



International Diabetes Federation

IDF Europe Newsletter

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Letter from the President of IDF Europe



Many thanks to all of you for your work this year in the interest of people with diabetes within your countries and the European Region of the International Diabetes Federation. I wish to express my great gratitude to all the healthcare professionals, patient organizations, volunteers, corporate partners and everyone who supported us in their own way.

Our 2004 General Assembly and Together We Are Stronger meetings in Otočec (Slovenia) allowed us to express our solidarity and anxieties. We all agreed on a declaration - The Otočec Declaration - that was presented to the new EU Commissioner for Health, Mr Markos Kyprianou, in November. This Declaration is a call for European leaders to highlight diabetes as a priority for the EU health agenda and to take immediate steps to develop an EU Council Recommendation for Diabetes Prevention, Diagnosis and Control.

In November, a wonderful relaunch meeting of the EU Diabetes Working Group took place under the Chairmanship of Mr John Bowis, during which several new Members of the EU Parliament discussed with us mutual worries and concerns. In the same period, I participated in a conference on Corporate Social Responsibility organized by the EU Presidency of The Netherlands, where I gave a presentation about the good possibilities of co-operation between industry and patient organizations.

In Israel, I attended the Russell Berrie International Diabetes Symposium organized by the Israel Diabetes Association in October. This gave me the opportunity to visit a Palestinian hospital. Diabetes truly has no borders.

Recently, Mrs Mehridan Aliyev, the first lady of Azerbaijan, started a very inspiring initiative for children with diabetes in Azerbaijan. From now on, they will all be assured the delivery of insulin. I expressed my gratitude to her and congratulated the Azerbaijan Diabetes Society on its work.

In this newsletter you will read about a lot of other activities that have taken place in the last few months. Among those that impressed me were the meetings of the Diabetes Experts' Panel Accessing Countries (DEPAC), the GlucoForum (tackling pre-diabetes), and the Education Workshops. You will hear more about these next year.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Dr Wim Wientjens
President IDF Europe

EU Affairs

- ◆ **European leaders receive call to act on diabetes** - On 16 November, as part of European Diabetes Week held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, IDF Europe and John Bowis MEP presented outgoing EU Commissioner for Health David Byrne and his successor Markos Kyprianou (both pictured right with John Bowis and IDF Europe Chair Wim Wientjens), with the "Otočec Declaration", a call to Europe's leaders to act on diabetes. The Declaration, which received 90 signatures from 35 EU and national diabetes associations at the IDF Europe General Assembly in Otočec, Slovenia in October, specifically calls on the EU to take immediate steps to develop an EU Council Recommendation for the prevention, diagnosis, and management of diabetes.



IDF Europe Regional News

- ◆ **IDF Europe General Assembly and Together We Are Stronger Meeting, Otočec, Slovenia (22-24 October)** - The General Assembly and other meetings were held in a very friendly and positive atmosphere, resulting in the Otočec Declaration (see above), which was presented during the EU Diabetes Week in Strasbourg. The Together We Are Stronger meeting addressed the following topics: EU Affairs; the development of diabetes care in Eastern and Central European Countries; the prospects and reality of islet cell transplantation for type 1 diabetes; adult and embryonic stem cell approaches to beta cell replacement therapy; making education work; national diabetes plans; glucose monitoring for all and obesity in children. The presentations on these topics can be found on the IDF Europe website of which all member associations have been informed.



- ◆ **EU Diabetes Week, Strasbourg 16-18 November** - Two major events took place during the week: over the three days, EU Members of Parliament (MEP's) and people working in the Parliament could have their cholesterol, HbA1C and blood glucose levels tested in two special mobile units located outside the Parliament building (pictured left). More than 100 people were tested; on

Wednesday 17 November a lunch meeting was organized in the Parliament building, hosted by MEP John Bowis, during which 19 MEP's and other guests (around 40 persons in total were present) were welcomed by Wim Wientjens, President of IDF Europe. We thank our sponsors, Aventis, LifeScan, Merck, Novo Nordisk, and Pfizer, for having made these events possible.

IDF Europe Association News



• In Cyprus, the **Cyprus Diabetes Association** marked this year's World Diabetes Day by organizing a blood glucose screening (pictured left) in Limassol in collaboration with the Lion's Club. Over 500 people were tested and provided with a variety of information material on diabetes.

• In France, **L'Association Française des Diabétiques (AFD)** held its 9th annual Salon du Diabète in Paris on 12-14 November on the occasion of World Diabetes Day. The event brought together people with diabetes, health professionals, health associations, pharmacists, and industry from all over the country. Some 7500 people attended the various conferences, exhibitions, and workshops that were held over the three days.



• In Georgia, the **Georgian Union of Diabetes and**



Endocrine Associations (GUDEAS) organized a variety of activities for World Diabetes Day. The event was celebrated for the first time in the city of Batumi under the auspices of the City Hall, the local University and the Ministry of Culture, Education and Sports. Activities organized included tree-planting (pictured right). A diabetes screening was also held in the Georgian Parliament.

• In Germany, a National German Diabetes Programme was launched at the National Action Forum Diabetes Mellitus, held in Berlin on October 7. The programme - a joint initiative of the **Deutsche Diabetes Union (DDU)** and the Federal Ministry for Health and Social Security - aims to encourage improvements in diabetes prevention, care, early detection and research by bringing together a wide variety of interests to achieve the common goal of decreasing the burden of diabetes on German society.

• In Israel, the **Israel Diabetes Association (IDA)** celebrated its 50th anniversary in October by organizing the first Russell Berrie International Diabetes Symposium in Jerusalem. The event saw the launch of D-Cure, a five-year initiative that will triple the current level of diabetes research in the country and involve more than 300 researchers from medical and scientific centres throughout Israel. Also during the symposium, a donation of insulin (pictured right) was made for a Palestinian child to mark the start of a joint project involving, among others, the IDA and Insulin for Life Australia.



• In Luxembourg, 114 people participated in the diabetes walk organized by **L'Association Luxembourgeoise du Diabète (ALD)** as part of an Open Day that also included conferences and information desks on diabetes. Over 600 people attended the event that was introduced by the Minister of Health.

- ◆ In The Netherlands, the **Diabetesvereniging Nederland (DVN)** marked World Diabetes Day by holding diabetes screenings in over 90 locations throughout the country. Some 15,000 people were tested in community centres, libraries and town halls.



- ◆ In Slovakia, the **Association of Diabetic Patients of Slovakia (ADPS)** organized an annual meeting of insulin pump users in the city of Tatranske Matliare in early October. In the city of Martin, the local diabetes association – DIAMART – marked its 10th anniversary by holding a diabetes conference on World Diabetes Day, with lectures and blood glucose and blood pressure testing (pictured left.).

- ◆ In Slovenia, the **Slovenian Diabetes Association (SLODA)** held the sixth “My knowledge about diabetes” competition in the town of Jesenice. 5480 students from 233 primary and secondary schools took part and learnt about diabetes and healthy living.

- ◆ In Turkey, the **Turkish Diabetes Foundation** celebrated World Diabetes Day with public meetings and diabetes screenings in 20 cities. In Istanbul, some 1500 people (pictured right) participated in the Global Diabetes Walk coordinated by the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), and a panel was held to discuss the improvement of social rights for people with diabetes involving representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Turkish parliament.



Other News



- ◆ In Azerbaijan, a programme to help children with diabetes in the country was launched during a ceremony held in the capital Baku on December 7. The programme, “Highest care for children with diabetes”, aims to raise national and international awareness of the problems faced by children with diabetes in Azerbaijan and is an initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the Azerbaijan Diabetes Society, and Novo Nordisk. The ceremony was presided by the First Lady of Azerbaijan and President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva. For more information on the programme, visit www.first-lady.az.



For over 30 years, Servier has been a leading partner in the field of diabetes research, with partnerships with leading diabetes associations such as:

IDF, IDF Europe, EASD, The Diabetes Education Study Group, The Mediterranean Group for the Study of Diabetes, The European Union Geriatric Medicine Society and the International Group of Insulin Secretion.

In addition, Servier collaborates with the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD) in a Research Grant Programme, and with the University of Padova for the Morgagni Prize.

Servier also endows the Robert Turner Professorship in Diabetic Medicine at Oxford University.

**If you have any diabetes related news that you would like to share with
IDF Europe, please send us the information either by
e-mail (newsletter@idf-europe.org) or Fax (+32 2 5371981)
and we shall be pleased to include it in our next newsletters.**

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