

Silvio Basic Election Statement

It is my great honor and privilege to be appointed as a candidate for the election of the ILAE Commission on European Affairs (CEA). My entire professional life has been dedicated to serve the epilepsy community in every possible way, and if elected, I will put all my efforts into realization of our common goals, which comprise the improvement of epilepsy care, research and collaboration across Europe.

My main priorities are:

1. *Improvement of epilepsy management in European countries with limited resources.* Currently, we are facing a great challenge in harmonisation of epilepsy care in Europe, especially regarding the huge disparity of available financial resources among countries within the European WHO-region. Establishing invasive video-EEG monitoring in Croatia and lifting epilepsy surgery in my country to the highest level eight years ago, I have gathered vast experience in overcoming bureaucratic, educational, technical and organizational obstacles, which will help me to understand and assist any colleague in a similar situation.

2. *Establishing better communication and cooperation among European epileptologists.* Unfortunately, broad communication and cooperation among the majority of European epileptologists is still lacking. I intend to organize a working group dedicated to establishing new and successful models of cooperation: specialized on-line forums and groups, an advisory center for EU-funded research projects, an advisory and support center for organizing and participating on teaching courses, seminars and workshops, in order to connect epileptologists with same ideas and needs, and to help them in their further teamwork.

3. *Scientific and professional education of young epileptologists.* I will encourage and support activities and programs aimed to facilitate training of young epileptologists and ease communication between them. My experience in organizing the Young Neurologists Forum (2010-2017), 8th Migrating Course on Epilepsy (Dubrovnik 2014), Croatian Young Neurologists Association (2016), and numerous teaching courses and summer schools would help me, if I would be elected as a CEA member, to continue with this activity even better. I will also promote and encourage the idea of bursaries, fellowships and professional exchanges for our young colleagues (PhD students and young researchers), future epileptologists, the ones who will take care of ILAE in the future.

4. *Research.* Promotion of scientific research projects and encouraging the ideas of smaller centers and researchers with limited resources to take part in the global epilepsy research. I will put my efforts to promote research activities among all middle income countries, encouraging the idea of multicenter research projects, and promoting collaboration through ILAE-CEA activities.

If you share my goals and ideas, I kindly ask you for your support and voting for me as a member of the CEA for the 2017-2021 term.

Sincerely,

Silvio Basic