



**Gianni PITTELLA**

Vice President of the European Parliament

Bruxelles, 26 novembre 2013

Dear ladies and gentleman, dear friends,

I am really glad to extend a heartfelt greeting to all of you. Furthermore I would like to extend a warm thanks to my colleagues present today and to the Brains for Brain Foundation for having organized this outstanding initiative. It is an important arena aiming to foster and support the research in the area of rare and neurometabolic diseases affecting children. The European Union and this roundtable share the same conception of the human dignity, of cooperation and solidarity within and between our Member States. A public health system that needs to be adequate, accessible to all and that moves with the times represents one of the major commitments of the European institutions, as it is one of the major rights of citizens. Only research is able to pave the way for a constant progress and for a better future. Moreover when it comes to children, the fight against rare diseases acquires a greater importance. The rarity, the exiguity of cases must not be an alibi to welch this moral commitment. Every person, every suffering child challenges the social and collective conscience of a continent that has been the cradle of civilization and of the contemporary science. The European Union can only function if it remains sympathetic and fraternal. Therefore we must grant to the scientific research all the economic potential, all the know-how, and all the social and institutional networks that represent the real prosperity of our community. The European flag goes beyond the mere economic cooperation or geographic boundaries. It was based on democratic principles and aims to assure a stable welfare for all citizens.

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I extend my warmest wishes for this interesting occasion, and I sincerely compliment all the presents and all scientists and researchers for your hard work.

Gianni Pittella