

For an EU NCD Initiative that prevents and cares *Connecting the dots for better allergy and asthma health in Europe*

Thursday 29 September 2022, 14.00-15.30pm

Location: European Parliament in Brussels, room A3G2

Co-hosted by MEP Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN (EPP-Finland), MEP Ladislav ILČIĆ (ECR-Croatia) and
MEP Juozas OLEKAS (S&D-Lithuania)

Context: The event is taking place against the background of the Healthier Together-EU NCD Initiative, the first EU-led initiative in more than ten years aiming to help EU Member States reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Among other work areas, the initiative presents a strong focus on chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), acknowledging the related health burden and laying out policy options for better prevention and care. However, the initiative presents certain key shortcomings: For example, allergy is largely absent, not receiving the centrality it deserves as one of the most common chronic diseases in Europe; while the proposed actions on health determinants lack the coherence required to effectively address the risk factors responsible for the diseases.

As the COVID-19 crisis has exposed the need for a stronger EU role and budget for health, including a reinforced focus on prevention, the EU NCD Initiative must represent a holistic approach guiding the actions of the Union forward.

Objective: Demonstrate the relevance of tackling allergy & asthma health in the context of the EU NCD Initiative; and debate different approaches to allergy & asthma prevention, management and care.

Target audience: EU policymakers (European Parliament, European Commission, Council of the EU), stakeholders with interest in the EU NCD Initiative

Expected attendance: Representatives from EU institutions, public health organisations and NGOs, patient groups, healthcare professionals, young patients, pharma industry

Agenda:

Welcome and Opening Remarks		
14:00-14:10 (10 mins)	Welcome attendees, and offer a preliminary assessment of the EU NCD Initiative as regards chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs) from the perspective of policymakers, patients and healthcare professionals respectively, including gaps, challenges and opportunities	<p>Speaker(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen, Chair of the EP Interest Group on Allergy & Asthma - Marcia Podestà, Vice President, EFA - Ibon Eguiluz-Gracia, EAACI Asthma Section Chair, Allergy Unit, Hospital Regional Universitario de Malaga, EAACI <p>Moderator(s): Jennifer Baker</p>
Chronic respiratory diseases in the EU NCD Initiative		
14:10-14:25 (15 mins)	<p>Keynote addresses</p> <p>The institutional perspective on the EU NCD Initiative aspects concerning chronic respiratory diseases, from the viewpoint of the European Commission.</p>	<p>Speaker(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marianne Takki, Team Leader Unit C1, DG SANTE (Online) <p>Moderator(s): Jennifer Baker</p>
14:25-14:30 (5 mins)	Coffee Break	

Allergy & asthma health in the spotlight: Recommendations for an EU NCD Initiative that improves prevention, management and care for all		
<p>14:30-15:25 (55 mins)</p>	<p>Part 1 - Keynote Address (10 mins): The voice of young allergy & asthma patients, their needs, priorities and expectations from an integrated EU approach on allergy and asthma</p> <p>Part 2 - Panel discussion (25 mins) Addressing issues around the EU NCD Initiative and its aspects related to allergy and asthma, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy implementation and best practices at the national level - Better care and management of allergy & asthma - Role of healthcare professionals in raising awareness - Opportunities for digital health - Allergy & asthma health in the EU research agenda - The Finnish Allergy Programme 2008-2018: Impact, learnings, cost-effectiveness and outlook <p>Part 3 – Q&A with the audience (20 mins)</p>	<p>Speaker(s):</p> <p>Part 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eimear O'Rourke, Member of the Allergy & Asthma Youth Parliament - Dunja Stojanović, Member of the Allergy & Asthma Youth Parliament <p>Part 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MEP Juozas Olekas, Member of the EP Interest Group on Allergy & Asthma - Marianne Takki, Team Leader Unit C1, DG SANTE (Online) - Mikaela Odemyr, President, Swedish Asthma and Allergy Association - Ibon Eguiluz-Gracia, EAACI Asthma Section Chair, Allergy Unit, Hospital Regional Universitario de Malaga, EAACI - Arzu Yorgancioğlu, Chair of ERS Advocacy Council, ERS (Online) - Tari Haahtela, Professor, Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS) (Online) - Tuomas Jartti, Pediatric Allergist, Turku University Hospital <p>Moderator: Jennifer Baker</p>
Closing remarks		
<p>15:25-15:30 (5 mins)</p>	<p>Concluding remarks and way forward Summary of key points and future steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MEP Ladislav ILČIĆ, Member of the EP Interest Group on Allergy & Asthma - MEP Juozas Olekas, Member of the EP Interest Group on Allergy & Asthma <p>Moderator: Jennifer Baker</p>