

# *‘Health in Europe – making it fairer’*

*Charlemagne conference centre, Brussels*

*18 March 2014*

*9.30 – 17.00h*

This major conference addresses the issue of improving fairness and equity in health in Europe, improving access to health and combatting discrimination in health.

**The objectives are:**

1. To highlight current issues on fairness in health, access to health and discrimination in health in Europe
2. To exchange information on policies and good practice in improving fairness and equity in health and combatting discrimination.
3. To propose conference conclusions on common basic principles and values on improving equity and combatting discrimination in health.

The conference builds on the “High-level meeting on HIV and Human Rights, (May 2013) and the session on discrimination in healthcare in Gastein (October 2013).

**Participants:**

The expected number of participants is 430. The conference will bring together representatives of Member States, non-governmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders, professional groups, academics, and EU institutions.

Invitations will include: EU Member States, the Greek Presidency, the European Parliament, and other EU institutions; EU agencies including the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), the European Asylum Support office (EASO), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organisation (HO), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Open Society Institute (OSI), Soros Foundation all the member organisations of the EU Health Policy Forum and Commission Services including DG JUST, DG EMPL, DG REGIO. There will also be the option of open registration.

**Interpretation:** EN, DE, FR, ES, IT, EL in plenary and in parallel sessions.

**Format:**

A combination of plenary sessions and parallel workshops. The workshops will highlight issues and good practice in promoting equity and combatting discrimination in health promotion, prevention and treatment in 3 key areas: chronic non-communicable diseases, communicable diseases - particularly HIV/AIDS, and of disadvantaged groups and persons in vulnerable situations.

Rapporteurs from each session will aim to capture the main elements relating to conference conclusions – which will be proposed and discussed in plenary in the final session.

**Output:**

The conference conclusions will be a short document highlighting common basic principles and values on improving equity and combatting discrimination in health. It will be a key contribution to defining future approaches to fairer health in Europe.

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**Draft Programme**

09.00	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
09.30- 10.30	<b>WELCOME</b>  <b>CHAIR:</b> <u>MS PAOLA TESTORI COGGI</u> - DIRECTOR GENERAL, DIRECTORATE GENERAL HEALTH AND CONSUMERS  <b>SPEAKERS:</b>  <u>MR TONIO BORG-</u> EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH <u>MR ADONIS GEORGIADIS (TBC)- GREEK MINISTER OF HEALTH</u> <u>MS MARISOL TOURAINE (TBC)- FRENCH MINISTER OF HEALTH</u>
(5MIN BREAK)	
10.35- 12.00	<b>KEYNOTE SPEECHES</b>  <b>CHAIR:</b> <u>MS PAOLA TESTORI COGGI</u> - DIRECTOR GENERAL, DIRECTORATE GENERAL HEALTH AND CONSUMERS  <b>ADDRESSING HEALTH OF ROMA AND ETHNIC MINORITIES</b> <u>MS LIVIA JAROKA</u> , (TBC) MEP  <b>DEALING WITH UNFAIRNESS IN HEALTH – A PROFESSIONAL'S PERSPECTIVE</b> <u>MR FRANK VANBIERVLIET</u> , (TBC) DOCTORS OF THE WORLD  <b>MAKING HEALTH FAIRER – A PATIENT PERSPECTIVE</b> <u>MR ROBERT JOHNSTONE</u> , (TBC) INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PATIENTS ORGANISATIONS  <b>TOWARDS CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS</b> <u>MS ISABEL DE LA MATA</u> : GENERAL RAPPORTEUR
12:00 -13.30	<b>LUNCH</b> (Buffet lunch will be provided in front of the plenary room)

13:30 – 15.30

**PARALLEL SESSIONS** – these parallel sessions will highlight issues and good practice in promoting equity and combatting discrimination in health including in health promotion, prevention and treatment in 3 key areas: chronic non communicable diseases, communicable diseases - particularly HIV/AIDS, and of disadvantaged groups and persons in vulnerable situations.

PARALLEL SESSION 1

**“EQUITY IN ADDRESSING CHRONIC DISEASES”**

13:30 – 15.30

**FORMAT: PANEL DISCUSSION**

**OUTLINE:** Chronic diseases are a major challenge for the sustainability of our health systems. In times of crisis, equity in access to health enhancing schemes, healthcare and medicines needs to be secured. The purpose of this session is to discuss how different situations of discrimination affect the prevention and management of chronic diseases. The presentations will highlight key issues and successful strategies regarding major chronic diseases, and set out how the Joint Action on chronic diseases and healthy ageing will address these. The presentations will be followed by a discussion where participants can introduce their respective perspective.

PARALLEL SESSION 2

**“HIV/AIDS”**

13:30 – 15.30

**FORMAT: PANEL DISCUSSION**

**OUTLINE:** A discussion between EU, senior government Ministers, Chief Medical Officers and civil society representatives will be structured around a set of guiding questions (2-3 per issue area, provided beforehand to participants). In addition, the session could be introduced by a short video sharing key message with the audiences.

The questions will build on the results of the high-level conference on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in May 2013, and will focus on key aspects of discrimination, stigmatization and equity in relation to access to prevention and treatment, late diagnosis and early testing. This will allow to involve various key risk groups such as men who have sex

with men, migrants, injecting drug users, (potentially also prisoners and sex workers), and to address regional differences in the EU and neighbouring countries.

PARALLEL SESSION 3

**“HEALTH OF PEOPLE IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS”**

13:30 – 15.30

**FORMAT: PANEL DISCUSSION**

**OUTLINE:** Short presentations and discussion will highlight key issues and successful strategies to address the health needs of people in a vulnerable situation – as well as to improve the quality, responsiveness and appropriateness of health systems. The session will include the perspective of a range of groups with particular needs (including people from certain ethnic minorities, undocumented migrants, and older people).

15.30- 16.00

**BREAK**

16.00- 17.30

**PLENARY SESSION 2**

**CHAIR:**

MS PAOLA TESTORI COGGI DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL HEALTH AND CONSUMERS

**CONCLUSIONS FROM PARALLEL SESSIONS 1**

**CONCLUSIONS FROM PARALLEL SESSION 2**

**CONCLUSIONS FROM PARALLEL SESSION 3**

**DISCUSSION**

**CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS:**

MS ISABEL DE LA MATA, PRINCIPAL ADVISOR WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN  
HEALTH

**CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

17.30

**END OF MEETING**