

Torbjörn Tomson Election Statement

Having served as a member of the CEA since 2009, I feel committed to carry on for another term. Should I be re-elected I will try to build on the achievements CEA has made under its current successful leadership.

As the regional ILAE commission for Europe, CEA works to fulfill the global goals of the ILAE in Europe. Promotion of research and education has been a priority during the present CEA term and these activities have been well received.

The fact that epilepsy is now included in the EU FP7 call is a major achievement, which we owe to the hard work of many individuals in the European epilepsy research community. This work has been carried forward in a successful organized collaborative effort by a joint European ILAE IBE Task Force, Epilepsy Advocacy Europe. For the coming term, it will be important to keep the momentum created by Epilepsy Advocacy Europe in a coordinated lobbying for adequate resources for epilepsy research.

Decision makers in European Health Care need to be sensitized to the unmet needs in epilepsy care and to the magnitude of the problems. A reliable pan-European mapping of the prevalence and cost of epilepsy should therefore be another priority. This will be necessary for allocation of adequate resources for epilepsy care in the years to come. Promotion of education should remain a cornerstone in the CEA activities. A major challenge for the coming term is to make the educational activities more accessible, affordable, and attractive. Our educational programs should not only target those already committed to epilepsy care but also aim to reach out to new participants that could become engaged in the European epilepsy movement. Teaching methods that complement the established courses should also be considered to enhance accessibility as well as cost-effectiveness.

The number of members of the CEA is small, and a continued success depends on an increased involvement of dedicated people beyond the core CEA membership in the Commission's activities. I would therefore work for involvement of more individuals from all over Europe engaged in CEA activities in the coming term. There are more than 40 chapters in the European region, and the conditions and circumstances vary considerably. Collaborative networking across Europe can help reduce disparities and secure progress in all member countries. But collaboration should not be limited by the borders of Europe. We are members of a global organization and collaboration between regions will also be of mutual benefit. I am committed to international and in particular European collaboration in research as well as education and would have as priority to promote this should I be re-elected to the CEA.