

POLICYMAKER LETTER TEMPLATE



Dear [INSERT MEP'S NAME AND SURNAME],

[INSERT NAME OF ORGANISATION] warmly congratulates you on your recent election to the European Parliament. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with dedicated leaders like you in advocating for the rare disease community.

Today, we are reaching out to request your support during International Plasma Awareness Week (IPAW), which takes place from 7 to 11 October. We invite you to help us amplify the voices of rare disease patients and ensure that the importance of plasma donation and the value of plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMPs) are heard loud and clear.

Every day, thousands of people around the world make the conscious and voluntary decision to donate plasma to others who need the lifesaving treatment it provides. Despite its vital importance to so many patients, plasma donation through plasmapheresis is unknown to many. IPAW is an opportunity to raise awareness and educate the public about the critical role of plasma donation and the importance of patients' access to plasma-derived medicines. Our outreach efforts this week will focus on [INSERT FOCUS AREAS/ACTIVITIES/ EVENTS].

Rare diseases are often genetic and chronic, meaning they are present from birth and persist throughout a person's life. These diseases can be complex, degenerative, and often life-threatening. If patients do not have reliable access to PDMPs, they risk serious health problems, loss of independence, social isolation, deterioration of mental health, and reduced quality of life or socioeconomic opportunities.

In December 2023, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) recognised the vital importance of these treatments by including practically all plasma-derived medicines on the European Union's first list of critical medicines. This indicates that PDMPs should be prioritised to maintain reliable supply chains, avoid shortages, and provide patients with uninterrupted access to their treatments. Despite this recognition, patient access to these critical treatments remains unequal both within the European Union and globally.

At [INSERT NAME OF ORGANIZATION], we are ready to share our expertise and work with you to raise awareness, improve access to plasma-derived medicines and ensure that patients' voices are heard in policy discussions.

We invite you to visit the official International Plasma Awareness Week website at www.plasmaweek.org to learn more about the importance of plasma donation and explore the resources available. We would love for you to participate in sharing this content with your network during IPAW.

We look forward to connecting and discussing how we can best support this community during your mandate. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further how we can work together during IPAW and beyond, please contact [INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS].

Respectfully,
[YOUR NAME]
[YOUR ORGANISATION]
[YOUR SIGNATURE]