



Chronic Kidney Disease and Diabetes - A Major Threat to Europe's Health

Lunch seminar, Wednesday 10th March 2010 13:00

European Parliament, Strasbourg, Members' Salon

World Kidney Day is an annual occasion to raise awareness of **chronic kidney disease (CKD)**. The theme for WKD this year is '**Protect your kidneys, Control diabetes**' with the aim of raising awareness of diabetes as the leading cause of chronic kidney disease.

Similar to the highly successful 2009 European Kidney Health Alliance seminar on CKD and hypertension, this year EKHA and WKD are joining forces to organise a **lunch seminar** to pursue critical advocacy campaigns on CKD and diabetes.

It is estimated that 8% of European citizens are currently affected by some form of CKD and this number is expected to rise because it is linked to other modern epidemics such as diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.

In the long term, CKD can lead to renal failure and the need for dialysis or a kidney transplant. Central to the current EU-level debate on organ donation and transplantation is the simple fact that demand for organs for transplantation far outweighs supply. There is an immediate need to increase organ donation, but equally important in the longer term is the need to reduce the number of people developing renal failure.

Public health measures to identify early kidney disease are emerging as central to prevention efforts.

During the seminar 'Chronic kidney disease and diabetes – A Major Threat to Europe's Health', an eminent panel of speakers will highlight the cause and effect of Europe's diabetes epidemic and its inseparable link to CKD. Panelists will also present innovative European initiatives that are working towards improving the identification and management of kidney disease.

The event will be hosted by **MEP Mrs Frieda Brepoels** (Greens/EFA), Chair of the MEP Group for Kidney Health.



Programme

Welcome and introduction

Professor Andrew Rees, Chairman of the European Kidney Health Alliance

Statement of support for EKHA and WKD

Frieda Brepoels MEP, Chair of the MEP Group for Kidney Health

Chronic Kidney Disease and diabetes

Professor Dr.Dr.med.h.c.mult. Eberhard Ritz, Department Internal Medicine – Ruperto Carola University Nierenzentrum, Heidelberg

Policy strategies to tackle major chronic diseases

Paul Beerkens, CEO Dutch Kidney Foundation, Immediate past president IFKF (International Federation of Kidney Foundations)

Living with chronic kidney disease and diabetes

Darren Crawley, patient

General discussion – ‘Round-table

The European Kidney Health Alliance

The European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA) is an Alliance of not-for-profit organisations who represent the key stakeholders in kidney health issues in Europe.

EKHA takes a multidisciplinary approach involving patients and their families, doctors and nurses, researchers and other healthcare professionals who work cooperatively for a European health environment in which there is a sustained decrease in kidney disease and its consequences.

EKHA Member organisations are the following:

CEAPIR (European Kidney Patients' Federation)

EDTNA/ERCA (European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association)

ERA-EDTA (European Renal Association - European Dialysis and Transplant Association)

IFKF (International Federation of Kidney Foundations)

ISN (International Society of Nephrology)

World Kidney Day

World Kidney Day (WKD) is a global health awareness campaign focusing on the importance of our kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide. The campaign is celebrated every year on the second Thursday of March in more than 100 countries on 6 continents

Organisers

