

**No Health Without Brain Health:
Prioritising Brain Health in the European Union to Leave No One Behind**

Brain Awareness Week 2024

7 March 2024 | European Parliament, Room A3E-2 | Brussels, Belgium

Brain Awareness Week is the global campaign to increase public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research. Every March, the week unites the efforts of partner organizations world-wide in a celebration of the brain for people of all ages. EBC takes part annually with an initiative to promote and communicate on brain health and research, showcasing ongoing efforts to prevent and treat brain disorders – neurological and mental alike – in Europe. The goal of these activities is to gain more attention for brain health, not only from within the wider brain community but also from EU policymakers and the public, to ensure that more resources are channelled towards prevention awareness, research on the brain and for the 179 million Europeans currently living with some form of brain condition.

Across the globe, society is facing brain challenges like never before — improving the health and wellbeing of citizens has become the top priority for many governments and brain health should not be left behind. In the lead up to Brain Awareness Week 2024, EBC will hold its annual event around brain health awareness in line with its ongoing advocacy work such as the [Pledge for Science](#), [Global Call to Action](#) and [2024 EU Elections Manifesto](#), which all call for increased attention, prioritisation and investment in brain health at the European and global levels.

This event will be held in the **European Parliament** in Brussels on **Thursday, 7 March 2024**, the week ahead of Brain Awareness Week 2024, hosted by Member of European Parliament (MEP), Colm Markey (EPP, IE), bringing together stakeholders in the space, including clinicians, researchers, patients, and additional MEPs and relevant civil servants. The event will cover key policy asks from the brain community and showcase the importance of placing the brain as a top health and research priority in the EU; not only to tackle the growing burden of brain disorders in Europe — neurological and mental alike—but to recognise that by prioritising the brain, we prioritise the health of all citizens: to live in health and in happiness, to power our labour markets and economies, and to build for future generations. Instead of divesting in a cost, policymakers and society at large should view the prioritization and support of brain research as an investment into prevention, wellness, and optimization.

Programme:

11:00-11:05 **Welcome by Host** MEP, Colm Markey (EPP, IE)

11:05-11:10 **Introduction** by Prof. Suzanne Dickson, President, European Brain Council

11:10- 11:30 **Keynotes** on Brain Health (World Health Organization - *TBC*) and Brain Capital & Wealth (Frédéric Destrebecq, Executive Director, European Brain Council)

11:30-11:50 **Testimonies on Lived Experiences**

- Astri Arnesen, President, European Federation of Neurological Associations
- Péter Kéri, President, GAMIAN-Europe

11:50-12:20 **Addressing the Burden and the Challenges of Brain Disorders**

- **Science and Innovation in the Brain Space**, Morten Grunnet, Vice President and Head of Neuroscience, Lundbeck
- **The Burden of Disease in Epilepsy and Mental Disorders**, Angelini-The European House Ambrosetti
- **Brain Research in Europe**, Catherine Berens, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

12:20-12:50 **Panel Discussion: Policy Asks from the Brain Community in View of the EU Elections**

Moderated by Frédéric Destrebecq, Executive Director, European Brain Council

- Prof. Kevin Rostasy, President, European Paediatric Neurology Society
- Prof. Martien Kas, President, European College of Neuropsychopharmacology
- Prof. Geert Dom, President, European Psychiatric Association
- Representative of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)

12:50-13:00 **Concluding Remarks by Host MEP and EBC President**

