

## Newsletter - November 2011

### EURADIA Update on Alliance News

EURADIA has been kept busy over the past few months with its own symposium in Lisbon and several collaborative activities including the European Coalition for Diabetes and preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edn of the Policy Puzzle, of which more later in this Newsletter.

### EURADIA in the digital age

It is also very encouraging to inform you that the EURADIA website is now updated, we would appreciate any contribution and comments you may have with your news, meeting dates or anything else you think the diabetes research community may find interesting. **Please sign up for the newsletter online and encourage your colleagues to do the same!**



[www.EURADIA.org](http://www.EURADIA.org)

### DIAMAP website: research activity



The DIAMAP website is undergoing renovations to be re-launched, but the database is still open for new entries and will be even more accessible when work is complete. Please do add information on your research activity and at the same time keep up to date with funding opportunities.

[www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu)

### Follow EURADIA on



@EURADIAnews

### Send us your news!

EURADIA publishes meeting and deadline dates on its website (under News – Diary Dates) and will include relevant reports and articles in its newsletter. Contact [Sarah.Hills@euradia.org](mailto:Sarah.Hills@euradia.org).

### EURADIA in Lisbon, Portugal, 2011

As usual the EASD kindly provided space for EURADIA to exhibit in the Association Village with a stand. We were delighted to have a prominent location where friends and anyone with an interest in EURADIA and its activities could stop by for a chat.

We were also very encouraged by the interest shown in EURADIA during the FEND conference, where we also had space to exhibit.

### EURADIA Symposium 2011 Lisbon

For the first time EURADIA held a symposium on the day before the EASD meeting started (immediately before the Welcome Reception). The programme was devised to be of interest to participants in the Association Village and focussed on 'Shaping the Future of Research in Europe for the Benefit of People with Diabetes' with excellent internationally known speakers (Philippe Halban, Thomas Mandrup-Poulsen, Miriam Cnop, Clifford Bailey and Joao Nabais), who covered the diabetes worlds of basic and clinical research, research policy and the point of view of the person with diabetes. A **video of the event** will be available shortly on the website.

**EURADIA**  
Alliance for European Diabetes Research

**Shaping the future of research  
in Europe for  
the benefit of people with diabetes**

12 September 2011, Lisbon, Portugal

[www.EURADIA.org](http://www.EURADIA.org)

### European Coalition for Diabetes (ECD) and EU Diabetes Working Group activities in 2011

In 2009, the four organisations of the ECD - the Alliance for European Diabetes Research (EURADIA), the Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND), the International Diabetes Federation European Region (IDF Europe), and Primary Care Diabetes Europe (PCDE) made a significant stride forward in efforts to coordinate their EU policy action. ECD is chaired on a rotation basis by one of its co-chairs, for 2011 Philippe Halban (EURADIA).

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The EU Diabetes Working Group (EUDWG), with four cross-party, cross-national MEP co-chairs establishes a strong platform from which to build the European Diabetes Coalition's EU public affairs programme. EUDWG members are listed on [www.ECDIABETES.eu](http://www.ECDIABETES.eu).

### European Parliament Diabetes Meetings 2012

There have been three European Parliament events in 2011, each hosted by EUDWG and organised by ECD. The full reports from the EUDWG meetings, including the discussion can be downloaded from [www.ECDIABETES.eu](http://www.ECDIABETES.eu).

**12 May 2011** the EUDWG met in the European Parliament, Strasbourg to discuss the **UN Summit for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**, and the EU action in preparation for the UN Summit. The meeting was hosted by the EUDWG Co-Chair **Marisa Matias, MEP** and **Mr Chris Delicata**, co-Chair ECD. Among the participants were EUDWG Co-Chairs - Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP (ALDE, UK), Christel Schaldemose MEP (S&D, Denmark) and Simon Busuttill MEP (EPP, Malta). The meeting was attended by other MEPs with an interest in health issues and especially in diabetes. Representatives of the pharmaceutical industry also attended.

Following the introduction, **Mrs Anne Felton** briefed the audience about the upcoming UN Summit on NCDs, and called on MEPs to act in order to ensure a successful outcome of the Summit. She spoke about the IDF Diabetes Roadmap Shaping the UN High-Level Summit on NCDs with the mission of 'Promoting diabetes care, prevention and a cure worldwide'.

In May 2010 a UN platform had been secured for a Summit on NCDs (UN Resolution 64/265). Such a unique global political opportunity was described as "our chance to broker an international commitment that puts non-communicable diseases high on the development agenda" (World Economic Forum, Davos 2011).

The 2-day **UN Summit on NCDs** (19-20 September 2011) would be held at the UN in New York for Heads of State or Heads of Government. There would be three thematic roundtables covering five main topics: incidence and impact; national capacity policy, prevention, control; international cooperation and coordination.

**11 October 2011** the EUDWG met in the European Parliament, Brussels under the chairmanship of **Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP** and **Prof Johan Wens** to discuss **National Diabetes Programmes and the Road Towards an EU Diabetes Strategy**.

Speakers were **Dr Jelka Zaletel**, Co-Chair National Diabetes Programme, Ministry of Health, Slovenia who presented a very interesting and personal account of the 'Do's and Don'ts of National Diabetes Programmes: the model of Slovenia' followed by **Dr Isabel de la Mata**, Principal Adviser with special interest in Public Health, DG SanCo, European Commission, who spoke about the 'Reflection process on chronic diseases at EU level'. The

meeting gave the participants much to consider regarding the possibility of an EU diabetes strategy.

The last meeting was on **Diabetes and Depression: The health professionals' perspective** held on **22 November 2011** speakers included Dr Richard Holt, Southampton, UK and Mrs Anne Felton, FEND. The report is in preparation and will be available on the ECD website as soon as possible.

### United Nations High Level Summit on NCDs

The UN High Level Meeting (HLM) held in New York on 19 Sept 2011 was a significant meeting of heads of state and government and civil society organisations. The political statement was reviewed and consensus was reached among member states of the UN by the time of the summit meeting on 19 September. This in itself was some achievement. While there is considerable disappointment amongst civil society organisations regarding the commitments in the political statement, in particular the absence of an overarching goal and specific targets, it is a step forward for NCDs.

In the three round table discussions the statements read by government representatives recognised the magnitude and impact of the NVC global challenge. There was no opportunity given to discuss possible solutions amongst those participating in these round tables. It was an opportunity lost and in fact a number of government representatives expressed this disappointment. In our view the title "round table discussion" was misleading.

Each government representative was permitted to make a three minute statement and because of the large number of statements this consumed valuable time which might have been spent in a more worthwhile way in discussion regarding solutions but this appears to be the way in which UN "round tables" are conducted.

Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, called the meeting a "watershed event" during her plenary address at the opening of the summit. Many government representatives who spoke indicated their awareness of the impact of NCDs in their own countries and in some cases committed to additional funding and action plans to specific programmes relating to NCD prevention and control. It follows that civil society organisations should now engage with their national governments because it is there that the responsibility lies. So the work of advocacy must continue. The IDF, as a member of the NCD group, will be addressing the key issues in relation to the deficits in the political declaration as well as ensuring that governments who have made commitments during the UN HLM are held to account.

**The full political declaration and webcast can be viewed:**

<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/66/L.1>  
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/ncdmeeting2011/documents.shtml>  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/c/ncdmeeting2011.html>

**We thank Anne-Marie Felton, President FEND for allowing us to print her report on this meeting.**

### World Diabetes Day: EU-funded researchers work to meet global challenge

From the European Commission Research and Innovation website

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article\\_11\\_11\\_14\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article_11_11_14_en.html)

“World Diabetes Day is the leading global awareness campaign for this chronic disorder, held on 14 November each year. More than 346 million people have diabetes, and over 80% of deaths related to this disease occur in low- and middle-income countries, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In Europe, diabetes currently affects around 30 million people and this is only set to rise further, with 10 per cent of the continent's population expected to be suffering from the disease by 2025. Type 2 diabetes, in particular, is the fifth leading cause of death worldwide and contributes to the development of coronary heart disease, stroke, peripheral vascular disease and end-stage renal disease. Projections are grim: more than 900 million people are expected to be diagnosed with or at high risk of type 2 diabetes within the next two decades. Not only does this impact the lives of those who suffer, but it also puts pressure on the global health system. European researchers and the EU are hard at work to find and develop better treatment options, and raise awareness about this chronic disease.”

“Commenting on the importance of working together to fight diabetes, Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn says: 'Global problems require global actions and solutions. Diabetes is a disease, which affects all countries in the world, rich and poor. Only by joining forces internationally among researchers, healthcare professionals and industry, can we meaningfully address those challenges. We are committed for reaping the benefits of international cooperation in this field.'

The European Commission is planning a special event in Brussels from 9 to 10 February 2012, where national funding agencies from cooperation partner countries and high-level scientists will come together to identify key questions in gene-environment interactions in diabetes and obesity research in specific populations. This event aims to further explore the potential for international cooperation in the field and will be a major step towards a global initiative on diabetes/obesity research in specific populations. More information will be available on the research events website from the beginning of December.”

Read the full article on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article\\_11\\_11\\_14\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article_11_11_14_en.html)

### European Parliament: questions on diabetes

Questions asked on diabetes in the European Parliament, along with the responses can be found on the **European Coalition for Diabetes** website ([www.ECDIABETES.eu](http://www.ECDIABETES.eu)) with the name of the MEP asking the question.

2011

**Food labelling:** Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR, UK)

**Action on diabetes:** Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D, Romania)

**Tuberculosis vaccine effective against diabetes:** Oreste Rossi (EFD, Italy)

**Obesity and the food industry:** David Casa (PPE, Malta)

**Priority question on Interruption in the availability of Apidra insulin, used to treat diabetes:** Sari Essayah (PPE, Finland)

**Preventing diabetes by limiting daily sugar consumption:** Oreste Rossi (EFD, Italy)

**Request to ban two new diabetes medicines:** Gilles Pargneaux (S&D, FR)

**Dietary legislation:** Françoise Grossetête (PPE, FR)

**Driving licences for diabetics:** Agnès Le Brun (PPE, FR)

**Diabetes in Europe:** Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR, Greece)

**Risks associated with gestational diabetes:** Sergio Berlato (PPE, Italy)

**Tripling in the number of cases of insulin-dependent diabetes in Greece:** Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD, Greece)

**Diabetes in Portugal:** Nuno Melo (PPE, Portugal)

### Consultation on the ERA Framework: Areas of untapped potential for the development of the European Research Area (ERA)

This public consultation aims at gathering views and evidence from stakeholders on the key obstacles which have to be tackled to achieve a well-functioning ERA. Completing ERA will require the support and effort of all EU Member States and Associated Countries and their stakeholders (e.g. research performing organisations including universities, funding organisations, researchers, private sector and civil society).

**Deadline 30 November 2011**

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/era/consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/era/consultation_en.htm)

### Press Release:

#### Diabetes Policy Puzzle: Launch of 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

#### Not enough progress has been made in Europe

14 November 2011 - Across Europe more than 52.8 million people have diabetes. By 2030 this figure will rise to 64 million - which is equal to 9.5% of the adult population. Europe is home to the highest prevalence of children living with type 1 diabetes.

The International Diabetes Federation-European Region (IDF Europe), the Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND), Primary Care Diabetes Europe (PCDE) and the Alliance for European Diabetes Research (EURADIA) have produced an audit - which now covers 47 countries - to further document the diabetes epidemic and the disparate national policies and practices that currently exist across the European region.

*"As this publication shows, progress has been registered by European policymakers. But if we are to fight diabetes effectively we need to put our heads together and increase efforts at the EU level to adopt a concerted strategy for diabetes. We have called on the European Commission to develop such a strategy"* **MEP Simon Busuttil, Co-chair EU Diabetes Working Group.**

According to the report, the developments in diabetes services are still too slow. This audit provides strong evidence for the urgent need to address diabetes through targeted policy action. The research carried out reveals a number of compelling trends including a growing cost burden of diabetes equal to 9% of the country's total healthcare expenditure, a low uptake of National Diabetes Plans (NDPs) with only 25 countries out of the 47 countries having a NDP put in place and restricted and insufficient access to care.

Furthermore, in the low to middle income European countries, economic problems are often compounded by the instability of government institutions and governance which lead to inadequate provision of health care, access and availability of essential medicines and basic services for people with diabetes. In this time of financial turmoil, European governments cannot afford to cut back on access to essential care. Insufficient or inadequate diabetes care inevitably leads to costly complications and poorer health outcomes that negatively impact those individuals directly affected, as well as their surroundings and society as a whole.

The report makes numerous conclusions and recommendations and calls upon national governments and international institutions to acknowledge the findings of the Policy Puzzle, take action and help improve the lives of millions of people with diabetes across Europe.

*"The third edition of the Policy Puzzle survey indicates the*

*increasing prevalence of diabetes amongst European citizens, the disparity of services and deficiency of national plans for diabetes. This is a final call for solidarity and leadership."*

**Anne Marie Felton, President of the Foundation of Nurses in Diabetes and Co-Chair of the European Coalition for Diabetes.**

The authoring organisations share the conviction that providing sustained and comparative documentary evidence on the epidemic levels and diabetes care across the European region will help provide the necessary basis for governments and health providers to deal with this epidemic urgently.



*"Since the first policy puzzle in 2005 there has been some progress by European policy makers in addressing the diabetes epidemic but nevertheless, the numbers of people with diabetes have continued to rise and further urgent action is needed."* **Chris J. Delicata, President of IDF Europe and Co-Chair of the European Coalition for Diabetes.**

Available for download from [www.EURADIA.org](http://www.EURADIA.org)

#### News from the European Commission

##### EU regional money to boost research

From EurActiv 10 November 2011

The European Parliament is considering plans that would push EU countries to spend a third of their regional funds on research infrastructure – increasing the budget on science and innovation beyond that reserved in the upcoming research programme for 2014-2020 ...

**To read more:**

<http://www.euractiv.com/innovation-enterprise/parliament-eyes-eu-regional-money-boost-research-news-508870>

##### Participant Portal

The **Participant Portal** is the entry point for electronic administration of EU-funded research and innovation projects and to see open FP7 calls.

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home>