





TUBERCULOSIS IN EUROPE

Eliminating the modern threat

Host & chair | **MEP Maria DA GRAÇA CARVALHO** (EPP)
Co-host | **MEP Carl SCHLYTER** (The Greens / EFA)

Lunchtime debate | Wednesday 13 November 2013
European Parliament | Members' Salon

PROGRAMME

- 12.20** Registration and seating of participants
- 12.40** Welcome and opening | Prof Maria **Da Graça Carvalho**
- 12.50** ERS video focusing on multi-drug resistant tuberculosis
- 12.55** Keynote | ERS initiatives to prevent and control TB
Prof Francesco **Blasi** (ERS)
- 13.05** Update from DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
Dr Line **Matthiessen**, Head of Infectious Diseases and Public Health Unit
- 13.15** **Tackling the problem and finding solutions – Perspectives for action in Europe**
-  Dr Roberto Bertollini | Chief Scientist and WHO Representative to the European Union | 10 min.
 -  Dr Piotr Kramarz | Deputy Chief Scientist, European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention | 10 min.
 -  Prof GB Migliori | ERS Secretary-General and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for TB and Lung Diseases, Fondazione S. Maugeri, Care and Research Institute | 10 min.
 -  Dr Mario Raviglione | Director of the Global TB Programme at the World Health Organization (WHO) | 10 min.
- 13.55** Q&A
- 14.15** Closing Remarks | MEP Carl Schlyter

WHY ACTION IS NEEDED?

There is a growing threat of a re-emergence in Europe of a fatal form of tuberculosis – multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (**MDR-TB**) and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (**XDR-TB**). The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 400,000 tuberculosis cases occur in Europe, a large proportion of them among migrants. Although several EU/EEA countries are progressing towards sustained levels of TB incidence, the contrasts in the subregion remain significant.

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE EVENT?

- **To deliver the message that total TB control and elimination is possible**, taking into account several important areas including MDR/XDR TB.
- To raise awareness of the **need to have a coordinated European public health mechanism to guarantee TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care across borders.**

WHO?

- Anyone can get TB. Everyone needs to act to eliminate it!
- Political commitment is needed both at the EU level and the member states

WHEN?

Action is needed asap if we are to prevent the return of an epidemic.

HOW SHOULD THE EU ADDRESS THE TB THREAT?

- Financial mechanism
- Cross-border co-operation
- Intensified research and innovation
- Better exchange of best practice
- Adequate legal framework for migrants and asylum seekers

ERS COMMITMENT TOWARDS TB CONTROL AND ELIMINATION IN EUROPE

The ERS/WHO Consilium aims to provide scientifically sound advice to national consilia and individual clinicians. Its primary objective is to provide clinical consultation for drug-resistant TB and other difficult-to-treat TB cases, including co-infection with HIV and paediatric cases.

The European Forum for TB Innovation consists of TB experts across Europe aimed at providing an interface for discussion and innovative thinking in the field of comprehensive TB control.

The current TB and MDR/extensively drug-resistant (XDR)-TB control situation represents an opportunity for refocusing and optimising control strategies. In particular, the introduction of new diagnostic tools that might enable a rapid identification of drug-resistant TB (MDR/XDR-TB), the shift towards active case finding, new control approaches and a promising TB drug pipeline allow for a positive outlook towards the future. Complementing the high-level policy work of the World Health Organization (WHO) and international agencies, the Forum intends to stimulate discussion on how to best take advantage of new opportunities and advances to improve TB control and eventually progress towards TB elimination.