

POLICY DIALOGUE MEETING/HEARING SPEAKER GUIDELINES

European Parliament Dialogue Meeting | Brussels, 12th of February, 11h00

When: 12th February 2014 at 11h00

Duration: 2:00 h

Hosts: The Portuguese MEP **Alda Sousa** will host the hearing (other MEPs should join the event and co-host).

1st Round | INTRODUCTION (40 min)

Chair: José Queiroz, APDES

Welcome and introduction to the topic: Alda Sousa, MEP

Welcome by Hepatitis C Initiative Director: Eberhard Schatz, Correlation Network

Key Note: Efi Kokkini, International Network of People Using Drugs (INPUD)

How to overcome HCV treatment barriers for people who inject drugs (PWID)?

Speech: Matthias Schuppe, DG SANCO | Health Threats Policy Officer

What the European Commission can do to improve HCV policies at the European level

Speech: Maria Phelan, Harm Reduction International

The importance of Harm Reduction in the development of HCV policies

2nd Round | HCV IMPACT AND RESPONSE (40 min)

Chair: Eberhard Schatz, Correlation Network

Session Focus: Overview of existing evidence and responses to HCV on various policy levels

International Agencies Approach:

- Teodora Groshkova, EMCDDA: *What do we know about the prevalence of HCV among PWID? Overview of HCV data and facts*
- Stefan Wiktor, WHO Europe: *The response to the HCV health crisis among PWID; WHO recommendations and guidance*
- Dr Geert Robaey, EASL: *Drug users as a patient group; New EASL practical guidelines for the management of the HCV infection*

National Awarding Policy:

- Leon Wylie, Scotland: *The Scotland HCV Plan, overview, approach, and lessons learned*



Doctor Champion/Health Approach:

- Prof. Mojca Maticic, University Medical Centre Ljubljana: *HCV treatment for PWID, it works!*

Community/Peers Local Approach:

- Louise Persson, Swedish Drug User Union: *Drug user organisations as driving force for HCV prevention and treatment in Sweden*

3rd Round | MOVING FORWARD

(55 min)

Chair: Ricardo Baptista Leite, MP Portugal

Session Focus: Opportunities for combining forces towards a better European HCV policy.

Discussion with stakeholders (5 min each):

- Luís Mendão, GAT: *What can we learn from HIV/AIDS policy advocacy? Can we join forces?*
- Hilje Logtenberg, European Liver Patient Association (ELPA): *How patient organisations can be an influential factor for HCV policies. Are drug users part of the picture? Opportunities and ways to collaborate with PWID community*
- Jindrich Voboril, National Drugs Coordinator Czech Republic: *Dilemma's, barriers and opportunities for an inclusive HCV policy*
- Charles Gore, World Hepatitis Association (WHA): *What is the current focus and agenda of WHA in Europe? Lessons learned and next steps. Strategic partnerships for the future.*
- Leonardo Palumbo, European Public Health Association (EPHA): *Accessing medicine in times of austerity. How EPHA lobbies on a European level.*
- Prof. Henrique de Barros, University of Porto: *Research says it all: treatment for drug users works. How evidence can influence policy and treatment.*
- Brendan Barnes, Director of Global Health and IP (EFPIA): *Is the pharmaceutical industry an ally for HCV advocates?*

Open discussion with participants:

How can we all contribute to improve HCV policies in Europe?



Conclusions and Final Comments

- ⤴ Alda Sousa, MEP
- ⤴ Jose Queiroz, APDES

Workshop Session | Hotel Mercure Brussels Center, 12th of February, 15h00

- **Ricardo Baptista Leite, MP Portugal | 15h00 – 16h00**

Session on the strategic planning to establish a Portuguese Think Tank on Hepatitis C. What methodologies were used? Which stakeholders were approached? What types of communication strategies were used? Expected outcomes and impact to be made from this Think Tank approach. Finally, how can we best use these lessons learned to scale up this experience on a European wide level?

- **Leonardo Palumbo, EPHA | 16h30 – 17h30**

Leonardo Palumbo, EPHA will conduct a lecture on the EU political system, various stakeholders and how to gain support.

- **José Queiroz, APDES | 17h30 – 18h15**

Brief overview on the “HEP C and Drug Use Initiative” Manifesto. Plans for drafting a HCV manifesto: suggested strategies on effective ways to develop and sustain an inclusive process.

20.00 Dinner

