



Attendance Report

Meeting with MEPs



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**WP4 / T4.1 : Meetings with
PolicyMakers**

The Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF), represented by Dr Androulla Eleftheriou, Executive Director and Mrs Lily Cannon, Deputy Director, met with Spanish MEPs Nicolás González Casares (S & D) and Dolors Montserrat (EPP) on 23 May 2023 at the European Parliament.

The discussion raised issues concerning the European SoHO (Substances of Human Origin, previously Blood, Tissues and Cells) legislation, currently under review by the European Parliament.

TIF and other stakeholders present at the meeting (including in the European Blood Alliance and European Association of Tissue and Cell Banks) raised issues regarding the future of donation and supply in the European Union. More specifically, methods to improve the resilience of supply systems, **particularly for those patients whose lives are endangered due to adequacy issues – including thalassaemia patients who depend on frequent and lifelong red blood cell transfusions in order to survive** – were discussed in addition to approaches for encouraging more people to donate but also to employ better collection/monitoring practices.

Moreover, Dr Eleftheriou met with Cyprus MEP Costas Mavrides (S & D) to discuss the activities of the Federation across Member States and particularly with regards to the efforts exerted at the Union and national level to promote the development of policies and services that will improve the lives of thalassaemia patients.



Disclaimer: This publication is funded by the European Union (Grant Agreement No 101083240). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not reflect those of the European Union or HaDEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.