



# CONCEPT NOTE

## MEP Friends of the Liver Interest group

Liver disease is a neglected and growing public health problem. Besides well-known diseases such as liver cirrhosis, it also includes Hepatitis B (HBV) & Hepatitis C (HCV), liver cancer and fatty liver disease. In the European region there are an estimated 15 million people suffering from HBV and almost 8 million EU citizens are infected with HCV. There are 47,000 deaths in the EU each year from liver cancer and 170,000 deaths from liver cirrhosis. We estimate that over 100 million EU residents suffer from fatty liver disease due to obesity and overweight.

Preventing these deaths would have enormous benefits for Europe's citizens as well as saving the EU and Member States' economies billions of Euros in health and social care costs. Not to mention the benefits from development of diagnostics and safer new drugs that could treat and save patients and be marketed around the world.

Liver disease affects all ages and all classes, particularly the poor, vulnerable and marginalised. It is also a disease of young people: More people in the 25-34 age groups suffer from HBV and HCV than in any other age group. We are also noticing an increase in the number of children at risk from and suffering serious liver disease because of rising childhood obesity rates and lack of exercise.

The MEP Friends of the Liver group was established in February 2013 under the chairmanship of MEP Stephen Hughes (S&D, UK), who retired in July 2014. The group is now chaired by Dr Cristian-Silviu Buşoi (EPP, RO).

**To register please follow this  
[REGISTRATION LINK](#)**

**(Deadline for registration: Wednesday, 20th May 2015, 12:00)**



**Dr Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, EASL and EPHA** invite you to join the group to support and combat liver disease in the EU. The group will focus on the following issues:

- raise awareness about liver disease and promote effective prevention,
- advocate for EU policies to ensure that all patients have access to the best treatments and medicines,
- ensure that Horizon2020 provides funds for liver health research and related conditions.

The group will be re-launched in the European parliament on 27 May 2015.

Subsequent meetings will look at the role of food and obesity in liver disease and its links with diabetes and heart disease and the need for an EU strategy on viral hepatitis (HCV) and access to medicines for HCV.

### **Hosted by MEP Cristian-Silviu Buşoi:**

Dr Cristian-Silviu Buşoi (EPP, RO) is a Romanian physician and politician. He is a member of the ENVI (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety) and chair of the EASL 'Friends of the Liver' Members of Parliament (MEP) Group.

Please see the [European Parliament website](#) for more information.

### **Where and When:**

**DATE:** 27 May 2015

**TIME:** 13:00 –15:00 (Sandwich lunch with refreshments will be provided)

**VENUE:** European Parliament, JAN (József Antall), 6Q1

You can follow the event, contribute to the debate and share your views on Twitter by the hashtag of the group: **#Liverfriends**



### **Objectives of the event:**

- Raise awareness about liver disease and its links to other chronic conditions such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes
- Promote effective prevention measures on obesity and alcohol to reduce and prevent liver disease
- Advocate for EU policies to ensure that all patients have access to the best treatments and medicines
- Ensure that Horizon2020 provides funds for liver health research and related conditions

### **Who should attend?**

The event/workshop will be of particular interest and importance for the representatives of civil society organisations, EU institution and Members States representatives, researchers and other stakeholders dealing directly and indirectly with chronic diseases and health related research.

### **Organised by:**

**EASL** (Association for the Study of the Liver) in collaboration with **EPHA** (European Public Health Alliance)

#### **About EASL**



EASL is based in Geneva and is a membership organisation for hepatology health professionals. We currently have over 4,000 members from over 100 countries. The EASL annual congress now attracts over 10,000 participants and is the biggest medical liver congress in the world.

<http://www.easl.eu/>

#### **About EPHA**



EPHA is a change agent – Europe's leading NGO advocating for better health. We are a dynamic member-led organisation, made up of public health NGOs, patient groups, health professionals, and disease groups working together to improve health and strengthen the voice of public health in Europe.

<http://www.eph.org/>

