

Introduction & 2026 Action Plan

Empowering safer, higher-quality care across Europe.

August 2026



SECTION

About 01



Our Identity

EUPSF is an independent European foundation, uniting experts and leading organisations to drive patient safety forward across Europe.

By involving patients, healthcare professionals, hospital managers and life-science companies in all aspects of our work — including our governance — we bring together complementary perspectives and develop solutions tailored to the complexity of patient safety challenges.

Complementary perspectives. Coherent action across Europe.

Our Vision

Continuous improvement of patient safety and quality of care is the **top priority** of European healthcare.



A BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF PATIENT SAFETY

Patient safety needs to be approached holistically, considering all the direct and indirect factors that condition excellence in care, and linking it to the equity in care, the resilience and the sustainability of the healthcare systems.

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Improving patient safety must involve all the stakeholders concerned — including patients, healthcare professionals, leadership — to combine different perspectives and develop solutions tailored to the challenges of patient safety and the growing technicity of care.

A SYSTEMIC VISION OF CHANGE

Approaches aiming at improving patient safety must embrace the complexity of healthcare systems, the interdependencies between processes, technologies and the human factor, and seek to produce a sustained positive impact.

Our Mission

We promote improvement of **patient safety and quality of care** across Europe.

Empowering people

By ensuring European patients, healthcare professionals and providers are informed, trained and empowered in their roles to provide the safest and highest quality care possible.

Fostering collaboration

By connecting healthcare stakeholders across Europe, creating a united network who share knowledge, tools and recommendations for implementing innovative practices, to improve patient safety and outcomes.

Driving change

Through partnership with leading organisations and experts in the field of patient safety, developing initiatives and policy proposals that genuinely advance patient safety across Europe, making it a tangible reality for all patients.

Board of Directors



Dr. Arnt Suckow
President
TUM Klinikum, Germany



Mr. Pedro Vieira Dos Santos
Vice-President
Medtronic, Portugal



Mrs. Doina Carmen Mazilu
Board Member
OAMGMAMR, Romania



PD Dr. Michael Wagner
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Dr. Franziska Diel
Board Member
APS, Germany



Mr. Andrea Rappagliosi
Board Member
Edwards Lifesciences, CH



Mr. Jose Luis Gomez
Board Member
Becton Dickinson, Spain

According to the EUPSF by-laws, the Foundation is managed by a Board consisting of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) members. Only Non-profit Organisation Affiliates and Industry Affiliates can be elected as Board member, a majority of which must be NPO Affiliates.

Advisory Board & Secretariat

ADVISORY BOARD

Bringing independent and critical view on our actions and strategic



PD Dr. Sven Staender
Switzerland



Prof. Eberhard Kochs
Germany



Dr. Nancy Redfern
United Kingdom



Prof. Adrian Gelb
United States



Dr. David Borshoff
Australia



Mrs. Cecilia Edström
Sweden

SECRETARIAT

The EUPSF is based in Brussels, Belgium and the Secretariat is managed by a [TRASA](#)



Mrs. Mirka Čikkelová
General Secretary · Belgium

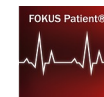


Mr. Stéphane Boulanger
Policy Advisor · Belgium

EUPSF Affiliates And Partners



NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS



INDUSTRY



INDIVIDUALS



Dr. Patricia Burga

Mr. Frederik Meilwes

Mrs. Anna Modos

Dr. Natalya Levchenko

Dr. Arnt Suckow

Dr. Tamara Skříšovská

Ms. Kira Tosberg

Mrs. Panagiota Tsikala

Dr. Angelika Werner

Dr. David Whitaker

Dr. Johannes Wacker

WORKING THEMES



PATIENT INVOLVEMENT



SAFETY AND CULTURE



LEADERSHIP, TEAM AND ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE



CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION



WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF THE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

SECTION

2026 Action Plan

2026 ACTION PLAN

European Patient Safety Strategy



Towards Safe & Resilient Healthcare Systems

STRATEGIC GOAL

To develop a collaborative **European Strategy for Safe and Resilient Healthcare Systems**, that drives improvement across Europe and encourages stronger, coordinated efforts at the EU and national level.

SCOPE

Shift from a narrow focus (medical errors, surgical checklists and incident reporting) towards a broader, system-based understanding of patient safety: preventable harm is shaped not only by individual clinical acts, but by workforce wellbeing, digital reliability, organisational culture and system resilience.

WHY

Over the last four years, our conferences across Europe, enabling multi-stakeholders dialogue, have revealed a clear pattern: regardless of national context, healthcare systems face shared vulnerabilities that directly impact patient safety. In Brussels, we bring these insights together, through a bottom-up, collaboratively developed and actionable European strategy. Built with our affiliates and partners, this strategy focuses on the key systemic risk factors they identify in daily practice, ensuring that patient safety evolves from isolated initiatives to a coherent framework promoting a proactive attitude for safer and more resilient healthcare systems.

European Patient Safety Strategy

FIVE PRIORITIES ·

- 1 Governance for patient safety**
- 2 Healthcare professional wellbeing & empowerment**
- 3 Safer adoption of innovation**
- 4 Learning culture & leadership**
- 5 Patient & family involvement**

CALENDAR · FROM DRAFT TO ADOPTION



EUPSF Strategy 2026-2030 WORKING GROUPS SET-UP

Thank you for reviewing the draft EUPSF Strategy 2026-2030. This short survey helps us see which of the five priorities (the "pillars") you would most like to help shape, and whether you would like to join the discussions planned for September – early October 2026 to finalise them. Unless indicated, questions are optional.

Your name *

Your email *

Which priorities are you especially interested in helping to develop? (select all that apply) *

- ☐ Governance for patient safety
- ☐ Healthcare professional wellbeing and empowerment
- ☐ Safer adoption of innovation
- ☐ Learning culture and leadership
- ☐ Patient and family involvement

How would you like to take part in the dedicated working groups? (your choice applies to all the pillars you selected) *

- ☐ Email and virtual meeting
- ☐ Email only

2026 ACTION PLAN

European Patient Safety Conference



4. DECEMBER 2026

EUROPEAN PATIENT SAFETY CONFERENCE 2026

Towards Safe and Resilient Healthcare Systems
in Europe: From Strategy to Implementation



140+
Healthcare leaders



30+
Countries



40+
Healthcare Organizations



One shared goal
Safer care for all



BRUSSELS
BELGIUM

CONFIRMED SPONSORS:

Medtronic
Engineering the extraordinary



BD

MASIMO



relyens

Baxter

amma
assurances depuis 1944
pour et par le secteur de la santé

CONFERENCE VENUE

Résidence Palace — International Press Centre

This sumptuous 1920s Art Deco building is situated a stone's throw from Rond-point Schuman in the heart of Brussels' European quarter.



Event Spaces

Conference Sessions: Polak Room

Networking & Exhibition area: Polio



Address:

155 Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Virtual tour:

<https://virtualtour.residencepalace.be/>

Website: <https://residencepalace.be/en>



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME



PRE-CONFERENCE DAY — 3 December 2026 — RESERVED FOR AFFILIATES

11.00 – 12:30 · Group visit of the European Parliament

14.00 – 15:30 · Advocacy event at the EU Parliament

- Presentation and discussion of the EU PS Strategy
- One representative per affiliate

17:00 – 19:00 · Council of Affiliate (informal)

- Exclusive dialogue around a high-level speaker addressing a strategic issue in patient safety (preparedness, system resilience, emerging risks...)

19:30 – 21:30 · Affiliate dinner

- Presence of selected invited guests (MP's, Keynote speaker, Board members,...)

CONFERENCE DAY — 4 December 2026

PLENARY SESSIONS

- Presentation of the EUPSF Strategy (one panel-style session by section + presentation)
- Discussion about how to move from strategy to implementation
- Presentation of scalable practices/initiatives

BUTTERFLY IMPACT AWARD CEREMONY

EXHIBITION

LONGER BREAKS TO ENABLE NETWORKING



For the 2026 edition of the European Patient Safety Conference (4 December 2026, Brussels), we introduce the third edition of the Butterfly Impact Award: Small Actions, Big Changes in Patient Safety, recognising outstanding contributions to patient safety.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 15 September 2026 23:59 CET

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION



REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR THE AFFILIATES

- **Free registration for one representative** (individual and NPO, if part of the affiliation category benefits)
- **25% reduced fee** for each additional participant from the affiliated organisation (colleagues and direct individual members of the organisation)
- **40% reduced fee for patient representatives.** The “patient representative fee” is meant for persons working for or representing not-for-profit organisations which are patient focused, where patients and/or carers represent a majority of members in governing bodies. Hospital representatives or healthcare professionals employed by a hospital are not eligible.

More information and registration on
<https://conference.eupsf.org>

REGISTER NOW 

REGULAR DELEGATES

Early bird

€ 200

Deadline 1.10.2026

Standard

€ 250

Deadline 30.11.2026

Onsite

€ 300

Onsite 4.12.2026

AFFILIATES – 25%

Early bird

€ 150

Deadline 1.10.2026

Standard

€ 185

Deadline 30.11.2026

Onsite

€ 225

Onsite 4.12.2026

PATIENT REPRESENTATIVES – 40%

Early bird

€ 120

Deadline 1.10.2026

Standard

€ 150

Deadline 30.11.2026

Onsite

€ 180

Onsite 4.12.2026

Please note that the registration fees are quoted exclusive of VAT (21%).

2026 ACTION PLAN

2026 Projects

Fighting Fatigue Together



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Strengthen Europe-wide recognition and management of fatigue as a critical risk in healthcare, enabling safer working conditions for professionals and safer care for patients.

1. PARTNERSHIPS & RESOURCES

- Identify partners to develop commercial activities (annual forum, training, certification,...) as in other high-risk sectors.

3. PHASE 2 — CAMPAIGN DEVELOPMENT

Create a Resource Pack for hospital management:

- Risk-assessment tool for hospitals/units to evaluate fatigue exposure.
- Practical fatigue management guidance adapted from high-risk sectors.
- Dissemination strategy for hospital managers and heads of departments.

2. EU POLICY ENGAGEMENT

- Reinforce advocacy in EU Parliament & Commission: inclusion of fatigue, burnout and mental health topics in workforce crisis strategic documents, funding programmes and measures.
- Include messaging in the policy event linked to our 2026 conference.
- Engage with EU supportive stakeholders (European Agency for Health and Safety at work,...).

Fighting Fatigue Together



4. REINFORCEMENT OF THE FFT COMMUNITY

- Bring the campaign to more countries, and support FFT national team activities.
- Consider organising the first European Forum on Healthcare Fatigue

GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK



[Interest survey
https://www.eupsf.org/efhf-survey](https://www.eupsf.org/efhf-survey)
[Detailed comments by email
secretariat@eupsf.org](mailto:secretariat@eupsf.org)



INTEREST SURVEY

European Forum on Healthcare Fatigue

Thank you for taking a few minutes to help us explore the idea of a European Forum on Healthcare Fatigue, which we are considering launching in spring 2027. Your input will directly help shape that decision, including its format, content and timing.

Your name

Country *

Which best describes your role? *

Second-Victim Support

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Enable the implementation and recognition of peer-support programmes for second victims across Europe, in collaboration with the RESCUE Initiative, relying on a sustainable business model.

1. IMPLEMENT THE COLLABORATION WITH RESCUE TEAM

- Coordination meetings.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Align on communication chart, channels and content.

2. CERTIFICATION LAUNCH

- Liability and insurance considerations for EUPSF.
- Pricing strategy and operational procedures.
- Validation by the Board in 2026 — first revenues for second-victim workstreams.

3. DEVELOP PILOTS IN PIONEERING COUNTRIES

Identify guidance needs:

- Involve affiliated hospitals to run the auto-evaluation against the RESCUE standards.
- Identify the possible guidance needs to implement support programmes.
- Develop and test operational solutions to support and accelerate this implementation.

4. EUROPEAN AWARENESS & COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

- Design a communication campaign to be launched in 2027 to raise awareness on the importance of support programmes for second victims across Europe.
- Building partnerships.
- Exploration of co-funding opportunities (e.g. EU programmes), without jeopardising resources.

Safety in the Age of AI

STRATEGIC GOAL

Develop and promote a vision of safety in the age of AI.

IDENTIFY AI SAFETY CHALLENGES

- Facilitate dialogue with stakeholders to identify challenges in AI safety.
- Develop EUPSF's expertise, summarised in a one-page position paper.
- Actions: events, literature review, a session at the 2026 Conference, EU-funded call proposals.

RAISE AWARENESS & PROMOTE SAFE AI POLICIES

- Recommendations supporting safe implementation and effective use of AI.
- Robust data management for accuracy, reliability and security across diagnostic, treatment, surgery and monitoring of patients.
- Deliverables: EU PS Strategy, dedicated webpage, Newsletter, social media (#AISafeCare).



Safety meets Sustainability

STRATEGIC GOAL

Develop and promote a vision building bridges between patient safety and sustainability.

IDENTIFY HOW PATIENT SAFETY INTERACTS WITH SUSTAINABILITY

- Facilitate dialogue with and among stakeholders to identify synergies/conflicts between patient safety and sustainability.
- Develop EUPSF's expertise on the topic, summarised in a one-page position paper.
- Actions: participation to third-party events, literature review,...

RAISE AWARENESS & PROMOTE THE LINKS

- Development of messages, supported by practical cases.
- Deliverables: EU PS Strategy messages, a dedicated webpage on the EUPSF website, the Newsletter and social media (#SafeSustainability).

2026 ACTION PLAN

Webinars

WPA/ EUPSF WEBINAR



Liquid Fasting Before an Operation: *Reducing Risk, Improving Care*

Wednesday 9 July 2026 • 15:00–16:30 CEST / 09:00–10:30 EST • 90 min

PROGRAMME

Welcome Andrew Spiegel, Chair, WPA

Moderator Helen Haskell, MA — Chair, WPA Patient Safety & Quality Council (USA)

20–25 min

Keynote — “From ‘Nothing After Midnight’ to Evidence-Based Care”

Dr. Anne Rüggeberg (Germany) — Anaesthesiologist, Lead of the Fasting Card Project

New international consensus on pre-operative liquid fasting · implementation challenges · sip-til-send

10–15 min

Patient Perspective — Real-World Examples from Different Regions

Helen Haskell, MA (USA) — WPA Patient Safety & Quality Council

3–4 patient stories across regions · physical and psychological consequences of prolonged liquid fasting

50–60 min

Panel Discussion + Q&A — Solutions and Next Steps

Panelists: A. Rüggeberg (DE) · A.M. Camilleri Podesta (MT) · D.C. Mazilu (RO, EUPSF / nursing) ·

Additional speakers TBC

Closing Mrs. Mirka Cikkelova — General Secretary, EUPSF

A promotional graphic for the webinar. It features the logos of the World Patients Alliance and the European Patient Safety Foundation at the top. Below them, the title "Liquid Fasting Before an Operation: Reducing Risk, Improving Care" is displayed in a serif font, followed by "Webinar" in a smaller serif font. A blue button with white text says "REGISTER NOW". Below the button, the date and time "Wednesday, 9 July 2026 9:00 AM EST / 3:00 PM CEST" are listed. At the bottom, the websites "worldpatientsalliance.org" and "eupsf.org" are provided. On the right side of the graphic is a photograph of a patient in a hospital bed, wearing a blue gown and a hairnet, looking towards the camera.

World Patients Alliance

EUROPEAN PATIENT SAFETY FOUNDATION

Liquid Fasting Before an Operation:
Reducing Risk, Improving Care

Webinar

REGISTER NOW

Wednesday, 9 July 2026
9:00 AM EST / 3:00 PM CEST

worldpatientsalliance.org eupsf.org

WATCH THE RECORDING



[CLICK HERE →](#)

Please forward to colleagues — anaesthesiologists, nurses, surgeons, patient organisations — who should be part of this conversation.

A2A Mini-Webinars

The A2A Mini-Webinars reinforce collaboration within our Affiliate network, creating regular opportunities to share knowledge and connect on priority patient safety topics.

WHAT WE DO

- Provide a platform for Affiliates to present their work and current initiatives.
- Encourage peer-to-peer learning and open discussion in a trusted environment.
- Showcase European perspectives and practical approaches to patient safety challenges.

HOW IT WORKS

- Short virtual sessions focused on a single topic.
- Presentations recorded and shared publicly.
- Discussions kept confidential to support transparent exchange.

STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTION

The webinars help build collective expertise, highlight national contexts, and support alignment across Europe. They also contribute to shaping future content for the EUPSF work, and for policy and communication activities.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- 2 Webinars in 2026; publicly available presentation recordings.
- Insights feeding into EUPSF workstreams and messaging.
- Topics – to be proposed by the Affiliates, call to be launched early 2026.

2026 ACTION PLAN

Policy & Advocacy

Advocacy Groups and Alliances

PROCESS

- Increasing demands from third-parties.
- Screening, assessment of alignment with EUPSF's mission and goals + assessment of workload.
- Discussion with Executive Committee about involvement and readiness for endorsement.
- Review and contribution integrating the different perspectives represented in EUPSF.
- Endorsement by the EUPSF Board.

ONGOING WORK

- Capacity Enhancing Innovation group (led by RPP, supported by Edwards, BD, Philips,...).
- Electronic Product Information roundtable series (ePI) — led by EFPIA, supported by AstraZeneca, Chiesi, Bayer.
- E-PACT Alliance (led by EHMA, supported by BD) — digitalisation of hospital medication management pathways.
- Active Citizenship network (civil society) — EU Patient Rights charter and white papers.
- ECAMET — Call to Action on staff shortages and burnout in cancer medication pathways.

Policy Alliances — A Clear Framework

WHY A FRAMEWORK

Efficiency — clear principles allow faster, more consistent responses; some invitations do not meet EUPSF standards or are not relevant from a patient safety perspective.

Protecting our values — independence, commercial neutrality and transparency underpin the trust placed in the Foundation; participation in external initiatives must not put them at risk.

Financial sustainability — alliances require Secretariat time, provided without compensation; a clear framework helps justify financial support from sponsors where appropriate.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Independence — EUPSF retains full freedom in its positions, activities and communications; participation never implies endorsement of all alliance statements.

Patient Safety focus — initiatives must address patient safety in a balanced, systemic way (not reducible to a single technology or product).

Commercial neutrality — no participation in commercially-driven initiatives, or alliances supported by a single commercial partner with no openness to others.

Transparency & governance — clear governance, balanced stakeholder representation, controlled use of the EUPSF logo.



One shared goal:
safe care for all.

European Patient Safety Foundation (EUPSF)

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