

## **Joint Statement - Stroke Alliance for Europe (SAFE) and European Stroke Organisation (ESO)**

### **WHO resolution on stroke has been approved by the World Health Assembly**

We warmly welcome the adoption of the WHO resolution on stroke at the World Health Assembly. This landmark decision represents a long-overdue recognition of stroke as a global health priority, and a major driver of death and disability worldwide.

*“For Europe, this moment is particularly significant. Stroke remains one of the leading causes of mortality and adult disability across the region, placing a profound burden on individuals, families, healthcare systems and economies. The WHO resolution sends a strong, unified signal that urgent and coordinated action is needed.”*

**Arlene Wilkie, Director General, Stroke Alliance for Europe.**

The Stroke Action Plan for Europe (SAP-E), led by SAFE and ESO, provides a clear and evidence-based roadmap to reduce the burden of stroke by 2030. Its ambitions - including reducing stroke incidence, improving access to acute stroke care, ensuring equitable rehabilitation and strengthening prevention - are directly aligned with the objectives of the new WHO resolution.

However, adoption alone is not enough. The real impact of this resolution will depend on how it is translated into action at national level.

We therefore call on governments across Europe to:

- Prioritise stroke within national health agendas, recognising its significant human and economic impact
- Develop and implement fully funded national stroke plans, aligned with the Stroke Action Plan for Europe
- Have stronger emphasis on primary prevention of stroke, including risk-factor management and public awareness
- Make clear commitments to ensuring that all stroke patients have access to dedicated and properly staffed stroke units
- Develop measurable targets for equitable access to acute stroke treatments
- Implement dedicated secondary prevention and follow-up
- Increase and sustain investment in rehabilitation, early supported discharge and community-based services
- Implement a long-term, person-led approach to life after stroke, including structured follow-up, social participation and quality-of-life support
- Develop robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track stroke-specific outcomes and reduce geographical and socioeconomic inequalities
- Increase investment in high-quality, collaborative research across the entire stroke pathway, from prevention and acute treatment to rehabilitation and long-term support, to strengthen evidence, drive innovation and reduce inequalities across Europe



*“This is a pivotal opportunity to transform stroke care and outcomes across Europe. SAFE and ESO will work with governments, clinicians, patient communities and policymakers in turning this global commitment into tangible progress. Together, we can reduce the burden of stroke and improve the lives of millions of people across Europe.”*

**Professor Simona Sacco, Past President, European Stroke Organisation.**