



*From left to right: Biljana Borzan, Andrey Kovatchev, Karin Kadenbach, Cristian Silviu Busoi, Katerina Konecna (missing in the photo Lieve Wierinck)*

## **MEP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare**

The Members of the European Parliament (MEP) Interest Group on Patient Access to Healthcare is an informal group of MEPs committed to improve access to healthcare in Europe. Launched on 27 January 2015, it has so far being the official partner of the Patient Access Partnership (PACT) in the European Parliament, connecting healthcare stakeholders with EU policy developments.



*January, 2015. The launch of the IG event was hosted by MEP Andrey Kovatchev with a special opinion speech by Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner of Health and Food Safety.*

Many patients in Europe have no or limited access to proper and timely diagnosis and treatment. The MEP Interest Group on Patient Access to Healthcare has been committed to playing a major role in providing a platform for discussion and concrete action, in cooperation with patients and the healthcare community. It has also promoted synergies and knowledge-sharing regarding disease specific initiatives in the EP relating to access, and other thematic interest groups to ensure maximum effectiveness.

Over the years, the main objectives of the MEP Interest Group, on Patient Access to healthcare, have been:

- To bridge healthcare stakeholders and EU policy-making – to be the political arm of PACT
- To actively work with the European Commission and the Council to identify the possible EU policy measures aimed at improving access

- To work with the Council to make sure that EU policy measures are tailor-made to respect specific national problems and that Member States respond positively to EU-suggested initiatives
- To advocate the model of partnership, shared by PACT and the IG, at Member States' level
- To promote in the Member States the opportunities created by the EU for healthcare-related projects

Some of the events co-organized by PACT and the MEP Interest Group have been:

### "Creating Synergies between the access to healthcare agendas at EU level"

24 June, 2015

The meeting offered the opportunity for decision-makers and stakeholders at European level to engage in a constructive dialogue and discuss how synergies between the "access to healthcare" agendas can be created.



### European Parliament Debate "Where are we and where do we need to go?"

17 November, 2015

Presentation and discussion of the publication of the preliminary opinion on access to health services by the Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health.

### Debate on Access to Medicines at the European Parliament

29 June, 2016

As the Dutch Presidency had been focusing on the area of pharmaceuticals during their Presidency, the conclusions document entitled 'Strengthening the balance in the pharmaceutical systems in the EU and its Member States', adopted at the EPSCO Council held on 17 June, demonstrated the growing recognition of the



need to address unequal access to medicines across the EU, with an emphasis on innovation, access and sustainability.

The 29 June event provided an opportunity for all interested stakeholders to be informed of and to discuss the efforts of the Dutch Presidency and the content of the Council Conclusions, as well as of the views and activities of the European Parliament and Commission.

## PACT welcomes the joint Commission/OECD report entitled 'Health at a Glance: Europe 2016'

29 November, 2016/28 November, 2017



**patient  
access  
partnership**

Interest Group on  
Access to Healthcare

**State of Health in the EU - Health at a Glance: Europe 2016**

28 November 2016, 17:00 - 19:00, room JAN 6Q1, European Parliament

Hosted by  
the Co-Chairs  
of the Interest Group  
on Patient Access to Healthcare  
Biljana Borzan, Cristian Silviu Buşoi,  
Karin Kadenbach, Kateřina Konečná,  
Andrey Kovatchev and Lieve Wierinck



**patient  
access  
partnership**

State of Health in the EU.  
Where can the EU make a difference?

**28 November 2017, 14:00-16:00,  
room 6Q1, European Parliament**

Hosted by  
MEP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare  
Biljana Borzan, Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Karin Kadenbach,  
Kateřina Konečná, Andrey Kovatchev and Lieve Wierinck

With the two-year 'State of Health in the EU' cycle the European Commission has teamed up with the OECD and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies to bring together knowledge and expertise with a view to providing specific evidence-based tools for policy makers. The result is a package of Individual Country Health Profiles along with the Commission's Companion Report highlighting potential areas of EU added value in healthcare.

Against this background the MEP Interest Group on Patient Access to Healthcare in cooperation with PACT and DG SANTE will host a debate to discuss the findings and the way forward but also the challenges that Member States may encounter in terms of implementation. The event will take place on Tuesday, 28 November 2017 from 14:00 to 16:00 in room 6Q1 in the European Parliament.

The initiative will be presented by Mr. Andrzej Rys (Director - Health systems, medical products and innovation, DG SANTE, European Commission), Mr. Jens Wilkens (Health Policy Analyst, OECD Health Division) and Mr. Joseph Puyresse (Director, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies).





## MEPs and stakeholders call for more collaboration and joint activities in the field of health

27 June, 2017

The event addressed the role of healthcare in the future scenarios for the EU and it provided an opportunity to discuss EU involvement in the area of health, and come forward with views on how to strengthen and improve it.

## **MEPs and stakeholders discuss Benchmarking access to healthcare in the EU**

*11 October, 2017*

PACT welcomed the commitment of the Commission and the draft Opinion, prepared by the Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investment in Health (EXPH) entitled 'Benchmarking access to healthcare in the EU'.

## **MEPs and health stakeholders discuss stronger EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment (HTA)**

*5 June, 2018*

PACT welcomed the Commission's proposal regarding the future of EU cooperation on HTA and its potential to improve access to innovative health technologies for patients across the EU.



The meeting, aimed to gather health stakeholders' perspectives on the Commission's proposal before the consideration of the Parliament's draft report in the ENVI Committee on June 7, 2018.

## **MEPs welcome accurate measurement of access to healthcare as a basis for sound policy development**

*December 5, 2018*



PACT and the Interest Group on Patient Access to Healthcare warmly welcomed the work done by the European Commission and ICF on a pilot project: "Towards a fairer and more effective

measurement of access to healthcare across the EU”<sup>1</sup> which aims to accurately and comprehensively measure access to healthcare across the EU. This pilot project came into life as a direct result of intense advocacy efforts on the part of PACT, the Interest Group on Patient Access to Healthcare and other key stakeholders for over two years.

## **EU Collaboration in Health, Taking Stock and Looking to the Future**

*20 February, 2019*



MEPs and PACT called for continued and enhanced EU action on healthcare access during this meeting, which provided the occasion for the formal launch of PACT’s ‘Statement on the Future of Health in the European Union’<sup>2</sup>. Healthcare Stakeholders shared their views on how collaboration can help assure that health remains a priority during the EU institutional renewal of 2019.

For over four years, the MEP IG on Access to Healthcare has been one of the priorities for PACT and with its help, the organization has effectively provided a forum for debate and action on equal access to healthcare that ensures that the matter features high on the EU policy agenda. Finishing 2019, PACT will re-launch the MEP Interest Group within the context of the new cycle of the European Parliament.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/cross\\_border\\_care/docs/2018\\_measurement\\_access\\_tohealthcare\\_frep\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/cross_border_care/docs/2018_measurement_access_tohealthcare_frep_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.eupatientaccess.eu/fls/Final\\_Statement\\_3pages.pdf](http://www.eupatientaccess.eu/fls/Final_Statement_3pages.pdf)