

**22 MARCH 2017**

# **MEP FRIENDS OF THE LIVER**



MEP LiverGroup  
in the European Parliament

**#LIVERFRIENDS**  
**@MEPLiverGroup**

**THE CHALLENGE OF HEPATITIS C IN  
CENTRAL AND SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE.**

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# About this conference

Notes

## **The Challenge of Hepatitis C in Central and South Eastern Europe:**

### **Who is at risk and how can patients gain access to effective screening, diagnosis and treatment?**

Approximately 14 million people living with Hepatitis C (HCV) in the WHO European Region, and the disease causes over 80,000 deaths per year. While the HCV incidence in the EU has attracted much attention from policy makers at EU and national level in recent years, the situation is particularly acute in Central and South Eastern European countries which have one of the highest rates of HCV prevalence in the EU but where there is limited access to screening, diagnosis and treatment.

This event aims to shine a spotlight on these regions and identify how the access to screening, diagnosis, treatment can be improved, which would lead to the decline in HCV incidence. Speakers will include representatives from patient groups, doctors treating HCV patients, NGOs involved in community outreach programmes to trace vulnerable and disadvantaged patients, the Commission and policy makers.

On behalf of the MEP Friends of the Liver Interest Group, hosted by Dr Cristian-Silviu Busoi MEP, co-chaired by Dr Biljana Borzan MEP and Dr Andrey Kovatchev MEP, we would like to thank you for attending the follow up event on fighting Hepatitis C in resource-limited Member States, two years after our first seminar discussion on the topic, organized together with the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) and the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA).

## MEP Friends of the liver | Programme

16:30	<b>OPENING</b> Dr Cristian Busoi, Chair of the MEP Friends of the Liver Group
16:35	<b>The situation on the ground - The Hepcore study</b> Livia Alimena, Public Affairs Director, European Liver Patients Association (ELPA)
16:45	<b>An overview of EMCDDA monitoring of “Risk and prevention of drug-related infections in the Baltic and South Eastern EU member states - focus on HCV”</b> Dr Dagmar Hedrich, Head of the Health Consequences and Responses sector at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
16:55	<b>The EASL treatment guidelines: Who should be treated and when</b> Prof. Helena Cortez Pinto, EU Policy Councillor, European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)
17:05	<b>A real life medical practice - are patients getting the treatment they need in the EU12? Four Case Studies</b> Prof. Streinu Cercel (Romania) Prof. Jerzy Jaroszewicz (Poland) Prof. Marieta Simonova (Bulgaria) Prof. Ligita Jancoriene (Lithuania)
17:30	<b>National Strategies to combat Hepatitis C</b> Dr Corina Silvia Pop, State Secretary at Ministry of Health, Romania Dr Ricardo Baptista Leite, Member of the Portuguese Parliament

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# Speakers

## What more needs to be done to improve access to treatment in Central and South Eastern Europe?

Video message from Dr Andrey Kovatchev MEP, Chair of the interest group Access to Medicines

17:50

## Round table debate moderated by Dr Cristian Silviu Busoi MEP:

Jean-Luc Sion, Policy Officer, DG Sante  
Apostolos Kalogiannis, PRAKSIS  
Marco Korenjak, Project Officer and Board Member, ELPA  
Prof. Ligita Jancoriene, Vilnius University Hospital  
Dr Dagmar Hedrich, EMCDDA

## Q&A

18:25

## CONCLUSION

Concluding remarks by Dr Biljana Borzan MEP



Mr Jean-Luc Sion  
*Policy Officer, DG Sante*

Jean-Luc joined the Public health Directorate of DG Health and food Safety, first as the Financial Officer, then as the Policy Officer in charge of the development and the implementation of the Joint Procurement Agreement of Medical countermeasures by EU Member States on a voluntary basis. As of January 2017 Jean-Luc has taken over the follow-up of the HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and Tuberculosis follow-up.



Mr Apostolos Kalogiannis  
*Advocacy officer, PRAKSIS*

Advocacy officer in Greek NGO PRAKSIS since 2015, in charge of campaigning for access to medicines and healthcare services. He is a member of the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG).



Mr Marko Korenjak  
*European Liver Patients Association (ELPA)*

Project officer and board member of The European Patients' Association (ELPA), while also being the trainer of ELPA University educational program. He represents ELPA and the European Region in The NoHEP movement which aims at eliminating viral Hepatitis by 2030. He is also the Director and Chief executive for the Slovenia HEP Association.



# Speakers



Prof. Ligita Jancoriene  
*Vilnius University Hospital, Lithuania*

Professor at the Dept. of Infectious, Chest diseases, Dermatovenerology and Alergology, Head of the Dept. for Consultation and Immunoprophylaxis at the Centre of Infectious diseases in the Vilnius University Hospital. She is a member of the European Association of the Study of the Liver and International Society of Travel Medicine. Her major clinical practice interests and areas are treatment of chronic viral hepatitis B and C, travel medicine and adult vaccination.



Dr Corina Silvia Pop  
*State Secretary of Health Ministry, Romania*

Internal medicine physician and gastroenterology physician, since 2008, Dr Pop is a Lecturer at Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy Department of Internal Medicine Gastroenterology. In



Dr Ricardo Baptista Leite MP  
*Member of the Parliament, Portugal*

Medical Doctor and Member of the Portuguese Parliament, where Ricardo sits on the Health Committee and on the Foreign Affairs Committee. In Ricardo's role as a MP, and under the auspices of UNAIDS, he is the Secretary-General of UNITE – Parliamentarians Network to End HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis.

# Speakers



Dr Cristian Busoi, MEP  
*Chair of the MEP Friends of the Liver Group,  
European People's Party*

Member of ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy), D-UA (Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee), and DEPA (Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly). Dr. Cristian has a PhD in Public Health and Health Management. He graduated in medicine at the Carol Davila University in Bucharest, in law at the Titu Maiorescu University in Bucharest, and in diplomacy at the Romanian Diplomatic Institute in Bucharest. He has represented Romania in the parliament since 2007.



Dr Biljana Borzan, MEP  
*Chair of the MEP Friends of the Liver Group,  
Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats*

Member of ENVI (environment, Public Health and Food Safety) and D-MK (Delegation to the EU-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee). Dr. Biljana obtained her degree in Medicine with a specialization in occupational and sports medicine at the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia. She has since been a doctor at a community health centre, while staying politically engaged. She has been a member of the European Parliament since 2013.



Dr Andrey Kovatchev, MEP  
*Chair of the MEP Friends of the Liver Group,  
European People's Party*

Member of BURO (Parliament's Bureau) and QUE (Quaestors). Dr. Andrey has a PhD in Biology from the Saarland University, Germany and has been a member of the European Parliament since 2009. Dr Andrey is also a substitute on the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

# Speakers



Ms Livia Alimena  
Public Affairs Director, *European Liver Patients Association*

Livia has extensive experience working for not-for-profit and non-governmental organisations in Europe. Livia is a board member of the Athenaeum NAE association that deals with ethics and human rights, and a member of Il Chioistro, the government affairs association of Italy.



Dr Dagmar Hedrich  
*European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)*

Head of the Health consequences and responses sector at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), based in Lisbon. She is a psychologist by training with postgraduate qualification in the treatment of dependencies.



Prof. Helena Cortez Pinto  
*European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)*

Associate Professor of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine of Lisbon, since 2008. Her activity includes teaching medical students, coordination of a master degree in Clinical Nutrition, and of a discipline of Dietetics and Nutrition. She is also responsible for the coordination of a section of the Gastroenterology Department of the University Hospital of Santa Maria.

# Speakers



Prof. Adrian Streinu Cercel  
*Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy*

Senior physician in Infectious Diseases, and is currently Professor at the Department of Infectious Diseases and President of the University Senate of the Carol Davila University and General Manager of the National Institute for Infectious Diseases “Prof. Dr. Matei Balș”, Romania.



Prof. Jerzy Jaroszewicz  
*Medical University of Silesia, Poland*

Assistant Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Hepatology at the Medical University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland. His current research focuses on the clinical and molecular aspects of viral hepatitis. A member of numerous professional societies including the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL).



Prof. Marieta Simonova  
*Military Medical Academy, Sofia, Bulgaria*

Head of the Hepatology Section at the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Military Medical Academy. Prof Simonova is Lead of Working group for treatment of viral hepatitis in substance users at the Bulgarian Association for the Study of the Liver (BgASL), a member of the board and a member of Eastern European Focus Group and Public Health CAG at EASL.