon has been made a lifetime Vice President of the Stroke Association.

Jon played a key role in ensuring the development of the National Stroke Strategy in England. This model of stroke support organisations, informed by stroke survivors wishes, has been advanced by sharing this concept to other countries. Jon helped to build a coalition of Stroke Patient organisations across Europe from 7 organisations to 32. In time it is hoped that each of these stroke support organisations will grow in their own way to advance the cause of stroke survivors, stroke research and better support in each of their countries.

Previously Jon was UK Director of Community Services for 15 years at the Royal National Institute of the Blind, and chaired the committee on Aging and Blindness for the World Blind Union where he gathered his expertise in the governance of international voluntary sector activity. He has been Trustee with a host of various

organisations in the past including jointly chairing the British Neurological Alliance of over 50 neurological charities, and being a Trustee of the Association of Medical Research Charities (over 150 charities researching medical conditions).

Jon himself appeared in the top 5 ranking of Britain's most admired Charity CEO's in 2006 and 2013.

Bart VAN DER WORP, President, European Stroke Organisation



Bart van der Worp is a neurologist with a special interest in cerebrovascular diseases at the University Medical Center in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He has been (co-)Chief Investigator of the randomised clinical trials HAMLET, PAIS, COOLIST, and VAST and is (co-)Chief Investigator of PRECIOUS (www.precious-trial.eu), APACHE-AF (www.apache-af.nl), and MR ASAP (www.mrasap.nl). He is a member of the recently founded Dutch CONTRAST consortium which aims to identify and test new treatments for patients with acute ischaemic stroke or intracerebral haemorrhage through a range of follow-up trials to MR CLEAN.

Bart is President-elect of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO; <http://eso-stroke.org>).

Tairi TAHT – Counsellor for Health Affairs, Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU



Tairi Täht is the Counsellor for Health Affairs of the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU since 2014, where she deals with healthcare, public health, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, chemicals, e-Services development and innovation policy in health and social affairs. Prior to that, she was Chief Specialist in the Medicines Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs in Estonia, position which she occupied between 2010 and 2014.

Mrs Täht holds a Master degree of Science in Engineering in Environmental Technology and Cleaner Production as well as a Bachelor degree in Logistics, both from the Tallinn University of Technology. Mrs Täht is fluent in Estonian, English and French and is intermediate in Russian.

Grethe LUNDE – Treasurer, Stroke Alliance for Europe



Grethe Lunde is the current Treasurer of the Stroke Alliance for Europe. Grethe is from Stavanger, Norway. She has over 24 years of experience as a stroke survivor both with and without wheels. Grethe also has 20 years of experience in working stroke organisations and peer support, giving speeches about her life as a stroke survivor and mostly about how to master a life after having a stroke.

Tamsin ROSE - Facilitator and Trainer



Tamsin Rose is a facilitator and trainer with more than twenty years of experience in the European policy environment. Tamsin studied international relations at Leeds University before moving to Brussels in 1990 and working for the newly established NGO Climate Network Europe and a multi-lingual desktop publishing company. From 1993-1997 Tamsin was based in Moscow, Russia where she was a radio reporter for the first FM commercial radio station and later as deputy head of the Press section of the EU Delegation in Moscow. She spent two years in Paris, France working for a global network of cities managing an EU funded programme which twinned European cities with their counterparts in former Soviet republics. The 6 million Euro programme brought together more than 130 cities.

Over the past decade, Tamsin has also been an independent evaluator for EU programmes on democracy, human rights, independent media and the rule of law, local and regional government, e-health, e-government, scientific research on societal issues. From 2002 until 2005, she served as the Secretary-General of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), the largest platform of NGOs working on health at the EU level which represents health workers, regulators, manager, patients and advocates. Since 2006, Tamsin has worked as a consultant for a broad range of NGOs, public institutions and philanthropic foundations on assignments involving training, communication and strategic advice on EU policies. She has facilitated a broad range of events from intimate policy dinners to high level media events involving EU Commissioners and national Ministers. Tamsin has worked in 33 countries across Europe.

A native English speaker, she has advanced French and basic Russian language skills. Tamsin has experience of a variety of different meeting formats including open space, world cafe, fishbowl, moderated panel discussions. She has also managed events with translation in several languages and moderated a debate involving a live audience and online participants. Her knowledge can be used to help shape the format and structure of events to achieve the objectives and the desired level of interaction with participants.

Aldo PATRICIELLO, Member of the European Parliament (EPP, IT)



Aldo Patriciello was elected Member of the European Parliament in 2006. In his current third term, he is a member of the Group of the European People's Party (EPP), treasurer for the Italian Delegation within the EPP (Forza Italia) as well as a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and substitute member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

MEP Patriciello was born in Venafro, Italy. Next to his political activities, he leads a group of thirty companies, mainly in the health and scientific research sectors. He started working in a small family construction company and helped it to grow into a major economic and productive group of his home region.

From 1995 to 2006 and before being elected to the European Parliament, MEP Patriciello served as Member of the Regional Council of Molise, Vice-Chairman of the Regional Council, as Molise Regional Councillor responsible for the budget, transport, agriculture and production activities and Vice-president of the Regional Government.

Brenda O'BRIEN – Manager, Liaison Office in Brussels, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)



Brenda O'Brien is the Manager of the EU-OSHA Liaison Office in Brussels, representing the interests of the Agency in the EU institutions and other international and European organisations, and collaborating with the European Social Partners, companies and stakeholders engaged in workplace health and safety. Previously, Brenda worked in the Bilbao headquarters, focusing on the Agency's campaigns and SME funding programmes. Before that, Brenda worked in Brussels for several years with the European trade unions, specialising in the European Social Dialogue, advocacy activities, press and campaign work. Brenda holds an honours degree in European Studies from the University of Limerick, and a postgraduate Master of Letters (Sociology) from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

Silvia VILLANUEVA – Project Officer of Scientific Research, Unit E4 - Non-communicable diseases and the challenge of healthy ageing, DG for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)



Dr. Silvia Villanueva Ferragud, MD, MPH, MSc, is a Scientific/Technical Project Officer in the Unit of "Non-communicable diseases and the challenge of healthy ageing" in DG Research and Innovation, European Commission. In this role, Ms. Villanueva supports the work of the European Commission in the field of neurodegenerative diseases and stroke. The European Commission is funding research in areas that include better understanding of the mechanisms and risk factors, better diagnosis tools, and new or optimised therapies of stroke.

Zinta PODNIECE - Deputy Head of Unit, Unit B3 - Health and Safety, DG for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (DG EMPL)



Dr Zinta Podniece (MPH) is a medical doctor specialised in occupational and public health. Currently she is Deputy Head of Health and Safety Unit in Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission. She deals with such topics as chemicals, health and safety of older workers, electromagnetic fields and mental health at the workplace. Before that more than 7 years she worked at the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work dealing with occupational health issues, including work-related musculoskeletal disorders, mental health, workplace health promotion and wellbeing at work. In the early 2000s, she worked on the preparation of a Latvian Public Health Strategy and Action Programme for the Ministry of Health.