



European Brain Council Irish Meeting. Dublin, 9th March 2010

The meeting to consider launching an Irish National Action Group or National Brain Council was held in the European Union House in Dublin. The meeting was attended by 10 people; the EBC was represented by Ian Ragan and Tadeusz Hawrot.

LP	Name	Organization	
1	Prof Tim Lynch	Consultant Neurologist	Mater Hospital
2	Prof Peter Kelly – apologies	Consultant Neurologist	Mater Hospital
3	Dr Colin Doherty	Consultant Neurologist	St. James’ Hospital
4	Dr Niall Pender	Neuropsychologist	Beaumont Hospital
5	Prof David Cotter – apologies	Neuropsychiatrist	Royal College of Surgeon
6	Prof Shane O’Mara	Neuroscientist	Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience
7	Ann Winslow	Chair	Neurological Alliance of Ireland
8	Eibhlin Mulroe	Chief Executive	Irish Platform for Patients’ Organisations, Science and Industry
9	Audrey Craven	Vice-President	European Federation of Neurological Associations
10	Dr. John Sheehan	Biological Psychiatrist,	
11	Dr Ian Ragan	Director	European Brain Council
12	Tadeusz Hawrot	Project Manager	European Brain Council
13	Colette Fitzpatrick – apologies	Administrator	Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience

The agenda was as follows:

AGENDA

- Participants’ introduction.
- European Brain Council: Background aims and objectives.
- Open discussion - The current situation on brain research and all those affected by brain diseases in Ireland
- Conclusions and way forward.



The meeting was followed by a dinner where the discussion continued.

Audrey Craven welcomed everyone to the meeting and the participants were encouraged to give a short introduction on their professions and activities. The floor was then given to the EBC representative Ian Ragan who introduced the EBC, its objectives, past projects and current activities.

Tadeusz Hawrot elaborated on the recent EBC's assignment – the European Commission funded project on psychosocial brain diseases called PARADISE, where the EBC is mainly responsible for coordinating dissemination activities.

The participants were very interested in the EBC plans to declare the European Year of the Brain (EYOB), particularly in view of the fact that if the EYOB is declared in 2013, it will coincide with the Irish EU Council Presidency that takes place in the first half of 2013. Questions were raised as to what outcome the EBC would like to generate from such a year. Ian Ragan explained that the main aim is to push brain research and diseases higher up the agenda of Europe and the EU Member States.

A broader discussion about the state of brain research in Ireland and beyond followed. Among others, concerns were raised that many major pharmaceutical companies are pulling out of funding brain research. Further to that, fragmentation of research was addressed as well as a need for a greater cooperation.

Afterwards, the EBC representatives explained further the nature of National Action Groups and National Brain Councils, and the benefits of forming such a body in Ireland were discussed. In view of the upcoming meeting that EBC representatives will have with the Irish EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science which will seek support for declaring a European Year of the Brain, it has been suggested that the Commissioner is informed about a kick off meeting of the Irish Brain Council and that a consensus has been reached with regard to the EYOB initiative.

At the end, participants agreed to declare an Irish Brain Council. An email list should be established and a next meeting will be planned.

T. Hawrot
I. Ragan