

Lyon, March 4th, 2021

Alexis Arzimanoglou Personal Statement

Dear colleagues and friends

First, allow me to thank all ILAE chapters in Europe that considered my nomination, independently of their final vote. It is a pleasure and an honour to have the opportunity to stand as a candidate to become a member of the ILAE-Europe Committee (2021-2025 term), a Committee that I already had the opportunity to serve from 2009 to 2013.

This time, what mostly motivated my candidacy is my conviction that, if elected, I can better contribute to the development of even *stronger links between our Regional Commission and the European Reference Network for rare and complex epilepsies, ERN EpiCARE*, that I have the honour to coordinate. Created only 4 years ago by the European Commissions, the ERNs already contribute to a better care for rare diseases. Due to the commitment of many colleagues and patient advocates the ERN EpiCARE is one of the most active.

Because knowledge and experience can and should be shared by all, I am strongly convinced that what the ERN EpiCARE is developing can also serve to all countries of the European region, members of the EU or not. The ILAE-Europe regional Commission is by far the best vector to achieve such goal.

Our challenge will be to *contribute to the development of public health services across the European Region accessible to all, independently of where they were born and which European country they live.*

For the next four years my personal priorities would be:

1. Contribute to making accessible to all, *Knowledge Generation* in the field of rare and complex epilepsies, both medically and surgically treatable.
2. Facilitate *accessibility to clinical trials* using targeted therapies to all motivated medical teams in the European region.
3. Contribute to the *improvement of healthcare policies* in each country of the European region by disseminating knowledge on best practices to serve as a reference and reduce existing care and treatment gaps.

Because the epilepsies are highly complex disorders, early diagnosis, optimal care and a personalized approach to the patients and their entourage can only be achieved by a close collaboration between academic and non-academic medical teams and patient advocates at a national level, also being actors of well federated European networks, under the leadership of the ILAE-Europe Commission.

Alexis Arzimanoglou