



MEP Dr. Angelika Niebler (middle) receives catalogue of demands from EFCNI chairwoman Silke Mader (right) and spokeswoman Martina Frühwald (left).

Pressinformation

EFCNI approaches the European Union with catalogue of demands: Ten requests for preterm infants

The European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI) has presented MEP Dr. Angelika Niebler with a catalogue of demands for the treatment of preterm and newborn infants with illnesses.

Munich/Germany, 3. Februar 2009 – Munich-based foundation EFCNI (European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants) presented MEP Dr. Angelika Niebler with a catalogue of demands featuring ten requests. This catalogue of demands was drawn up at the first European meeting for national parents' organisations in Rom by 17 nations unanimously.

The following demands were drawn up by the European parents' organisations in the declaration of Rome:

1. Prioritise and raise awareness of the needs of preterm and newborn infants with illnesses
2. Research and implement measures for the prevention of preterm births
3. Consider the development and implementation of medical guidelines for the start of resuscitation of preterm infants in hospitals
4. Develop and implement independently controlled guidelines and quality standards for the treatment and care in hospitals of preterm and newborn infants with illnesses

5. Improve specialised and appropriate aftercare for developing pre-term and newborn infants with illnesses
6. Develop and implement structured programmes and systems to document medical check ups and aftercare for preterm and newborn infants with illnesses
7. Improve psychological and social care for parents of preterm and newborn infants with illnesses, in hospital and after discharge, by specialised healthcare professionals
8. Provide research funds for studies to improve the treatment, care and neonatal outcomes of preterm and newborn infants with illnesses
9. Consider prolonged maternity leave and maternity grants (financial support) for parents of preterm and newborn infants with illnesses
10. Provide appropriate schooling and educational support for developing preterm and newborn infants with illnesses

In her function as acting chairwoman of the holding organisation of European parents' organisations for preterm and newborn infants with illnesses Silke Mader presented the catalogue of demands to Dr. Angelika Niebler, member of the European Parliament and chairwoman of the committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

"About 10 percent of all newborn infants come into the world too early. They represent the largest children patients' group. Unfortunately, they do not receive the attention they deserve. Therefore we call for standard measures in Europe in order to reduce the number of preterm births and to give preterm infants the support they need", explained Silke Mader.

"I am pleased that a foundation based in Bavaria makes an issue out of this subject. As a mother myself I can support the ten requests unconditionally and will try to make them a priority on a European level", so Dr. Angelika Niebler.

EFCNI is a network for those involved in the care of preterm or sick newborn infants as well as a forum for scientists. It was set up to effect long-term improvements in the care of such infants, and to give the largest group of child patients in Europe the attention and support it deserves. For further information: www.efcni.org

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