



World AIDS Day, 29 November 2023, 13:00-15:00 CET

High-level conference (room 7C50, European Parliament)

## ***Building political momentum: Towards Ending HIV in Europe***

Organised by **MEP Frédérique Ries** (Renew Europe Vice-President, Belgium), **MEP Sara Cerdas** (S&D, Portugal) and **MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen** (EPP, Finland), in collaboration with HIV Outcomes

With the participation of EU Health Commissioner **Stella Kyriakides**, EU Equity Commissioner **Helena Dalli**

Moderated by **Jacki Davis**

While substantial progress has been made in the fight against HIV, Europe's commitment to end HIV requires renewed political action and attention. As people living with HIV are living longer and healthier lives, the current landscape requires a more integrated, person-centred approach to address their complex needs. Acknowledging and addressing these multi-faceted challenges is crucial to upholding Europe's commitment and delivering comprehensive care for people living with HIV.

The upcoming 2024 European elections present an opportunity to generate political momentum and reaffirm Europe's commitment to end HIV. By prioritising the fight against HIV, we can collectively work to meet the UN SGD target of eliminating the AIDS pandemic and ensure the long-term care and the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) of people living with HIV in Europe.

The event will focus on driving meaningful political change and strengthening HIV policies in the context of the upcoming 2024 elections in the European Parliament and the new European Commission configuration. It reflects on policy actions that can help to advance towards the shared goal of ending HIV in Europe while emphasising the importance of sustained action and addressing the evolving needs of people living with HIV.

### **Event objectives:**

- Address the complex needs of people living with HIV, including **comorbidities, stigma and discrimination, mental health, and promote healthy ageing.**
- Determine **concrete actions at European and national levels** to ensure that ending HIV remains a priority in Europe and that the needs of people living with HIV are addressed.
- Ensure that **HIV remains a top priority on the political agenda**, fulfilling Europe's commitment towards the ending HIV by 2030 while addressing the long-term care needs and wellbeing of people living with HIV.

#### INITIATIVE PARTNERS



#### OBSERVER MEMBERS

- European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS)
- European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Fast Track Cities
- UNAIDS
- UNITE

## Agenda

13:00-13:10	<b>Speakers and guests arrival</b>
13:10-13:15	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Jacki Davis</b>, Moderator</li> </ul>
13:15-13:25	<b>Keynote speeches – EU commitment to ending HIV: Fostering equality and eliminating stigma</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EU Health Commissioner <b>Stella Kyriakides</b></li> <li>▪ EU Equality Commissioner <b>Helena Dalli</b> (<i>pre-recorded video message</i>)</li> </ul>
13:25-13:30	<b>Shedding light on inequalities in ending HIV in Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Christine Stegling</b>, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director, Policy, Advocacy and Knowledge Branch (<i>pre-recorded video message</i>)</li> </ul>
13:30-13:40	<b>Accelerating HIV prevention for achieving the elimination targets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Magdalena Bartnik</b>, European AIDS Treatment Group member, and Executive Director of the Prekursor Foundation for Social Policy, Poland</li> </ul>
13:40-14:40	<b>Advancing HIV Care: A person-centred approach to long-term health and the HRQoL among people living with HIV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Improving the HRQoL of people with HIV: addressing structural stigma and discrimination, as well as mental health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Prof Oana Sandulescu</b>, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, National Institute for Infectious Diseases "Prof. Dr. Matei Bals", Bucharest, Romania</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Comorbidity prevention, treatment, and management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Mario Cascio</b>, Chair Quality of Life Programme at European AIDS Treatment Group, HIV Outcomes Steering Group member</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Measurement and monitoring of the health-related quality of life of people living with HIV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Prof Jeffrey Lazarus</b>, HIV Outcomes Co-Chair, Head of Health Systems Research Group ISGlobal at Hospital Clinic, University of Barcelona, Spain</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Ensuring healthy ageing for people living with HIV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Dr Nicoletta Policek</b>, UK CAB Chairperson, HIV Outcomes UK</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Discussion and Q&amp;A</p>
14:40-14:45	<b>Call for Action: Towards Ending HIV in Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>MEP Sara Cerdas</b>, S&amp;D, Portugal</li> </ul>
14:45-14:50	<b>Closing remarks and next steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen</b>, EPP, Finland (<i>pre-recorded video message</i>)</li> </ul>

### INITIATIVE PARTNERS



### OBSERVER MEMBERS

- European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS)
- European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Fast Track Cities
- UNAIDS
- UNITE