



October 17<sup>th</sup> 2011

## **An open letter to Commission President José-Manuel Barroso**

### **Support for the European Year of the Brain 2014**

We, the undersigned, call upon Commission President Barroso to formally endorse 2014 as the European Year of the Brain

The European Year of the Brain 2014 is an ambitious programme, developed by the European Brain Council (EBC) which will create a lasting legacy for the whole of Europe. EBC has already brought together a committed and enthusiastic coalition of patients, carers, healthcare professionals, scientists, politicians and industry and is keen to engage many more.

Our knowledge and understanding of the brain is expanding all the time and is a key driver of European economic recovery and growth, but most people don't know how to develop, nurture, protect and preserve their own and Europe's most vital asset.

We want to celebrate the wonder of the brain and create initiatives which will change behaviours. Our aim is to give every EU citizen the opportunity to see, hear, read about or experience something new/amazing about the brain.

We are planning interactive road-shows that will visit every EU member state and over 900 cities and towns, an extensive schools and universities programme, with participation from hundreds of famous ambassadors from all walks of life.

But the European Year of the Brain is simply the start...

It is vital that European and national initiatives continue at both political and community levels

- Legislative changes to make lives safer
- Social changes to reduce stigma associated with mental health
- Political changes to ensure better disease management
- Personal changes which make us all think differently about our brains

Your support with this initiative is vital, but time is also of the essence. To plan and then implement activities of a scale never previously seen for a European Year requires several years and delay will limit what can be achieved. We have already been working on this project

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for several years and your leadership is critical to ensure that EU citizens, especially the 1 in 3 who suffer from and /or live with a brain disorder, can truly benefit from our ambitious plans

We appreciate how busy you are but we enclose a 6 minute film for you to watch which will give more details of what we are proposing. This has been put together to try to raise funds to support our activities leading up to a potential year as we are a not for profit organisation, funded by our members.

The film can be also seen here:

<http://www.europeanbraincouncil.org/projects/eyob/materials.asp>

We are happy to meet with you or your team to discuss this further.

Best wishes,

Mary G. Baker, MBE  
President

Alastair G. Benbow  
Executive Director

ORGANIZATION	NAME
<b>European Brain Council – EBC</b>	Mary G. Baker, President
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<b>Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Institute of Experimental Medicine</b>	Eva Syková, Director
<b>Actelion</b>	Schellberg Sten
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<b>Antiparkinson Romanian Association</b>	Dan Raican, President
<b>Aristotle University of Thessaloniki</b>	Magda Tsolaki
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<b>Association Française de Psychiatrie Biologique et Neuropsychopharmacologie (AFPBN)</b>	Michel Hamon, President
<b>Association Française des Personnes Affectées par le Syndrome des Jambes Sans Repos - AFSJR</b>	Geyer catherine, President
<b>Association Huntington France</b>	Perrousseaux M. Odile, Board member
<b>Association of relatives in care for mental health - HUMANA</b>	Gricar Tatjana, President
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<b>Associazione Gruppo Parkinson di Carpi - Italy</b>	Neri Paola, President
<b>Associazione Italiana Corea di Huntington - Roma</b>	Danzi Bellocchio Wanda, Vice-Presidente
<b>Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sulla Dystonia - ARD</b>	Corsi Paolo, President
<b>Associazione Ligure Parkinson - Italy</b>	Satta Roberto, President
<b>Associazione Parkinson Grosseto - Italy</b>	Barbieri Nadia
<b>Associazione Parkinson Roma- Italy</b>	Passalacqua Claudio, President
<b>Associazione Parkinson Trento - Italy</b>	Manigrasso Domenico
<b>Associazione Parkinsoniani - Novara e VCO Arona - Italy</b>	Franco Bellingeri, President
<b>Associazione per la Lotta all'Ictus Cerebrale - ALICE</b>	Sacchetti Maria Luisa, President
<b>Astra Zeneca</b>	Rossin Bradley
<b>Azione Parkinson Disease Ciociara - Italy</b>	Germini Valeria, Vice President

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<b>Brains for Brain Foundation – B4B</b>	Scarpa Maurizio, Founder of B4B
<b>Bristol-Myers Squibb</b>	Vandoosselaere Celine, Roux Jean-Louis
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<b>British Neuroscience Association</b>	David Nutt, President
<b>Communication Disability Network - Connect</b>	Campbell-McRae Phyllis
<b>Covance</b>	Buse Eberhard
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<b>Cyprus Association Of Pharmaceutical Companies</b>	Avgoustinos Potamitis, President
<b>DAK</b>	Erbe Cornelius
<b>Danish Parkinson Association</b>	Holst Mette, Secretary General & Jorry Hojer, Chairman
<b>Danish Neuropsychological Society</b>	Holm Sara, Secretary General
<b>Delta Hungarian Parkinson Association</b>	Fazekas Andras, Medical Advisor
<b>Deutsche Dystonie Gesellschaft</b>	Kuehn Ute, President
<b>Deutsche Restless Legs Vereinigung</b>	Habersack Lillo, President
<b>Different Strokes</b>	Wilson Debbie
<b>Dutch Neuropsychological Society</b>	Vingerhoets Guy, President

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<b>Epikouros - Greek Parkinson's Disease Society</b>	Panayotis Zikos
<b>ESTEVE (Pharma Industry)</b>	Parraga Antonio, TPP and TFP Management Head
<b>European Alliance for Restless Legs Syndrome - EARLS</b>	Jaarsma Joke, President
<b>European Sexual Health Alliance - ESHA</b>	Hattat Irem, President
<b>European Accreditation Committee in CNS - ACIC</b>	Souery Daniel
<b>European Alzheimer Disease Consortium - EADC</b>	Winblad Bengt, President
<b>European Association of Neurosurgical Societies - EANS</b>	Schramm Johannes, President
<b>European Association of Young Neurologists in Training</b>	Varga Edina Timea, President
<b>European College of Neuropsychopharmacology - ECNP</b>	Zohar Joseph, President
<b>European Committee for Treatment and Research in MS - ECTRIMS</b>	Clanet Michel, President
<b>European Dana Alliance for the Brain - EDAB</b>	Colin Blakemore, Vice Chair & Pierre Magistretti, Vice Chair
<b>European Dystonia Federation - EDF</b>	Benson Monica, President
<b>European Federation of Autonomic Societies - EFAS</b>	Pietro Cortelli, President
<b>European Federation of Neurological Associations - EFNA</b>	Baker Mary, President
<b>European Federation of Neurological Societies - EFNS</b>	Hughes Richard, President
<b>European Federation of Older People - EURAG</b>	Jaap van der Spek
<b>European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations</b>	Ager Brian

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<b>European Huntington Association</b>	De Schepper Bea, President
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<b>European Neurological Society - ENS</b>	Gerard Said, President
<b>European Pediatric Neurology Society</b>	Lagae Lieven, President
<b>European Parkinson Disease Association - EPDA</b>	Onarheim Knut-Johan, President, Graham Lizzie, Secretary-General
<b>European Psychiatric Association - EPA</b>	Boyer Patrice, President
<b>European Society of Neurosonology and Cerebral Hemodynamics</b>	Csiba Laszlo, President
<b>European Stroke Organisation - ESO</b>	Brainin Michael, President Elect
<b>Fédération Française des Groupements de Parkinsoniens</b>	Yves Waché, President
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<b>Federation of the European Societies of Neuropsychology - ESN</b>	Vingerhoets Guy, President
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<b>GAMIAN - Europe</b>	Gauci Dolores, President
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<b>Genzyme</b>	Hughes-Willson Wills
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<b>German Neuropsychological Society</b>	Niemann Hendrik, President
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<b>Israeli Mental Health Association - ENOSH</b>	Cohen Yoram, Chairman
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<b>Merck Serono</b>	Morgese Paolo
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<b>Motor Neuron Disease Association of England, Wales and Northern Ireland</b>	Brain Dickie
<b>Movement Disorders Society - European Section</b>	Werner Poewe, President
<b>Movement of Siblings of people with mental illness in Greece - KINAPSI</b>	Spyridon Zorbas, President
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<b>Norwegian Huntington Association</b>	Arnesen Astri
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<b>World Federation of Neurology - WFN</b>	Hachinski Vladimir, President
<b>World Federation of Neuro-Rehabilitation - WFNR</b>	Selzer Michael, President and Mole Tracey, Executive Director
<b>ZARJA - Organisation for the reactivation of people after cranio-cerebral trauma</b>	Zavod Zarja

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**Viviane Reding**, Vice-President, Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship  
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