



NEWS RELEASE

HISTORIC FUNDING FROM EU MEANS GOOD NEWS FOR MILLIONS OF WOMEN BATTLING ENDOMETRIOSIS

There is encouraging news for the millions of women, including two million in the UK whose lives are affected by endometriosis, with the announcement today (10th May 2007) of a €296,000 grant from the Public Health Executive Agency of the European Union.

Endometriosis UK – the country's main support and campaigning charity – is the lead partner delivering a range of initiatives in a funding agreement that represents the first time ever that the disease has been backed in such a way.

Working with partners including those from Italy, Belgium and Denmark, the money will be used for three main areas of work, beginning with a pan-European quality of life survey.

The research aims to engage 10,000 respondents across participating countries in understanding the impact of endometriosis and will also include vital socio-economic data. Most recent figures estimate the number of education and work days lost to the illness could be as much as €30 billion across the European Union and £3 billion in the UK.

The second part of the project will be to create an Internet based Endometriosis Community Gateway which will be the first port of call for anyone wanting information about endometriosis (including the public, health professionals and employers) and guiding them to where they can best find the information they seek

The final element is the launch of a European Endometriosis Alliance and the development of a clear strategy for supporting the 15 million women across the EU member states battling with endometriosis. The grant will enable the European endometriosis charities, many of whom have very little or no funds to develop their own work as well as create a more powerful European group

Rob Music, chief executive of Endometriosis UK, says: "While there have been some improvements in the diagnosis and funding of endometriosis there is still a long way to go. It is simply unacceptable that two million British women – and millions more across Europe – continue to live with an illness stagnating as a result of misunderstanding and inadequate levels of funding. We are delighted and thankful for the recognition of this need by the EU through this grant which should make a great difference at so many levels"

-ends-

10th May 2007

Press enquiries to David Leck and Vicky Huntley at David Leck Associates on 01322 528580/on 07811 534346.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Endometriosis is a condition where patches of the womb lining occur in other parts of the body. Every month a woman goes through hormonal changes and naturally releases hormones which cause the lining of the womb to increase in preparation for a fertilised egg. If pregnancy does not occur, this lining will break down and bleed and is released as a period. Endometriosis cells react in the same way – except that they are located outside the womb. During the monthly cycle, hormones stimulate the endometriosis, causing it to grow, then break down and bleed. This internal bleeding, unlike a period, has no way of leaving the body. This leads to inflammation, pain, and the formation of scar tissue. Endometrial tissue can also be found in the ovary where it can form cysts and may affect fertility
- Most patients – once diagnosed with endometriosis – are treated through medication and in some cases surgery. For many, a range of alternative and complementary therapies have also delivered some degree of success in alleviating symptoms and pain
- Endometriosis UK has a dedicated helpline on 0808 808 2227 and local groups providing vital support and information
- For further information go to www.endometriosis-uk.org