

ROUNDTABLE

Future of EU Health Policies: Balancing Demands, Resources and Innovation

Date: 19 March 2025, 12.30 – 14.00

Venue: Room A5E-3, European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels, Belgium

Agenda

12:30-12:35	Welcome	Dr. Horst HEITZ, Chair of the Steering Committee of SME Connect
12:35-12:45	Opening	Adam JARUBAS, EPP, SANT Committee
12:45-12:55	Keynote	Milka Sokolović, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) Representative
12:55-14:00	Impressions	Dominik DZIURDA, President, Formedis HTA Grzegorz RYCHWALSKI, Vice President, Medicines For Poland, Vice-Chair of Business at OECD Health Committee, Advisor to the EESC Marcin NOWACKI, EESC Member from the Employers' Group Seyide DIREK, Policy Analyst, European Enterprise Alliance
	Moderation	Agata Boutanos, Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers

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About the event

.As the new term of the European Parliament and European Commission begins, the EU faces a pivotal moment in shaping its health policies. Policymakers are tasked with addressing complex challenges such as an aging population, rising obesity rates, cancer, and lifestyle-related diseases. These issues demand a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to ensure that healthcare systems across Europe remain sustainable, resilient, and responsive to emerging needs.

The legislative term provides an opportunity to embrace innovative strategies, supported by robust data, comprehensive impact assessments, and adaptive regulatory frameworks, that balance economic constraints with the need for sustainable funding. Policymakers must collaborate closely with healthcare professionals, researchers, and industries to develop adaptable, future-ready frameworks that promote public health while fostering competitiveness and innovation in the healthcare sector.

In our upcoming discussions with stakeholders and experts, we will address the following critical questions:

- **How can health policymakers effectively balance the escalating healthcare demands of an aging population with the limitations of existing resources?**
- **What policy frameworks are most effective in addressing the systemic drivers of obesity and fostering sustainable, health-promoting environments?**
- **How can early cancer detection and patient access to innovative treatments be optimized across diverse EU healthcare systems?**
- **What comprehensive strategies are required to reduce the burden of lifestyle-related diseases and promote public health at scale?**
- **How can we secure long-term healthcare system sustainability and resilience in the face of evolving public health threats?**

Additionally, the dialogue will explore these critical themes and recommendations:

- **Evidence-Based Decision-Making:** Leveraging data-driven approaches, such as the

European Health Data Space, to guide risk assessments, optimize resource allocation, and design targeted interventions for improving public health.

- **Comprehensive Impact Assessments:** Evaluating the economic, social, environmental, and health impacts of proposed policies to minimize unintended consequences and ensure balanced, effective outcomes.
- **Resilient Healthcare Systems:** Strengthening supply chains, incentivizing local production of critical medicines, and establishing EU-wide strategic stockpiles to enhance healthcare resilience during crises.
- **Innovation and Digital Health:** Streamlining regulatory pathways, supporting R&D, and expanding access to digital health solutions like telemedicine and AI-driven diagnostics to foster innovation and improve health outcomes.
- **Systemic Health Challenges:** Addressing the drivers of obesity, meeting the healthcare demands of aging populations, and reducing the prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases through targeted, sustainable strategies.
- **Addressing Regulatory Challenges:** Implementing adaptive frameworks that simplify approvals, reduce compliance burdens, and promote innovation while maintaining safety and quality standards.

This dialogue aims to generate high-impact, evidence-driven policy solutions that will equip Europe's healthcare systems to address pressing health challenges with efficiency, setting a strong foundation for the new term and beyond.