EFA supports World COPD Day
19 November 2003

EFA believes in the importance of raising awareness of COPD and encouraging those at risk to see their doctor.

As soon as I found the courage to speak to a pneumologist about my shortness of breath, and was diagnosed and received treatment; my life became so much easier.

Edoardo, Italy

I just thought I was getting older, that my breathlessness was something I had to learn to live with. Now I realise that I had had COPD for some time. Treatment does make a difference, but I wish I had started it earlier.

Helena, The Netherlands

The aims of EFA to improve the lives of COPD patients include:

- Improve early diagnosis and management of COPD
- Reduce risk factors
- Increase programmes for training, education, empowerment and rehabilitation
- Safeguard COPD patient rights
- Lobby relevant institutions and European authorities to give adequate attention to COPD.

COPD:

- Kills more than 2.6 million people every year
- Is the fifth leading cause of death
- Is predicted to rise to the third leading cause of death by 2020
- Up to 75% of sufferers in Europe are unaware they have the disease.

For further information please visit www.efanet.org and www.goldcopd.com

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