



Towards better prevention and management of chronic diseases

21 April 2016, Brussels, Charlemagne Building, Room Mansholt

Many chronic diseases are preventable, or their onset and progression can be delayed and slowed down considerably. While individuals can do much to prevent chronic diseases, for example by changing personal behaviour, public policy has a role to play in creating the conditions and incentives, and in building the right structures for more effective prevention and better management of chronic diseases.

Better control of chronic diseases would mean better control of health system expenditure. More than 70% of health system budgets in the EU are spent on chronic diseases, summing up to an estimated €700 billion. More than 60% of people over 65 suffer from one or multiple chronic diseases at the same time, and the demographic development is aggravating this trend. However, interventions are often at a late stage, leading to higher costs and poorer outcomes.

More effective prevention and disease management also offer huge opportunities for health and social systems and economic development. Chronic diseases have a big impact on productivity of the workforce and on the ability of individuals to fulfil their economic and social roles.

Thus, acting on chronic diseases will not only directly contribute to achieving the Commission's main goal to promote jobs, growth and investment but will also support and add value to Member States' efforts in this area.

The purpose of the meeting is to set out an approach towards better prevention and management of chronic diseases at EU level, complementary to that agreed to at the international level. The Commission will present and discuss its ideas with representatives of Member States, international organisations and stakeholders, and invite them to work jointly on the implementation of activities with a potential to reduce the burden of chronic diseases, improving health outcomes and reinforce the stability of health systems.

DRAFT AGENDA

09:30 – 10:00 REGISTRATION

10:00 – 10:45 OPENING

Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis: A need to address chronic diseases at EU level?

NN, Dutch EU presidency:

Prof J. de Sutter, University of Ghent, Chair, European Chronic Disease Alliance:
Preventing chronic diseases - opportunities for patients and citizens

10:45 – 11:30 PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION "Tackling chronic diseases at EU level – plans, activities, commitments"

Xavier Prats Monné, Director-General, DG SANTE: introduction

Martin Seychell, Deputy Director-General, DG SANTE: overview on goals, objectives, structures, tools

The way forward - activities at EU level

1. Strengthening the impact of EU groups and instruments through a systematic review
2. A Health Programme for impact
3. EU support to Member States – National Strategies on chronic diseases
4. Engaging with society
5. Cooperation across all policy areas

11:30 – 12:30 DISCUSSION

12:30 – 13:00 LAUNCH: “The Health Policy Forum Platform”

Martin Seychell, Deputy Director-General, DG SANTE: introduction

Artur Furtado, Deputy Head of Unit, Health Determinants and Inequality, DG SANTE:

13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH BREAK

14:30 – 16:15 STRUCTURED DISCUSSION towards getting operational –modus operandi, commitments, implementation, reporting

Ricardo Baptista Leite, Head of Public Health at the Catholic University of Portugal and Member of Portuguese Parliament, moderator

Introduced by invited contributions:

1. Member States positions
2. WHO: monitoring NCD activities in Member States
3. Industry / association: positions
4. Civil Society: positions

16:15 – 16:30 NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

Martin Seychell, Deputy Director-General, DG SANTE