



Jerzy Buzek

Jerzy Buzek is a Polish politician, former Prime Minister of Poland and former President of the European Parliament. MEP since 2004, he is currently chairing the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and the Conference of Committee Chairs. Initiator of the European Energy Community, former rapporteur for the 7th Research Framework Programme, SET Plan and EU Internal Energy Market. He is a doctor honoris causa of numerous Polish and foreign universities as well as an honorary citizen of more than ten cities in Poland. In November 2012, Prof. Buzek received the highest Polish state medal - the White Eagle Order - for his contribution to Poland's democratic transformation, for scientific achievements and for political accomplishments in Poland and in the international arena.



Giovanni La Via

"Rare diseases affect between 27 and 36 million people in the European Union. Patients affected by rare diseases often spend years of uncertainty waiting for their disease to be diagnosed, and for an appropriate treatment to be found. The uncertainty both of the diagnosis and the treatment represent an additional affliction that affects patient's life and their family. This is one of the key reasons to strongly support the mission of EURORDIS to increase public awareness of rare diseases. I would really like to express my full support to promote your cause" Giovanni La Via, Chair of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, European Parliament, Honorary Chairman of the EURORDIS Gala Dinner 2015



Martin Schulz

"I highly appreciate the work EURORDIS does to help people with rare diseases to break their social isolation and to make their lives as livable as possible. I would really like to encourage your organisation in their work and express my full support of your activities." Martin Schulz  
President, European Parliament  
Honorary Chairman of the EURORDIS Gala Dinner 2014



Herman van Rompuy  
President of the European Council  
Honorary Chairman  
of the EURORDIS Gala Dinner 2012 & 2013

"In the European Union, rare diseases are one of the main priorities for public health and research policies. With the constructive support of EURORDIS, several policy initiatives have been established over the past decade. The EU Regulation on Orphan Medicinal Products, the Commission Communication and Council Recommendation for European Actions on Rare Diseases are only a few examples. These initiatives create a stimulating framework for patients, their families and all stakeholders involved. Offering a solid and appropriate framework to tackle rare diseases remains very important for Europe.

It is a question of solidarity: solidarity is the specific feature of all European social models. We take care of people: every person is special: solidarity is key in our European societies and I am confident the European Union and EURORDIS will continue their constructive partnership. I believe that goodness and love received and given add meaning to life. We shall not forget about the European citizens with rare diseases. The EURORDIS Black Pearl Gala Dinner is an opportunity to show solidarity and to give hope to rare disease patients."