

W. Marić-Oehler

Gemeinsame Tagung der Interest Groups des Europäischen Parlaments

MEPs Against Cancer and MEPs for CAM Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM): An investment in health

27. Juni 2013, Europäisches Parlament, Brüssel



Abb. 1: Auditorium des Joint Interest Group Meeting MAC CAM, Brussels, 27. Juni 2013, Europäisches Parlament. Am Rednerpult links: Tagungsvorsitzende MEPs Alojz Peterle (Slowenien) und Frau Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finnland)

Nachdem die CAM-Conference im Oktober letzten Jahres und die CAMbrella Final Conference Ende November in Brüssel nicht nur sehr erfolgreich waren, sondern ein neues Bewusstwerden bei den Verantwortlichen für die Möglichkeiten der Komplementärmedizin CAM/Complementary and Alternative Medicine im Rahmen der EU-Gesundheitspolitik gefördert haben, wurden die Vertreter von EUROCAM, der europäischen CAM-Stakeholder-Organisation des europäischen ärztlichen CAM-Bereiches CAMDOC Alliance, der nichtärztlichen CAM-Therapeuten, der CAM-Patientenorganisationen und der Hersteller von CAM-Arzneimitteln von vielen Seiten ermutigt, den Weg von Information und Dialog weiter fortzusetzen. So hat der Erfolg der bisherigen Bemühungen wesentlich dazu beigetragen, neue Aktivitäten zu planen und zu organisieren.

Eine davon war die gemeinsame Tagung von zwei Interest Groups (IG) des Europäischen Parlaments am 27. Juni 2013 in Brüssel, der Interest Group (IG) MEPs against Cancer unter der Leitung von MEP Alojz Peterle (Slowenien) und der IG MEPs for CAM unter der Leitung von Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finnland).

Interest Groups werden in Brüssel von Parlamentsmitgliedern (MEP Member of Parliament), die sich für ein Anliegen besonders einsetzen möchten, initiiert, organisiert und durchgeführt. Sie werden dabei von außerparlamentarischen Gruppen unterstützt, die das gleiche Anliegen haben. Die erste gemeinsame Tagung von zwei IGs, unter Einbeziehung von CAM, fand zum Thema Integrative Onkologie im März 2012 statt. Die in diesem Zusammenhang erfolgte erste Annäherung erzeugte den Wunsch nach Fortsetzung und weiterer Zusammenarbeit. Infolge des steigenden Interesses fand das darauf folgende Joint Interest Group Meeting

CAM – an investment in health – im Juni diesen Jahres in wesentlich größerem Rahmen als bisher und unter Teilnahme einer zunehmenden Zahl von weiteren MEPs und ihrer Mitarbeiter statt. Die einführende Grundsatzrede wurde vom DG SANCO Commissioner Tonio Borg persönlich gehalten (siehe Kasten auf der nächsten Seite), ein Zeichen zunehmenden Interesses an den Möglichkeiten der Komplementärmedizin und ihrer Rolle, die sie bei der Lösung der anstehenden Probleme in der europäischen Gesundheitspolitik spielen könnte: Überalterung, Zunahme von Zivilisationskrankheiten und psychische Störungen sowie der damit verbundenen Kostenexplosion. Die Rede von Tonio Borg enthält eine Reihe von Akzenten, die darauf hinweisen, dass CAM in Brüssel zunehmend ernst genommen wird. Das Programm des Meetings (siehe unten) konzentrierte sich unter Berücksichtigung der Ergebnisse der großen CAM-Konferenzen des vergangenen Jahres mit Beiträgen zu den unterschiedlichen Aspekten von CAM auf wichtige Statements zu der zukünftigen Rolle von CAM in der EU Health Policy, auf die Möglichkeiten der konkreten Umsetzung, der weiteren Integration und auf ungelöste Probleme, besonders in Zusammenhang mit der EU-weiten Verfügbarkeit von CAM-Arzneimitteln, die erhebliche Differenzen zwischen den Mitgliedsstaaten aufweist.

Die kompletten Präsentationen befinden sich auf der ICMART website www.icmart.org

Die zweite gemeinsame Tagung wird sicher in absehbarer Zukunft eine weitere Fortsetzung finden.

Invitation

Meeting of the European Parliament Interest Groups
MEPs Against Cancer and MEPs for CAM

Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM): An investment in health

Date: Thursday 27 June 2013, 09:00-11:00
Venue: European Parliament, Room JAN 6Q1

Keynote speech by DG SANCO Commissioner Tonio Borg

CAM is a cost-effective, sustainable means to promote health, prevent and treat disease. Especially now that Europe faces a growing number of challenges in the areas of healthcare such as ageing population, increasing prevalence of obesity, chronic diseases, deteriorating health workforce, growing levels of mental ill-health, rising healthcare budgets etc. it is time CAM is given serious consideration as both innovative and added value for healthcare in Europe.

Many citizens in Europe value the practice of CAM and wish to have equitable access to CAM provision. Enabling this provision requires transparent communication of CAM practice and training and CAM medicines across the EU.

Speakers from the CAM community and academics have been invited to make presentations on the role of CAM in prevention and treatment, its cost-effectiveness and efficiency, its integration into the healthcare system and its suitability for the EU's current "Investing in Health" policy.

The meeting will offer the opportunity for policy makers and stakeholders to enter into an active dialogue on a subject that is highly relevant for the health of all EU citizens. The attendance and input of DG SANCO Commissioner Borg will make this meeting a unique event!

Thank you for your support, we look forward to welcoming you on 27 June.

Hosted by Alojz Peterle MEP and Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP

PTO FOR AGENDA

AGENDA
Registrations at 08h30, coffee available during the meeting
9h00 Welcome and Introduction MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland) and MEP Alojz Peterle (Slovenia)
9h05 Keynote speech Mr Tonio Borg, DG SANCO Commissioner responsible for Health and Consumer Policy
9h15 Presentations:
1) Introduction: The EU policy "Investing in Health" and the added value of CAM Dr Ton Nicolai, ECH/EUROCAM
2) Reducing inequalities in health - improving the provision of CAM Ms Solveig Wiesner, senior adviser at NAFKAM, University of Tromsø, Norway, Coordinator Work Package 2 CAMbrella Project
B. Providers Mr Stephen Gordon, ECCH/EUROCAM
C. Medicinal products Mr Nard de Hert, ECHAMP, the European Coalition on Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products Mr Michael McIntrye, EHTPA, European Herbal & Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association
3) Prevention, health promotion, reduced inequalities and CAM Innovation Mr Seamus Connolly, EFCAM
4) Cost-effectiveness and efficiency of CAM Professor Dr Erik Baars, University of Applied Sciences, Leiden, the Netherlands
5) Good practices of CAM integration in the EU: the Tuscan experience Dr Elvio Rossi, Tuscany Network of Integrative Medicine, Lucca, Italy
10h45 Final conclusion MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen
10h50 Final questions
10h55 Closing MEP Alojz Peterle

Keynote Speech DG SANCO Commissioner Tonio Borg*

Brussels, Belgium, 27 June 2013

First let me say how pleased I am to address this meeting of the European Parliament's Interest Group on Complementary and Alternative Medicine on the important economic discussion of this form of medicine. May I also thank, in particular, Mr Peterle for his kind invitation. Let me start by setting out the Commission's basic vision of the broad future of public health in the European Union – a vision which is generally shared, I trust, by the European Parliament.

We are seeking to map a way forward towards sustainable health systems offering a high level of health protection and which put patients firmly at their core.

Empowering people to make well informed choices about their health and their treatment options is important for the citizens. It is equally important to drive up the quality and efficiency of healthcare systems across the European Union.

All patients in Europe should have access to high-quality, affordable and safe healthcare regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much they earn.

It is an important principle of the Union's pharmaceutical legislation that patients should have access to the medicinal products of their choice. This includes innovative medicines as much as traditional herbal and homeopathic medicinal products. Of course all necessary measures must be taken to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of the medicinal products in question.

This explains why the legislation stipulates that no medicinal product may be placed on the market of a Member State unless a marketing authorisation has been issued at European level or by the national competent authorities.

The aim of these rules is to safeguard public health and at the same time increase market access by facilitating the free circulation of medicinal products within the Union.

The Union fosters an enabling regulatory environment for the development of innovative medicines that are safe and efficacious as well as providing legal certainty for developers and offering incentives for innovation.

The centralised marketing authorisation for new medicines simplifies access to all the Member States' markets.

But above all, it maintains the highest standards of scientific evaluation of these products thus preserving the confidence of patients.

In a nutshell, the EU has an optimised procedure geared towards meeting the needs of innovative medicine producers and to the ultimate benefit of patients.

At the same time, the Union fully recognises that there are complementary and alternative medicines with particular characteristics which go beyond the concept of conventional medicinal products.

In contrast with the full marketing authorisation requirement that applies to medicinal products, traditional herbal and homeopathic medicinal products benefit from a simplified registration procedure provided they fulfill certain criteria, set out in European law.

This procedure is less burdensome than that required by the full marketing authorisation; it therefore facilitates access of these products to the market.

In the area of complementary and alternative medicines, availability can vary, sometimes widely, amongst Member States.

This arises because competent authorities in Member States are entitled to ask for additional data if they deem it necessary to assess the safety of a medicinal product.

In order to address this variance in availability our aim has been to improve understanding and co-operation amongst Member States. This is pursued through the European Medicines Agency Committee on Herbal

Medicinal Products and the Heads of Medicines Agencies Working Group on Homeopathic Medicinal Products.

Patient empowerment is on the increase. It progressively serves to put patients in the driver's seat – taking charge and control of their own health. Patients often know what treatment works for them, and which healthcare is efficient for their condition. This can include the use of complementary medicine.

Patients are free to choose whether they want to be on a contribution of both with conventional or complementary medicine. In a healthcare setting – when visiting the general practitioner for instance – there are limits on which treatments patients have the right to choose. But both doctor and patient should strive for a fruitful dialogue on the different treatment options.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me come back to the subject of today's conference – this economic discussion of complementary and alternative medicine.

Our health systems across Europe are under double pressure. From one side we face a tightening of public expenditure as a consequence of the economic crisis. On the other side, the cost of providing healthcare tends to constantly increase – this is partly due to the increasing demand of an ageing population, and partly to the mounting costs of healthcare products and services.

Health systems are, in essence, being asked to provide more with fewer resources – a difficult problem to solve.

The broad solution lies in increasing the overall efficiency of our health systems, and investing in cost-effective innovation. Alternative medicine can play an important role in this. Any treatment which demonstrates better outcomes at lower costs is a step forward on the path towards more sustainable health systems.

I will present a study on the availability of medicines for human use by the end of this year. It will also look at the availability of complementary and alternative medicines.

This study will consider the possible effects that European legislation on authorisation of medicines has on their availability.

In addition to this legislation, there are other important factors that influence the availability, such as pricing and reimbursement policies which are the competence of the Member States.

That is why the Commission is also engaged in a Process of Corporate Responsibility in the field of Pharmaceuticals.

This Process brings together Member States and other interested stakeholders on a voluntary basis to exchange ideas and knowledge on topics related to access to medicines.

In addition, the Commission has supported the development of research in complementary and alternative medicine under the Seventh Framework Programme, in particular the so-called "CAMBRELLA" project.

The findings of this project were presented in November 2012. The primary aim was to promote and facilitate Member States co-operation to further explore complementary and alternative medicines in the EU and to organise future European research.

This initiative and direction could be an important step forward to widen patient choice while ensuring that patients can have confidence in the safety and efficacy of alternative and complementary healthcare.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After these introductory remarks, I am now very interested to hear about your views.

Thank you for your attention.