

# Institutional Declaration on the occasion of the Cochlear Implant Day in plenary session of the Spanish Government Senate



On February 23, the Plenary of the Spanish Government Senate approved an Institutional Declaration on the occasion of Cochlear Implant Day that was signed by all parliamentary groups. The reading was in charge of the First Secretary of the Senate Table, Senator Fajardo Palarea, of the PSOE.

In this, the AICE Federation (Federation of Associations of Cochlear Implants of Spain), belonging to EURO-CIU and under the protection of CIICA, is recognized for its commitment and its continuous work of so many years in defense of the needs and rights of the collective.

This recognition of cochlear implant users and, in particular, the AICE Federation comes after a long and laborious process of awareness and political pressure. The Cochlear Implant Day was celebrated in Spain for the first time in 2009, with AICE being its main promoter. The purpose of the celebration is to disclose to society in general the technical help that the cochlear implant device represents, with which most of the bilateral profound sensorineural deafness can be alleviated by recovering part of the lost hearing. But also ask healthcare providers and policy makers for their inclusion in all areas and adequate provision of this hearing aid.

After years working in the diffusion and in the pressure for the improvement of the provision of C.I. by Public Health, this year the Spanish Government Senate, with the initiative of the socialist group (PSOE), and thanks to the joint work with the socialist senator Esther Carmona, the AICE Federation has

achieved the official visibility of the group of cochlear implants users, also achieving the unanimity of all the political groups that make up the Senate.

We reproduce the Institutional Declaration below:



SENADO  
XIV LEGISLATURA  
REGISTRO GENERAL  
ENTRADA 80.911  
24/02/2021 17:47

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**DECLARACIÓN INSTITUCIONAL CON MOTIVO DEL DÍA  
INTERNACIONAL DEL IMPLANTE COCLEAR**

El implante coclear es una ayuda técnica auditiva, cubierta por el Sistema Nacional de Salud, que permite que las personas con sorderas severas o profundas puedan oír y entender los mensajes orales. Actualmente hay 18.000 implantados/as cocleares en España y 500.000 en el mundo.

Este 25 de febrero se celebra el 64 aniversario de la colocación del primer implante coclear en el mundo, evento que se conmemora en más de 65 países.

La Covid19 ha incidido gravemente en este colectivo y en el de las personas sordas o con problemas auditivos, al sumarse la obligatoriedad del uso de mascarillas que crean graves barreras comunicativas, que pueden derivar en un aislamiento social.

Las diferentes facetas de los programas de implantación coclear (detección, selección de candidatos, cirugías, programaciones, rehabilitación) deben recuperar progresivamente sus ritmos de realización previos a la pandemia de COVID-19.

En el 2018 la OMS (Organización Mundial de la Salud) declaró la sordera y los problemas auditivos una prioridad mundial, colocándolos en su agenda política, sensibilizando a la sociedad, comprometiéndose en buscar soluciones y luchando para mejorar la vida de quienes se enfrentan a esta problemática; por ello, creó el 3/3 el día Mundial de la Audición. En numerosos países ya se celebra la Semana de la Audición,

que comienza con el Día del Implante Coclear (25/2) y finaliza con el Día de la Audición (3/3), en una sinergia que completa la espiral, cerrando el círculo.

El Senado de España con motivo del Día Internacional del Implante Coclear, manifiesta su solidaridad con los usuarios de implante coclear, sus familias, los profesionales relacionados y traslada su reconocimiento a la Federación AICE que les atiende, representa y este 2021 celebra su 25 aniversario, por su compromiso y labor continuada de tantos años en defensa de las necesidades y derechos del colectivo.

Palacio del Senado, 23 de febrero

PORTAVOZ GP SOCIALISTA

PORTAVOZ GP ESQUERRA  
REPUBLICANA-EH BILDU

PORTAVOZ GP CIUDADANOS

PORTAVOZ GP IZQUIERDA CONFEDERAL  
(ADELANTE ANDALUCÍA,  
MÉS PER MALLORCA,  
COMPROMÍS, MÁS MADRID,  
GEROÀ BAL, Y CATALUNYA EN COMÚ PODEM)

PORTAVOZ GP POPULAR

PORTAVOZ GP VASCO EN EL  
SENADO (EAJ-PNV)

PORTAVOZ GP NACIONALISTA  
EN EL SENADO-JUNTS PER  
CATALUNYA-COALICIÓN  
CANARIA- PARTIDO  
NACIONALISTA CANARIO

PORTAVOZ GP MIXTO

## **Institutional Declaration on the occasion of the Cochlear Implant Day**

The cochlear implant is a technical hearing aid, covered by the National Health System, which allows people with severe or profound deafness to hear and understand oral messages. There are currently 18,000 cochlear implants in Spain and 500,000 in the world.

This February 25, the 64th anniversary of the placement of the first cochlear implant in the world is celebrated, an event that is commemorated in more than 65 countries.

The Covid19 has seriously affected this group and deaf or hard of hearing people, by adding the mandatory use of masks that create serious communication barriers, which can lead to social isolation.

The different facets of cochlear implantation programs: detection, selection of candidates, surgeries, programming, rehabilitation, must progressively recover their pace of performance prior to the Covid19 pandemic.

In 2018, the WHO (World Health Organization) declared deafness and hearing problems a global priority, placing them on a political agenda, raising awareness in society, committing to seek solutions and fighting to improve the lives of those who face this problematic; therefore, it created 3/3 as World Hearing Day. In many countries, Hearing Week is already celebrated, which begins with Cochlear Implant Day (2/25) and ends with Hearing Day (3/3), in a synergy that completes the spiral, closing the circle.

The Senate of Spain on the occasion of the International Cochlear Implant Day, expresses its solidarity with the cochlear implant users, their families, the related professionals and transfers its recognition to the AICE Federation that attends to them, represents them and that this 2021 celebrates its 25th anniversary, for their commitment and continuous work for so many years in defense of the needs and rights of the group.

Senate Palace on February 23

You can see the complete intervention here:

[https://youtu.be/Wo1KRaNr\\_9Y](https://youtu.be/Wo1KRaNr_9Y)