

Tonio Borg

Member of the European Commission, responsible for Health

Commissioner Borg delivers speech at the G8 Dementia Summit

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Tonio Borg, European Commissioner for Health, attends the G8 Summit for Global Action Against Dementia

London, United Kingdom, 11 December 2013

11 DECEMBER 2013

SPEAKING NOTE

Ministers

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly congratulate the UK G8 Presidency for convening this Summit on the very important issue of dementia.

I would like to stress that the European Commission is fully committed to supporting action on dementia. Allow me to tell you how.

First, since 2009, we have pursued a European Initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias – addressing prevention, treatment, research, and the rights of people with dementia. We will be reporting on progress made next year.

In this context, we have fostered a joint action on dementia with EU Member States, which was concluded this summer and led to European recommendations for example on the timely diagnosis of dementia. France, as well as the UK and Italy were particularly active.

We are now considering joint action on issues such as prevention of dementia and post-diagnostic support services.

Second, we have brought together over 3,000 stakeholders from all EU countries within the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, to shape innovative solutions, in particular in the prevention and management of cognitive decline and dementia; and in fostering dementia supportive environments.

Third, research on dementia and neurodegenerative diseases is very high on the agenda of the European Union.

Since 2007, the EU provided over 2 billion euros for brain research, including over 400 million for neurodegenerative diseases.

The new EU programme for research and innovation, called Horizon 2020, offers a wide range of opportunities for research on neurodegenerative diseases.

In fact, I would like to announce that just today, the European Union is launching its first call for proposals under this new programme, with a budget of almost 1,2 billion euros for Health related research in 2014-2015.

I am delighted to inform you that research on neurodegenerative disease features prominently in this call.

Our action does not stop here. We have also developed a Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disorders to help EU countries coordinate their research activities in this field.

In addition, we are working together with the industry to develop new pharmaceutical therapies under the Innovative Medicines Initiative. Under this initiative, today, the EU is launching a call for a 'European platform on prevention of Alzheimer's Disease' and making available 25 million euros for this purpose.

Finally, the EU will provide € 1 billion over 10 years to fund the Human Brain Project, which should help develop new treatments for dementia and other brain diseases.

To conclude, the European Union is keen to foster and support cooperation at European and International level to develop the best possible solutions to the dementia challenge.

Thank you.