

Council recommendation on the value of immunisation against respiratory infections: a step towards an EU Respiratory Health Plan?

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Room ASP 5E3 | European Parliament, Brussels

SPEAKERS' LIST

Tonia A. Adamidi



Dr Tonia Adamidi graduated from the University of Ioannina (Greece) Medical School in 1994. She specialized in Respiratory Medicine (Pulmonology) in Chest Diseases Hospital in Athens and received a master degree in Health Management and a PhD in University of Crete Medical School concerning differential diagnosis of pleural effusions.

She has an expertise the last 20 years in Interstitial Lung Diseases (lung fibrosis), lung transplantation (transplanted patients follow up), pulmonary arterial hypertension, asthma biological therapies and cystic fibrosis, Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Pulmonary Function test/Cardiopulmonary Exercise test. She is also an experienced lecturer and researcher with international presentations and publications and served in the past as president of Cyprus Respiratory Society.

She works since 2000 as a Pulmonologist in the Respiratory Department of Nicosia General Hospital and since 1.10.20 until today as a Director of the Respiratory Department in Nicosia General Hospital.

Frazer Goodwin



Frazer Goodwin is the policy coordinator at the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA). He has worked in Brussels in civil society organisations since completing his Masters degree at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in 1993, and has worked on air quality, transport, environment, global health, childrens rights, and for the last fifteen years, explicitly on health issues. He also has family members with asthma and allergies and it was their experiences that gave him a strong motivation to join EFA so as to harness his experience and knowledge on EU health policy to support and empower patients.

MEP Michalis Hadjipantela



Michael Hadjipantela is a qualified chartered accountant, member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and is also affiliated with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus (ICPAC) and the Association of International Accountants (AIA).

Academically, Michael holds an MSc (Honours) in Economics from Queen Mary & Westfield College, University of London, and a BA (Honours) in Economics from Thames Valley University, where he graduated with Upper Second Class Honours and received a scholarship for academic excellence.

Currently he is serving as a Member of the European Parliament, in EPP Group, where he is a member on several key committees, including Budgets (BUDG), Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), Tax Matters (FISC), Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Public Health (SANT), and Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI). His election to the European Parliament followed a distinguished term as Minister of Health of the Republic of Cyprus (2021–2023), during which he led the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his leadership, Cyprus maintained one of the EU's lowest mortality rates while strengthening the resilience of its healthcare system.

Notable achievements under his ministerial role include the establishment of the first World Health Organisation (WHO) office in Cyprus and the launch of the country's first Children's Accident and Emergency Department, as well as the National Cancer Institute. His tenure also saw legislative and structural advancements, including legal recognition of the right to be forgotten for cancer survivors, the expansion of the national mammography programme, and the drafting of a new bill on medically assisted reproduction.

Greet Hendrickx



Since 2007 she has been working as a Senior Project Coordinator within VAXINFECTIO at the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination, University of Antwerp, Belgium. She has been managing the executive secretariat of two distinct European expert boards: the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board and the Adult Immunization Board. Additionally, since 2019, she has also served as team lead of the CONFIVAX team, which brings together multidisciplinary research and expertise on vaccination attitudes. Their work includes active participation in European projects focused on vaccination confidence, trust, willingness, communication, and education. She is also a key member of the European Hub of the Vaccine Confidence Project.

Angelos Kassianos



Dr Angelos Kassianos is an Assistant Professor in Health Psychology at the Department of Nursing, Cyprus University of Technology, and Director of the Behavioral Science inHealth (BSiH) Lab. He is also an Honorary Fellow at UCL, as well as an Affiliated Senior Research Fellow at the CYENS Centre of Excellence, where he collaborates on interdisciplinary projects at the intersection of behavioural science and digital technologies. His research focuses on applying behavioural science to public health, particularly vaccination, cancer care, digital health, and clinical decision-making, and he currently coordinates the EU4Health co-OPERATOR project, which develops acknowledge hub, virtual observatory and training system to support effective vaccination communication and policy across Europe.

Laurent Louette



Laurent Louette is Director Public Affairs and Country Liaison, Vaccines Europe. A Belgian citizen, Laurent has been active in European Affairs for more than 17 years now. Laurent worked for various patient groups and industry associations, gaining expertise in public health and prevention policies, while monitoring important EU political files.

Mikaela Nordenfelt



Mikaela has been active in EU consulting and project management since 1995. She is currently Director of Partnerships & Engagement at ADS Health and Science. Mikaela principally divides her time between health policy advisory services and building coalition partnerships for the European Scientific Working group on Influenza and other respiratory viruses (ESWI) and the Global One Health Community (gOHC) producing studies and supporting the organisation of events.

With a degree from the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), she has worked for specialist EU business consultancies, the Swedish Trade Council, the Skåne European Office, and as Director of the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce in Washington DC. She has a comprehensive

understanding of European public affairs – she has an expert understanding of how policy and legislative issues impact businesses and organisations across many fields. She enjoys finding links, synergies, opportunities and connecting people. Mikaela has been using these skills to provide companies and organisations with insightful advice for over 30 years.

MEP Raffaele Topo



Raffaele Topo has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2024, representing the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), elected in the Southern Italy electoral district for the Democratic Party (PD). Born in Villaricca, Naples, in 1965, he is a lawyer with extensive experience in local, regional, and national institutions. He served as Mayor of Villaricca from 2001 to 2010, as a regional councillor for Campania from 2010 to 2018, and as a Member of the Italian Parliament during the 18th legislature from 2018 to 2022. During his time serving on the Campania Regional Council, he chaired the 5th Standing Committee on 'Health and Social Security', in addition to being the Democratic Party's group leader. In the European Parliament, he is a full member of the Committees on Regional Development (REGI) and Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL). He is also a substitute member of the Committees on the Environment and Food Safety (ENVI), Public Health (SANT), and Budgets (BUDG).

Mariano Votta



Mariano Votta graduated in Political Science from the University of Rome. He has a Master's in European Public Relations and a Master's in Corporate Social Responsibility. In July 2013, he was nominated as the Responsible of EU Affairs at Cittadinanzattiva and Director of Active Citizenship Network, the European interface of the Italian civic organization Cittadinanzattiva. He is responsible for international relations with public and private stakeholders such as the European Commission, EU Parliament, EESC, and companies. He is a freelance journalist and programme manager too, with more than 10 years working in the field of citizens' rights, civic information, evaluation of quality standards in services provided by Public Administration and public companies. Between 2011 and 2012, he worked as a consultant for the United Nations Development Programme in Colombia, to assert a new governance in the management of Public Services and Health. In that Country, Cittadinanzattiva opened several Citizen Advisory Centres on Public Services and Health. In 2015, he took the initiative to encourage and promote the MEPs Interest Group focused on patients' rights called "European Patients' Rights and Cross-border Healthcare" inside the EU Parliament.

Kinga Wójtowicz



Kinga is Director of Healthcare at RPP Group, with strong expertise in engaging stakeholders and policymakers to advance priorities in public health. Together with her team at RPP, and under the leadership of the ACN, she led the work of the *Working Group on Respiratory Care*, a collaborative initiative aimed at ensuring health becomes a central component of EU public health planning, with a particular focus on prevention, equity, and resilience.

Mariam Zaidi



Mariam Zaidi is an international news and EU politics specialist working as a presenter for TRT World, CNBC and Euronews. For TRT World she presents the news from both London and at their HQ in Istanbul where she steers hours of breaking news on the world's biggest stories. At CNBC she has fronted an energy series and moderates and MC's at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Previously BBC, ITV, CGTN, Euractiv, APTN and AFP she also moderates and MCs for a raft of corporate clients across tech, business, trade, sport, health, sustainability, agri-food, security, AI, trade, crypto and more. Specifically in the field of health, she has moderated events for ACN, Pfizer, Sanofi, Angelini Pharma, MEP Vytenis Andriukaitis covering issues such as medical deserts, rare diseases, ATMPs, non-communicable diseases, food safety and food supplements. You can find her on LinkedIn or on Instagram [mariam_zaidi_journalist](#).

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