

## **EUROPEAN PEDIATRICIANS TOWARD THE GOAL OF SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE TO ADVOCATE FOR EUROPEAN CHILDREN AND THEIR HEALTH**

A great news for all European paediatric Societies and Associations

Last week *an important goal* has been achieved by **two of the three main European pediatric societies** representing over 200.000 European pediatricians active in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary care. The European Paediatric Association, the Union of National European Paediatric Societies and Associations (**EPA/UNEPSA**) and the European Confederation of Primary Care Paediatricians (**ECPCP**) have signed a key partnership memorandum of understanding, which marks an important step for European Pediatricians toward the goal of speaking with one voice to advocate for children and their health.

The agreement between these two key European Paediatric Organizations will pave the way for achieving a unification of all European Paediatric forces actively engaged in protecting children's health and promoting their wellbeing.

The European Confederation of Primary Care Paediatricians (ECPCP), and the European Pediatrics Association/Union of National European Paediatric Societies and Associations (EPA/UNEPSA), are committed to the health and wellbeing of all children as declared in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ratified by their National Governments. They are convinced that Paediatricians are the professionals that are best trained and suited for the primary, secondary and tertiary medical care of children and adolescents.

ECPCP and EPA/UNEPSA are convinced that a systematic and coordinated interaction of primary, secondary and tertiary care specialist paediatricians is essential to the health and wellbeing of children, and EPA/UNEPSA and ECPCP both recognize the importance to jointly design and develop a common strategy, which will enable European Paediatrics to rise high and speak with one voice advocating for European children and adolescents in the following years.

EPA/UNEPSA and ECPCP believes that a strong and united voice is needed to raise the awareness of national and international legislator about the importance of children and adolescent's health for the future of the European continent. Only a joined effort will in fact ensure that they have access to the best care available, and benefit from cutting-edge scientific research and discoveries, being protected by age-appropriate laws and regulations.

These two major European Pediatric Organizations are confident to have well interpreted the feelings of their member pediatric societies strongly demanding that the European pediatricians will be able to unite their actions and visions in the common effort to protect the European children's health

Both ECPCP and EPA agreed to work together in an egalitarian spirit to develop joint projects and activities and to accomplish common future goals. Their joint efforts aim to:

- Disseminate information to their networks on each other

- Advertise the periodical conferences/meetings of each other

- Create synergies wherever possible between both associations

- Aim at developing a periodical joint meeting/congress and share its scientific program

Developing joint educational activities and projects

Developing joint editorial activities/projects

Consult and share the texts of future recommendations/guidelines/statements involving child health and care, before releasing any document which could be in contrast with the principles of the two Organizations.

Pursue a common strategy leading to the development of a common unique organization including ECPCP, EPA/UNEPSA, as well as EAP and other major European associations, which format should be able to more effectively and efficiently speak with one voice advocating for European children and adolescents, while being respectful of the reciprocal areas of interests, missions and expertise of the participating organizations.