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**Major Carers Study Reveals Dissatisfaction With Healthcare Professionals**

A major [European study](http://www.kuleuven.be/lucas/pub/publi_upload/C4C%20Global%20Report%20Final.pdf) of the experiences of family caregivers for persons with severe mental illness has indicated their highest dissatisfaction concerns the support they receive from health care professionals.

This was revealed at a joint meeting of the European Parliament Interest Group on Carers and the Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-Being, and Brain Disorders held in Brussels today, Tuesday January 12th.

Independent MEP Marian Harkin, who chaired the launch of the survey involving 22 countries, including Ireland, said that it identified serious deficiencies in the services available in EU countries but also contained positive results including a sense of fulfilment for careers themselves. "It is disquieting that in a survey of over 1,000 respondents, including 53 from Ireland, that 39% of carers are dissatisfied with the support received from doctors with only 4 in 10 carers feeling that medical and care staff take them seriously", she said. It was of particular concern that 93% of those caring for persons with severe mental illness needed additional support in their role as carers, she said.

"This survey has identified serious deficiencies at national and EU levels in supports for carers of those suffering mental illness and requires a more official recognition of the role of carers through policy development in each country backed up by relevant EU policies", Independent MEP Marian Harkin concluded.

Ends:

The study mentioned in this press release refers to a study by Vermeulen, B., Lauwers, H., Spruytte, N., Van Audenhove, C., Magro, C, Saunders, J. & Jones, K. (2015) Experiences of family caregivers for persons with severe mental illness: an international exploration. Leuven: LUCAS KU Leuven/EUFAMI.

The study can be accessed here: <http://www.kuleuven.be/lucas/pub/publi_upload/C4C%20Global%20Report%20Final.pdf>

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"MEP of the Year " Award Winner 2011 & 2012

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