

## EUPHW opening

Innovation for Resilience: Shaping a Sustainable Future

**Date:** 12.05.2025

**Time:** 15:00 -17:00 CET

**Place:** European Parliament

**Moderators:** Charlotte Marchandise (EUPHA), Dheepa Rajan (European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies)

**Panellists:**

Dr. Raed Arafat – Secretary of State of Romania, Chair of NATO’s Joint Health Group (online)

Dr. Hans Kluge – WHO Regional Director for Europe (online)

Lorena Boix – Deputy Director-General, DG SANTE, European Commission

MEP Nicu Ștefănuță – Vice-President of the European Parliament

Laurent Muschel – Director DG HERA, European Commission

Dr Pamela Rendi-Wagner – ECDC Director

**Outline:**

The opening session of the European Public Health Week 2025 will set the stage for an engaging and impactful discussion on how innovation can strengthen resilience and shape a sustainable future for public health in Europe.

15:00 – *Charlotte Marchandise & Dheepa Rajan* will give a (1) brief introduction to

15:10 European Public Health Week 2025 and its theme: "Innovation for Resilience: Shaping a Sustainable Future.", (2) overview of the importance of resilience in public health, highlighting recent global and regional challenges and (3) introduce the panellists.

15:10 – This will be followed by two brief interventions from:

15:20

- Yuliia Ovchar, a speaker from Ukraine: Reflection on the role of innovation in maintaining healthcare services during crises and

- Irina Mateescu, a speaker from Romania: Lessons learned from past public health emergencies and the need for adaptive, sustainable health systems.

- 15:20 – *Nicu Ștefănuță* will explore how (1) innovation, resilience, and sustainability  
15:25 intersect in shaping the future of public health. His address will also highlight  
the (2) European Parliament’s role in advancing policies that support robust  
health systems across the continent. Afterwards, he will introduce the next  
speaker.
- 15:25 – *Raed Arafat* will (1) address the crucial link between crisis management and  
15:30 sustainable health system development, illustrating how (2) emergencies can  
serve as catalysts for long-term improvements. He will (3) emphasize the  
need for continuous investment in health security measures, including digital  
health solutions and emergency response frameworks, to safeguard  
populations against future crises.
- 15:30 – *Hans Kluge* will follow with a discussion on (1) the broader European  
15:35 perspective on health resilience. He will outline the (2) WHO’s approach to  
strengthening health systems through innovation, policy integration, and  
international collaboration. His address will stress (3) the interconnection  
between health security, prevention strategies, and technological  
advancements, reinforcing the need for a comprehensive and coordinated  
approach at the regional and global levels.
- 15:35 – *Lorena Boix* will highlight the (1) EU’s investments in health innovation,  
15:40 research, and digitalization, showcasing how these initiatives contribute to  
long-term system stability. Her remarks will also touch on the (2) importance  
of public-private partnerships in ensuring that health innovations are both  
accessible and effective in meeting the diverse needs of European  
populations.

- 15:40 – *Laurent Muschel*, will take the floor to speak on the vital role of  
15:45 preparedness through medical countermeasures. He will highlight the  
importance of ensuring that Europe is equipped with the right tools—  
vaccines, diagnostics, treatments, and stockpiles—to respond quickly to the  
next health crisis. His intervention will focus on how strategic foresight,  
coordinated procurement, and public-private collaboration are essential to  
building a secure and responsive health union. He will underline HERA’s  
mission in strengthening Europe's capacity to detect and respond to serious  
cross-border health threats by aligning innovation with operational  
readiness.
- 15:45 - At this point, the moderators will introduce *Dr. Pamela Rendi-Wagner*, who  
15:50 will reflect on the vital role of disease surveillance, data sharing, and risk  
communication in strengthening Europe’s health resilience. She will highlight  
how innovation in public health intelligence, supported by digital tools and  
real-time data platforms, enables faster and more effective responses to  
emerging threats. Her remarks will underscore that health security is not a  
fixed outcome, but a continuous process that requires robust systems,  
strong institutions, trusted partnerships and a whole-of-society approach.
- 15:50 – Open interactive discussion with the audience (featuring representatives  
16:30 from key European and international health organizations, including DG  
SANTE, DG HERA, DG INTPA, NATO, WHO, the European Parliament, ECDC,  
EMA, ASPHER, EuroHealthNet, Eurocare, EPHA, the Committee of Regions,  
EBC, and HOPE)
- 16:30 – Closing remarks by EUPHA president Tit Albreht  
16:45