



## **EUROPEAN PATIENTS' RIGHTS DAY 2022**

### **CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF A HEALTHY EUROPE** **Taking part in the decision-making process on health priorities**

20 – 21 April 2022 | 14:30 – 16:00 CEST  
Digital Conference

#### **SPEAKERS' LIST**

**Boris Azaïs**



Boris Azaïs is currently Director, Public Policy Europe & Canada for MSD (a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA ). In this capacity, he engages with European institutions and governments to promote a policy framework that supports pharmaceutical innovation for European patients. His core interest is at the crossroads of science, healthcare and industrial policies. Boris is also involved in advocacy efforts related to specific therapeutic areas (eg, Alzheimer's disease, hepatitis C, diabetes) or the broader issue of access to health for marginalized communities (Nobody Left Outside). In 2003, Boris was seconded for two years to the IFPMA, the association that represents the research-based pharmaceutical companies in Geneva, to support the advocacy work of the IFPMA with Geneva-based governmental and non-governmental organizations. Among various topics, Boris worked on public-private partnerships and R&D for neglected diseases. Boris Azaïs joined MSD in 1998, as Legal Director for Middle-East & Africa, after a multi-year practice as a corporate lawyer for the firm Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton in Paris.

**Brando Benifei**



Brando Benifei is an Italian Member of the European Parliament from La Spezia serving his second term and is the Head of Delegation of Partito Democratico in the European parliament. He is member of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age and the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). For what concerns health issues, Mr. Benifei is Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on Disability and Co-Chairs the MEP Heart Group and the MEP Interest Group "European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare". He is also a Member of the MEP Group for Kidney Health and Member of the MEP Interest Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

**Laura Cande**



Laura is Policy and Projects Consultant at EHMA, where she coordinates the work of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the Annual Conference Committee, and the Conference Rapporteurs Programme; as well as projects on vaccine uptake, health management digital skills, and process improvement. Laura is an experienced health manager having worked as a coordinator in quality and process improvement projects to increase efficiency, compliance with legislation requirements, and patient satisfaction in the United States. In Haiti she oversaw project implementation in various international non-governmental organisations in humanitarian emergency response and development. She holds a Master's in Public Health Sciences with a focus on health policy & systems from the Université Libre de Bruxelles and a BSc in Health Care Systems Administration.

**Francesca Colombo**



Francesca Colombo, M.Sc., is Head of the Health Division at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. She oversees OECD work on health, which aims at providing internationally comparable data on health systems and applying economic analysis to health policies, advising policy makers, stakeholders and citizens on how to respond to demands for more and better health care and make health systems more people centred. Major activities of the OECD Health Division cover the response to the COVID-19 crisis and solutions to make health systems more resilient; trends in health spending; measuring of health care outcomes, activities and inputs; health care quality policies; assessing health system efficiency and value for money; health workforce; long-term care systems and ageing; the economics of public health; pharmaceutical policies, new technologies, big data and Artificial Intelligence in health. Mrs Colombo has over 25 years of experience leading international activities on health and health systems. Over her career, she travelled extensively in Europe, South America and Asia, advising governments on health system policies and reforms.

**Gisèle Diallo**



Gisèle Diallo is a policy officer in the Ministry of solidarities and health, specifically in charge of the European issues regarding social security and social protection. Previously, she worked more specifically on the national pensions issues and the accidents at work and occupational diseases French system. She is one of the French delegates in the Social Protection Committee, attached to the European Commission. She also participated and intervened in several mutual learning events especially on long term care and the role of the carers and in the mutual learning workshops on implementation of the recommendation on access for all to social protection (reco 8 november 2019). She worked with other directorates of the health Minister to coordinate the National recovery and resilience plan, especially on the health chapter.

**Paul Garassus**



Paul Garassus (Neurologist, MD) is President of the UEHP, Vice President of SFES (French Health Economics Society) and President of the Scientific Council of BAQIMEHP (BAQIMEHP professional formation and analysis for the private sector of French hospitalisation) represents Private Sector at European level since 2008. UEHP supports development of certified private hospitals in contract with national Social Insurance, for innovation and sustainable health systems in EU28. He contributed to personal development and risk management formation to health care professionals as well as professional health care reforms following financial crisis in Europe, relationship with patients and health professionals, related to quality and information. He coordinates Private Healthcare Sector publications (Parliament Magazine) and recently organized a public meeting in European Parliament presenting UEHP Factbook.

#### **Miriam Gargesi**



Miriam Gargesi leads Illumina Government Affairs activities in Europe, Middle East and Africa. Miriam has longstanding experience in government affairs at pan-European and country-level, spanning across pharmaceuticals and medical devices alike. Prior to joining Illumina, she worked as Associate Director Government Affairs EMEA at Gilead Sciences. Before that she served for several years as Director for Healthcare Biotechnology at EuropaBio, the European Association for Bioindustries, and previously led the Government Affairs department at EDMA, the European Diagnostics Manufacturers Association. Miriam holds an MSc in European Political Economy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), as well as a BSc in International Relations from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and McGill University.

#### **Antonio Gaudio**



Antonio Gaudio graduated in Political Science and has been working for 20 years to promote and protect the rights of citizens and consumers in Italy and in Europe, thanks to his work within Cittadinanzattiva, where he worked until he was appointed Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Italian Minister of Health in November 2021. He has been Senior Advisor to the World Bank on the "connect for climate" campaign on climate change and a member of the National Council of Consumers and Users (CNCU) of the Ministry of Economic Development and Vice President of the Health City Institute, member of the foundation for the personalized medicine. He fulfilled the role of spokesperson of the scientific technical committee about vaccines of ECDC (European Centre for disease prevention and control), member of the Scientific Committee on Post Marketing Surveillance on Covid Vaccines at AIFA.

#### **Giovanni Gorgoni**



Giovanni Gorgoni is the chairman of EUREGHA (European Regional and Local Health Authorities, treasurer of EuroHealthNet (health promotion and health inequalities) and member of the executive board of EHTEL (eHealth and telemedicine), vice president of Italian network NISAN (health clinical costing) and professor of Public Management at Bari LUM University. Currently he is also the CEO of AReSS Puglia, the regional government agency of Apulia Region for innovation in health and social care. Previously he administered the Apulian Health Department, two local health authorities and he has been facility manager, financial manager and operations manager in the healthcare sector between Rome and Milan.

#### **Igor Grzesiak Członek Zarządu**



Igor Grzesiak Członek Zarządu is the Vice president of the Polish Institute for Patients' Rights and Health Education. He completed his post-graduate studies in Project Management at the Faculty of Management of the University of Warsaw. Coordinator of many social actions in the field of prevention of civilization diseases. He led major projects under the Fund for Non-Governmental Organisations — Swiss Contribution, and EEA-funded Citizens for Democracy and Active Citizens programmes. He cooperated in projects implemented through grants from the Ministry of Health, the Citizens' Initiatives Fund and the Erasmus+ programme. Chairman of Supervisory Board of the Camillian Mission for Social Assistance Foundation. Secretary of the team of experts to develop the Government Health Policy Project for 2022-2026 "Antiretroviral treatment of people living with HIV in Poland". In 2021, appointed by the Patient Ombudsman to a team of experts in the project "First, the patient — actions of the Patient Ombudsman to improve the quality of health services".

#### **Christiaan Keijzer**



Christiaan Keijzer is the President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), Chair of the central educational board at the Radboud University Medical Center Nijmegen, Board member, vice-president and financial officer of the Royal Dutch Medical association (KNMG) and Member of the Healthcare Professionals Working Party (HCPWP) of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), Vice-president of the European federation of salaried doctors (FEMS) and Member of the regional medical disciplinary boards in the Netherlands. Currently he is working as consultant anaesthesiologist and resident training director of anaesthesiology at the Radboud University Medical Center in Nijmegen.

#### **Stella Kyriakides**



Stella Kyriakides is the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. She has been leading the Commission's work to coordinate the EU's health response to COVID-19. She is responsible for the establishment of a strong European Health Union and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. She is leading the new 'Farm to Fork' strategy for sustainable food. Her responsibilities include enforcing EU food, animal welfare, animal and plant health laws. Previously, she was a clinical psychologist for the Cyprus Ministry of Health. In 2006-2019, she served in the Cyprus Parliament for the Democratic Rally party, of which she was the Vice-President. She was appointed Head of the Cyprus Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). In 2017, she was elected President of the PACE.

#### **Marc Lange**



Marc Lange is the Secretary General of the European eHealth Stakeholder Platform (EHTEL). EHTEL is the leading collaboration platform for decision makers and implementers in Europe, engaged in supporting the transformation of the health and care practice in Europe through digital health. The association brings together under one roof a wide range of constituencies crucial for the betterment of health and social care with digital health. Marc has 30 years of experience in Project/Programme Management of international/European projects and close to 20 years in the digital health field. His experience covers domains such as facilitating sharing good practices in a multi-disciplinary environment, advising implementers and policy makers on the digital transformation of health and care systems and supporting international/European projects in reaching out a large and multi-stakeholder audience.

### **Brian Maguire**



Brussels and Washington-based journalist, producer, broadcaster, and events moderator, Brian Maguire, hosts live radio and television debates with European Commissioners, Ambassadors, Members of the European Parliament, and independent experts, as well as United States politicians and business representatives. A Euronews and Irish television contributor, he also presents the EURACTIV digital technology series 'The Presidency' and the political interview series 'Over A Coffee'. He specialises in European politics and business, exploring Europe's competing policy dimensions, including the digital economy, the Green Deal, human rights, the rule of law and transatlantic relations. He has worked across a broad range of publications, especially within the business-to-business sector. A specialist in corporate and political communications, his clients include start-ups, SMEs, blue chip companies, European Union institutions, and NGOs with a human rights focus.

### **Anna Lisa Mandorino**



Anna Lisa Mandorino is General Secretary of Cittadinanzattiva. Graduated in classical literature, she specialized in European Public Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility. In Cittadinanzattiva she first dealt with Communication, then with the General Management through the coordination of activities and projects for the promotion of civic activism and participation. She operates, within the organization with particular attention to public policies on health, services, education and training, human and civil rights, to affirm new forms of civic action and governance of public processes, especially connected with the protagonism of local communities, the involvement of stakeholders, institutional dialogue.

### **Mauro Marè**



Mauro Marè is Full Professor of Public Economics at Viterbo's Tuscia University and Full Professor of Public Economics at Rome's LUISS University. He has been personal advisor of the past three mandates of Ministry of Finance, member of the supervisory board of the Human Technopole Foundation in Milan, Head (and member) of the Italian delegation in some OECD and EU working groups such as: the Network on Fiscal Relation of the OECD (Vice Chairman), the WP1, the EDRC and the working group on Quality of Public Finances of the European Commission. Visiting Professor at the Department of Economics at Harvard and President of the LUISS Osservatorio Welfare.

### **Victor Mendonça**



Victor Lino Mendonça is the Head of Corporate Affairs for Viatris in Europe and Board member of Medicines for Europe. Formerly, he was leading the Health Economics department at Medicines for Europe. He was also Advisor to the Executive Board of INFARMED for almost 8 years and prior to this, was the Advisor to the Health Secretary of State to the Ministry of

Health in Portugal. He has more than 20 years of experience in pharmaceuticals sector having also worked in FMCG sector. Victor graduated in Business Administration by Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Portugal.

#### **Ilaria Passarani**



Ilaria Passarani is the Secretary General of PGEU, the organization representing European community pharmacists. She provides strategic direction and leadership to the organization while managing the day-to-day operations of PGEU, its ongoing relationships with member associations and other stakeholders, as well as representing the pharmacy sector in various European fora. She is Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors of EMVO, the European Medicines Verification Organization. Before joining PGEU Dr. Passarani worked as Head of the food and health Department at the European Consumer Organization BEUC. She also served as a member of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) Management Board. She graduated cum laude in Economics from Bocconi University (Italy) and holds a PhD from the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences at the Maastricht University (The Netherlands).

#### **Gábor Pogány**



Dr. Gábor Pogány holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. His middle daughter is affected with Williams Syndrome (WS). In cooperation with others, Gábor established the Hungarian Williams Syndrome Association (HWSA) in 1998, then initiated the foundation of the European Federation of Williams Syndrome Association (FEWS) as well as the Hungarian Rare Diseases Federation (HUFERDIS), or recently the Hungarian Alliance of Patient Organizations (HAPO) and National Patient Forum. He was an alternative patient representative of EURORDIS in the European Union Committee of Experts on Rare Diseases (EUCERD) and he is a member of Orphanet International Advisory Board. He was involved in the development of European Reference Networks, participating in EURORDIS Patient Advocacy Group (ePAG), and in the formation of European Social Policy of Rare Diseases as a member of EURORDIS Social Policy Action Group (SPAG).

#### **John F. Ryan**



John F. Ryan is Director of the European Commission Public Health Directorate since September 2016 and acting Deputy Director-General for Health since December 2021. He is currently the Commission representative on the Board of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Current priorities include management of the Covid pandemic, implementation of an EU cancer plan, antimicrobial resistance, vaccination policies, and the implementation of financial instruments to support health, including research.

### **Tomislav Sokol**



Tomislav Sokol was born in Zagreb in 1982. He obtained his first degree in law at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, in 2006, magna cum laude. He then obtained a Masters of Law (LL.M.) specialising in European Union Law at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), Belgium, in 2009, magna cum laude. He defended his PhD at KUL, dealing with free movement of cross-border health care services in the EU and its impact on national health insurance systems in 2014. During his studies, in 2004, Tomislav Sokol became a Member of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ). He climbed the party ranks during the next decade, always emphasising on Christian Democratic values as the cornerstone of its identity. He was an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Science and Education, after which he became a Member of the Croatian Parliament. He was a Member of the Croatian Parliament until July 2019, when he became a Member of the European Parliament. He is a Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and a Substitute Member of the Committee on Regional Development. MEP since 2019.

### **David Somekh**



Dr David Somekh. was a forensic psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and experienced clinician in management for many years who retired from the UK NHS fifteen years ago. He has been involved in healthcare quality since 1988. He was a member of the Executive of the European Society for Quality in Healthcare from 1998-2015, and was President 2005-7. David and three colleagues set up EHFF, the European Health Futures Forum, as a not-for-profit network organisation in 2013 looking at more sustainable models of healthcare than the current ones. He is currently Network Director. EHFF is now a Charity registered in Ireland. David chaired the Economy working group of All Policies for the Healthy Europe (AP4HE) 2020-2021 of which EHFF is a knowledge partner and EHFF is also currently a knowledge partner for EHP7.

### **Erick Tyssier**



Erick Tyssier has more than 15 years of experience in healthcare & life science policy and corporate advocacy, leading public affairs missions in the healthcare sector. He joined TEVA in 2013, to establish the European Government Affairs function handling Teva's relationships with the EU institutions and coordinating policy and advocacy at national level, as well as Teva Europe ESG agenda. Previously he worked at Sanofi in several commercial related positions in Asia and in France before moving to Brussels in 2005. Erick is a Doctor in pharmacy, and has 2 master degrees: one in Regulatory Affairs and one in pharmaco-economics.

### **Mariano Votta**



Mariano Votta is responsible for EU Affairs of the Italian NGO Cittadinanzattiva and the Director of its EU branch called "Active Citizenship Network" (ACN). Mariano has over 20 years of experience in advocacy, stakeholder engagement, European projects, communication, and civic information. In 2015 he led the launch of the MEP Interest Group "EU Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare," endorsed by nearly 100 organisations across Europe, and the MEP Interest Group "SDGs for wellbeing and consumer protection" in 2021. In 2016 Mariano has won the Efhre International University Excellence Awards on patients' rights and in 2017 he was appointed as Secretary-General at European Consumer Union. Along the mandate 2016/2019, he was also appointed by the EU Commission to represent Italian Consumer Associations in the EU Consumer Consultative Group. Mariano holds an MSc in Political Science and two post-graduate courses in EU Public Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility.

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