

# Takeaways from the 2019 PLUS Meeting

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**PLUS**  
PLATFORM OF PLASMA  
PROTEIN USERS

In January, PPTA, along with other stakeholders involved in plasma collection and manufacturing, participated in the annual stakeholder conference of the Platform of Plasma Protein Users (PLUS) in Estoril, Portugal. PLUS is the umbrella organization representing a number of patient associations for rare or ultra-rare bleeding disorders, including the Alpha-1 Europe Federation, the European Haemophilia Consortium, the Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Foundation International, Multifocal Motor Neuropathy Foundation International, the International Patient Organization for C1 Inhibitor Deficiencies (HAEi), the International Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies, the Immune Thrombocytopenia Support Association, and the World Federation of Hemophilia. Topics discussed included new and emerging threats to plasma, plasma supply, and patients. Presentations addressed plasma collection, as well as availability of plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMPs) in Europe, including the potential impact of Brexit on access to medicines for patients in the United Kingdom and in the European Union. One of the key concerns identified in the meeting was the need to collect more plasma in Europe and to educate stakeholders on the importance and value of plasma donation. The meeting concluded with participants agreeing on a range of consensus points and strategies to encourage blood and plasma donations in Europe, including:

- Recognize PDMPs as lifesaving medicines and the dependency of patients on a stable and safe supply, whilst maintaining the health and safety of patients and donors;
- Acknowledge global self-sufficiency as a goal overarching any national or regional efforts to collect more plasma;
- Involve patients and donors in the policy- and decision-making process on multiple levels;
- Acknowledge the crucial role of increasing plasmapheresis for increasing PDMP availability in Europe; and
- Further emphasize the differences between blood and plasma, as well as between labile blood products and PDMPs, to adequately address targeted collection and distribution programs.

These consensus points were presented at the meeting of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare on Plasma Supply Management in Strasbourg at the end of January. ●