

Chair, DG, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Czech Republic, its Ministry of Health, professional as well as civil society welcome the WHO report on global burden of epilepsy. We strongly support actions proposed to be taken at national level in addressing the epilepsy care. In the Czech Republic, we are committed to close cooperation of all interested social groups to achieve efficient action.

In particular, the Czech Republic stresses the following actions as priorities to be carried out at national level:

1. **Establishing highly specialized care centers for intractable epilepsy.**
These centers serve as leaders in comprehensive care and are embedded in legislation confirming standards and adequate reimbursement.
2. **Increasing public awareness and education**, such as by the inclusion of information about first aid during convulsive epileptic seizures into elementary school curricula.
3. **Ensuring access to essential medicines**, for example to the buccal form of midazolam, which enables termination of prolonged convulsive seizure in an affected person by laymen as well as by healthcare workers in all countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Czech Republic invites all member states to engage in action to improve epilepsy care and welcomes further WHO guidance including provision of clearly defined milestones and targets, on both regional and global level.