**Template model letter for national ministries of health**

|  |
| --- |
| **TITLE: Meeting request on atopic eczema care recommendation**  |
| Dear [INSERT NAME OF NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER], On behalf of the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients’ Associations (EFA), we are contacting you to share the results and recommendations of the EFA Atopic Dermatitis/Eczema (AD/E) Consensus Europe project. The recommendations have been developed by a pan-European Consensus Committee, comprised of key opinion leaders amongst patients and healthcare professionals and facilitated by EFA, with the aim of informing the debate on access and quality of care for AD/E, based on the real burden of the disease across Europe. [PLACEHOLDER*]: Organisations are encouraged to add here their own reflections on the burden of AD/E in their country, to make the letter as relevant as possible for your national stakeholders. These reflections can include considerations on:**• Access to treatment in your country**• The lack of multidisciplinary care for AD/E**• The challenges faced by HCPs working in this area**• The need for further awareness raising on the burden of AD/E*AD/E is an itchy, chronic relapsing skin condition that affects up to 25% of children and 2-8% of adults. Allergic inflammation results in a disturbed skin barrier and is associated with a major disease burden and impaired quality of life. AD/E affects a patient’s social, educational, and work life and is highly burdensome for families and the wider population. Despite new advances in treatment possibilities in recent years, the burden that AD/E poses to patients is still not fully understood by policymakers. In addition, the need for multidisciplinary care to address the range of impacts from AD/E is not recognised nor addressed, a factor that is coupled with the persisting low priority for the disease among serious chronic diseases. To fill this gap, the attached Consensus Report and policy recommendations on the burden of AD/E in Europe have been devised based on the work of the Consensus Committee.AD/E is a chronic, inflammatory, systemic disease with combined effects of skin-barrier disruption, immune dysregulation, multi-organ disorders and intense symptoms. Symptoms go far beyond the skin to develop anywhere in the entire body. Itching and pain can be devastating and the suffering of patients with AD/E can become unbearable. Therefore, it is vital for the current situation to be addressed, and for patients suffering from AD/E to be fully recognised and given long-term treatment and multidisciplinary care to cope with it.Policymakers must recognise that AD/E is a serious, complex chronic disease. The patient journey for those diagnosed with AD/E must be respected at each stage, from diagnosis to treatment and care, with a supportive environment for patients and their families. Only be adhering to the recommendations of this report will the situation be addressed, and AD/E patients and their families be given the support they need.The policy recommendations take into account the following factors:• The physical and emotional burden of the disease;• Diagnosis of AD/E and processes around the development of new treatments;• The need to improve access to personalised treatment and care;• The need to develop a supportive environment for patients addressing treatment and care;• The financial and economic burden that AD/E has on patients.We would be delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you [INCLUDE A TIMELINE IN WEEKS] and discuss this project as well as discussing the relevance of these recommendation on the healthcare environment in [INSERT COUNTRY NAME].We thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to discussing this further.Kind regards,[INSERT SIGNATURE AND TITLE] |