

Raising the standards of care for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in Europe

European Parliament

5 February 2025

Co-hosts



MEP ROMANA JERKOVIĆ (S&D, CROATIA)

Romana Jerković is a Croatian Member of the European Parliament, a medical doctor, and a university professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka. Representing the S&D group, she serves as Vice-Chair of the SANT Committee and is also an active member of ENVI and EMPL Committees. In her work as an MEP, she is a strong advocate for equitable access to healthcare and advancing policies to address non-communicable diseases and mental health by promoting collective EU action to tackle challenges that individual member states cannot resolve alone.



MEP ANDRÁS KULJA (EPP, HUNGARY)

András Tivadar Kulja is a Hungarian surgeon, accomplished digital health expert, and politician of the Tisza Party, elected as member of the European Parliament on June 2024. His social media posts and videos on health education in several platforms, especially on TikTok, with over 100 million views, prevailed during the Covid-19 pandemic, in an attempt to fight disinformation. Former Lecturer of Health and Science Communication at Semmelweis University, András is now serving as the Vice-Chair in the Committee of Environment, Health and Food Safety (ENVI) of the European Parliament, and member of the Public Health Committee (SANT), and the Committee of Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL).



MEP TILLY METZ (GREENS, LUXEMBOURG)

Tilly Metz is a Luxembourgish member of the European Parliament since 2018, and a member of the Greens/EFA Group. She is the first Vice-President of the Public Health Committee, and a member of ENVI, AGRI and TRAN. Her special interest in health policy includes access to healthcare services, as well as environmental impact on health.

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MARCIA PODESTÀ, PRESIDENT (EFA)

Marcia Podestà, Attorney at Law, MMR, IT Law. She is currently the President of the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patient's Associations (EFA). In this role, she advocates change for allergy, asthma and COPD patients. She is the current President of Food Allergy Italia and founder in 2002. She is also Codex Alimentarius Delegate and a member of the EAACI Ethics Committee and the EAACI Patient Organisation Coordinating Committee (POCC). She has over 20 years of experience in governance, managing a not-for-profit association, legal affairs, and EU and international health policy, driving strategic change to achieve key objectives.



PAULA DUARTE, VICE PRESIDENT (RESPIRA)

Paula Duarte is a Chest Physician and former Head of the Pneumology Department at the Hospital Center of Setúbal, Portugal, a role she held from 1999 until her retirement in January 2024. She now serves as Vice-President of RESPIRA – COPD and Other Chronic Respiratory Diseases Association in Portugal, where she remains dedicated to advocating for improved care and support for individuals with chronic respiratory diseases.



SVETLANA ATANASOVA, PROJECT MANAGER (EUROCARERS)

Svetlana Atanasova is a Project Manager at Eurocarers, where she also coordinates the Young Carers subgroup in Europe. A lawyer specialised in EU Law, she has an interest in social and human rights, including children's rights. With experience at the European Commission and in EU policy consultancies, she has been involved in EU policy development and managing EU-funded projects, bringing both institutional knowledge and a focus on social issues.