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Press conference of the Association for Stroke and Aphasia and the Bulgarian Society of Neurology on the topic:

BULGARIA IN THE FIGHT AGAINST STROKE: OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS

Update of the Stroke Action Plan for Europe 2030. Bulgaria - host of the annual meeting of the National Coordinators of the European Stroke Plan /20 - 22.01.2025/

Participants:

- Acad. Prof. Dr. Ivan Milanov, Chairman of the Bulgarian Society of Neurology (BDN);
- Prof. Dr. Dimitar Maslarov, Head of the Clinic of Neurology at the First Hospital for Active Treatment in Sofia, National Coordinator for Bulgaria of the European Stroke Action Plan;
- Ing. Dorina Dobрева, President of the Association for Stroke and Aphasia, member of the Board of the European Stroke Patients' Organization (SAFE), National Coordinator for Bulgaria of the European Stroke Action Plan;
- Dr. Georgi Georgiev, Deputy Chairman of the Association for Stroke and Aphasia; representatives of the Organising Committee of the European Stroke Action Plan for Europe;;
- Prof. Simona Sacco, President of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO)
- Dr. Dimitar Taskov, National Coordinator for Bulgaria of the European Stroke Action Plan;



Today, in Sofia was held a press conference organized by the Association for Stroke and Aphasia and the Bulgarian Society of Neurology. Main topic was the presentation of the updated Stroke Action Plan for Europe 2018-2030 and Bulgaria's progress to overcome the burden of stroke. First of all, the floor was taken by the President of ESO, Prof. Sacco, who expressed her sympathy for the work of Bulgarian organizations in the fight against stroke. She outlined the European context of the stroke problem, drawing public attention to the negative statistics in Bulgaria and the ongoing European trend for stroke cases to increase. Prof. Sacco noted that the annual meeting of the National Coordinators of the Stroke Action Plan for Europe, organised in Sofia, is evidence of support for the Bulgarian efforts. The exchange of experience and good practices of more than 78 delegates from 39 countries is an opportunity for the Bulgarian organizations to find new solutions to deal with the problem.

Acad. Ivan Milanov, Chairman of BSN, presented the updated National Consensus on Stroke Treatment, an important step towards improving the acute stroke treatment.

Dipl.eng.Dorina Dobрева presented the structure of the European Stroke Action Plan and some highlights of its update.

Prof. Maslarov presented Bulgaria's achievements for 2024 reported in the stroke service tracker as common tool for benchmark and comparison between EU countries within the Stroke Action Plan for Europe.

Committing to coordinate an action plan with the Bulgarian Ministry of Health, the participants in the press conference concluded the following important message:

The fight against stroke in Bulgaria requires targeted, evidence-based, large-scale and straightforward actions. Success depends on the mobilization of all stakeholders involved in this process and the transition from spontaneous, campaign actions to the implementation of a clear strategic National Stroke plan. In this process, each participant, depending on his expertise and specific role, is expected to contribute actively for the achievement of the common goal and maintain to high level partnership, solidarity and cooperation with all other stakeholders.