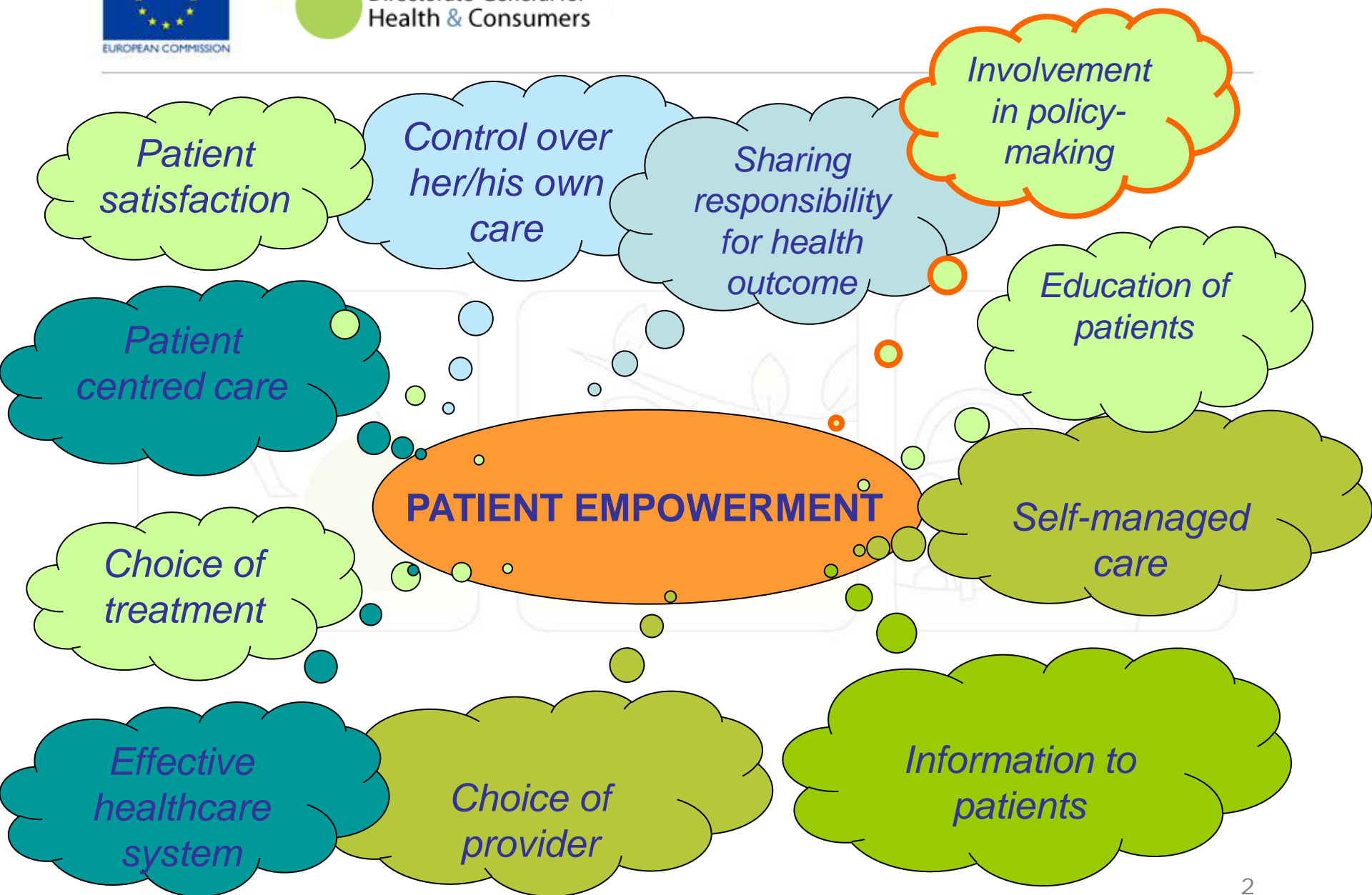


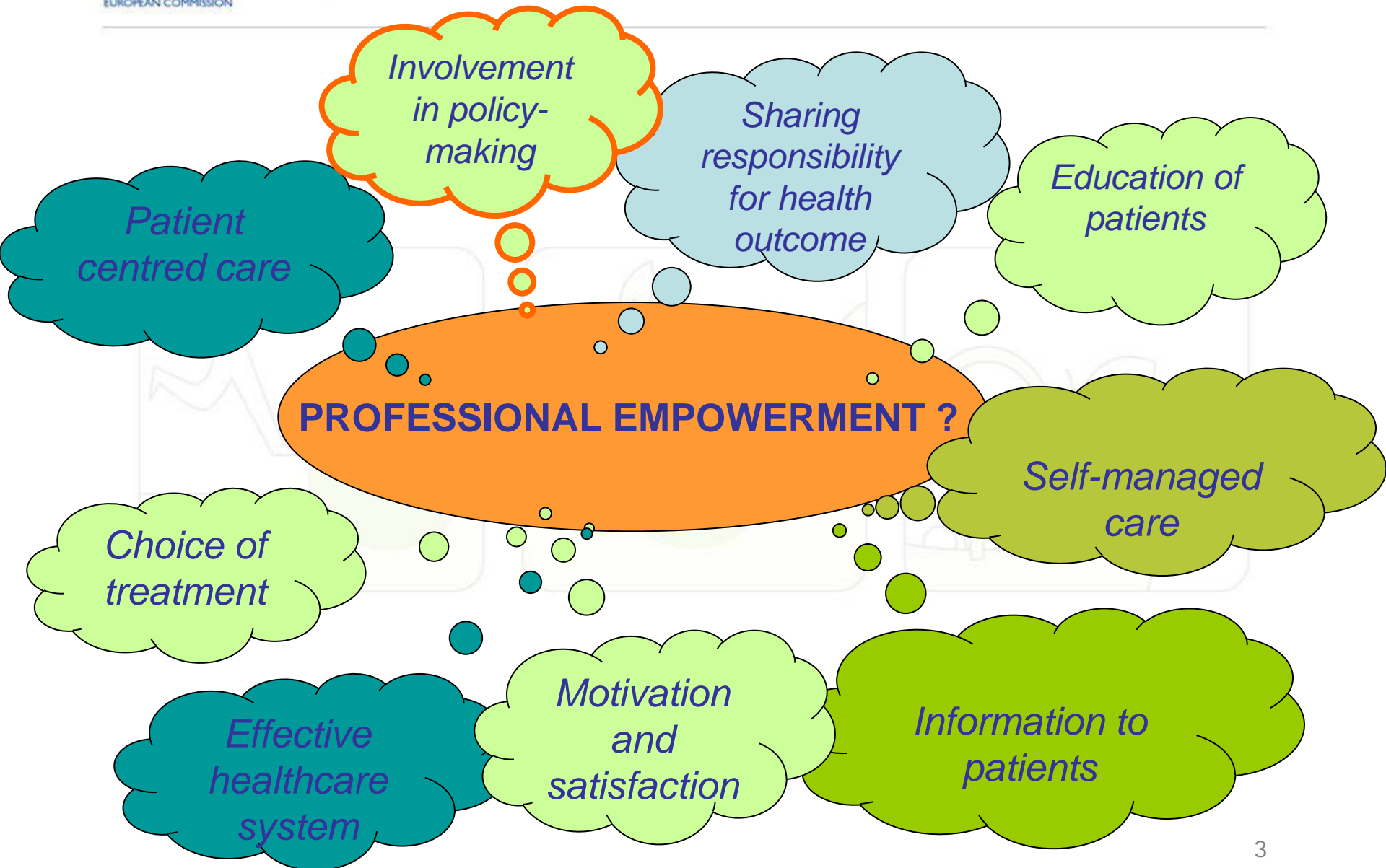
Involvement of patients and health professionals in policy-making at EU level

What role? What impact?

Nathalie Chaze
Head of Healthcare Systems Unit

Bucharest, 27 October 2011





Levels of involvement

- Information to citizens
- Feedback by citizens
- Active involvement in policy-making process



Tools at EU level

- Information campaigns
- Public consultations
- Policy dialogues
- Working groups (policy shaping and policy implementation)

Information campaign: *“Europe for patients”*

Aims:

- **Tangible** and readily understandable communication framework for policies and actions related to EU healthcare
- **Single entry point** to the complex world of EU healthcare policies
- **Coherent message** about the vision and priorities in EU healthcare for partners and stakeholders, available in 23 languages



Public consultations

On patient safety:

12 responses from patients/ consumers organisations

25 responses from health professionals' organisations

On health workforce:

9 responses from patients organisations

68 responses from health professionals' organisations

Consultations: Public Health

Open consultations

Title & description	Policy activity	Target group	Closing date
Consultation: EU action to reduce health inequalities	Public Health	Individuals and organisations	15.04.2009
Public consultation on the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health	Public Health	Interested parties and stakeholders	10.04.2009
Public Consultation on SCHER 'working mandate': The hazard profile, health effects, and human exposure to fluoride and information and data on the health risks that may be associated with the use of most common drinking water fluoridation agents like silicofluorides (e.g. (hydro) fluorosilicic acid, sodium silicofluoride).	Public Health	Interested parties and stakeholders	08.04.2009

Closed consultations

Title & description	Policy activity	Target group	Closing date	Results & follow-up
Public consultation on the SCCP/SCHER/SCENIHR preliminary report on the "Use of the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Approach for the Safety Assessment of Chemical Substances"	Public Health	Interested parties and stakeholders	02.01.2009	
Public Consultation on the SCHER preliminary report on Risk assessment methodologies and approaches for mutagenic and carcinogenic substances	Public Health	Interested parties and stakeholders	02.12.2008	
Public Consultation on the SCENIHR preliminary report on Effects of the Active Substances in Biocidal Products on Antibiotic Resistance	Public Health	Interested parties and stakeholders	30.11.2008	View
Public Consultation on the SCENIHR preliminary report on Potential health risks of exposure to noise from personal music players and mobile phones including a music playing function	Public Health	Interested parties and stakeholders	27.08.2008	
Public Consultation on SCHER 'Working mandate': The need for non-human primates in biomedical research, production and testing of products and devices	Public Health	Interested parties and stakeholders	06.06.2008	
Open Consultation on Patient Safety	Public Health	Interested parties and stakeholders	20.05.2008	View

Involvement in policy-making

■ Involvement of patients *and/or* health professionals in:

- Patient Safety and Quality of Care Working Group
- Working Group on Health Workforce
- EU Health Policy Forum



Outcome: EU Health Policy Forum

Aim:

To provide an opportunity to organise consultations, to **exchange views and experience** on a wide range of topics, and to **assist in implementation and follow-up** of specific initiatives.

Recommendations:

On Health Services and Internal Market (May 2005)

On Health Information (May 2005)

On Mobility of Health Professionals (December 2003)

On Health and EU Social Policy (December 2003)

Outcome: Patient Safety and Quality of Care Working Group

Contribution to work on the Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on patient safety *(adopted by the Council June 2009)*

MS should empower and inform citizens and patients by:

- (a) Involving patient organisations and representatives in the development of policies and programmes on patient safety at all levels;
- (b) Disseminating information to patients on risk, levels of safety and measures in place to reduce or prevent errors, and ensure informed consent to treatment, to facilitate patient choice and decision-making;

Current work on the implementation of the Recommendation

Involvement in the *Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare*

■ Shaping the National Contact Points

Patients will contact their National Contact Point(s) to get all relevant information to cross-border healthcare in order to make an **informed choice**

■ Feedback on patients' rights

Transposition of EU legislation is a key moment



Future involvement in eHealth

- Patient **and** health professional participation is the condition to eHealth deployment: *trust, acceptability*
- EPF is part of the *eHealth Governance Initiative Joint Action* together with Member States and will make proposals to the eHealth Network

Future involvement: health literacy?

- **The European Health Literacy Project 2009-2011** co-funded under the Health Programme aimed to measure health literacy in 8 European countries (lead: Maastricht University)
- Main findings and recommendations for policy makers to be presented 22 November in Brussels
- Objectives of the November conference:
 - underline the importance of health literacy

Conclusions

- Importance of patients' and health professionals' involvement in policy-making is recognised at EU level
- Various instruments exist to ensure the involvement
- Do patient and professional organisations sufficiently and effectively use the opportunities?

Thank
you!

