



Policy Roundtable

Vulnerabilities, Mental Health & Addictions: Progressive Way of Breaking the Vicious Circle

9:00-12:00, 25 May 2023, European Parliament, ASP1G369

The roundtable takes place under the auspices of MEP Radka Maxová (S&D, Czech Republic)

State of play

Triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, mental ill-health has been a **widespread and increasing problem** at the national and EU levels. Around 11% of the population is estimated to experience mental health issues, causing immense suffering for individuals, families, and communities. In June 2023, the European Commission will present a **comprehensive approach to mental health**, which aims to support Member States by providing a prevention-oriented approach based on incorporating mental health in all policies.

Mental Health and Mental Well-being is an emerging priority of the progressive movement. In order to prepare a robust and comprehensive strategy based on prevention, we need to address not only health-related issues but also improve social conditions that contribute to increased stress and related mental problems. In addition, the roundtable aims to address the interrelations between vulnerabilities, mental health and addictions as a triangle of factors mutually influencing well-being of individuals and European households.

Agenda

The roundtable will be moderated by **Mr Tomáš Petříček**, Director of Progressive Analytical Centre (PAC) and author of author of "[EU Cancer Strategy: Harm Reduction of the licit drugs with a focus on socially vulnerable groups](#)"

9:00 – 9:15 **Registration**

9:00 – 9:15 **Opening statement**

Radka Maxová, MEP, S&D Group (Czech Republic), Co-Chair of MEP Alliance for Mental Health

9:30 – 10:30 **Mental health and social vulnerabilities: towards a European strategy**

Presentation by:

- **Gerry Mitchell**, Social researcher and co-author of the policy study "[Is an EU-wide approach to the Mental health crisis necessary?](#)"
- **Michaela Marksová**, WOMEN for WOMEN, former Czech Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

First remarks by: **Estrella Durá Ferrandis**, MEP S&D Group (Spain)

Open exchange with participants

10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee Break**

10:45 -11:45 **Social stratification and addictions: mental health issues and reduction of risks in member states**

Presentations by:

- **Tomáš Petříček**, Director of Progressive Analytical Centre and author of "[EU Cancer Strategy: Harm Reduction of the licit drugs with a focus on socially vulnerable groups](#)"
- **Sara Bojarczuk**, Research Assistant Professor, Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw and co-author of the FEPS & TASC policy study "[Is an EU-wide approach to the Mental health crisis necessary?](#)"

First remarks by:

- **László Andor**, FEPS Secretary General and former European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, author of "[Europe's Social Integration – Welfare Models and Economic Transformations](#)"

Open exchange with participants

11:45 – 12:00 **Closing remarks and way forward**