

# Health for All

## From a Slogan to a Reality for Europe

Friday 15 March 2024 - 10:00 – 15:00

Krytyka Polityczna in Cieszyn, Poland  
(English & Polish interpretation)

### TO REGISTER

#### CONTEXT

The conference aims to exchange the views of European social democracy circles ahead of the upcoming elections in Poland and the EU. European social democracy has always been historically sensitive to the link between the right to health and human rights. This connection has rarely been as close as it is today. The complex political situation and growing systemic crises call for an in-depth analysis. The physical condition of the population is an issue affecting the security of the European project. Lessons from pandemics remain a major source of political controversy and political instability.

Health is a political and economic issue. Social democracy needs to offer viable solutions for the area that has always constituted its core: public health. As part of the discussions, we will address the phenomena of privatisation of health services, tendencies towards a geographical centralisation of the services offered by hospitals and clinics, the mental health crisis and the systemic burden of the long COVID phenomenon.

#### AGENDA

10:00 – 10:10

##### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- **David Rinaldi**, FEPS
- **Mateusz Piotrowski**, Europe a Patient

10:10 – 10:20

##### Health as Priority for European Action

- **Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis**, WHO Special Envoy for the European Region, former EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, and author of the book '[A European Health Union](#)'

10:20 – 11:20

##### Privatisation and regional inequalities in access to hospitals and care services

The consequences of privatising healthcare services and their impact on accessibility and quality of medical care, as well as the deepening social stratification in this context, will be analysed. Trends toward centralisation of healthcare services and their effects on the functioning of the healthcare system will be discussed.

Panel discussion with:

- **Maria Libura**, Head of the Department of Medical Didactics and Simulation at the Medical College of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, vice-president of the Polish Medical Communication Association
- **Bartolomiej Balcerzyk**, Head of the European Commission Representation to Poland
- **Olga Sehnalová**, Member of the Zlín Regional Council responsible for health policy, former MEP
- **Zdeněk Mrozek**, former vice-president of the Czech Medical Chamber

Q&A

- Chair: **EXPERT**, ORGANISING PARTNERS

11:20 – 12:30

##### Addressing Mental Health Crisis in Europe

The discussion panel aims to delve into the challenging situation of psychiatric care in Poland/Central Europe in the context of growing mental health issues within Polish/CE society, it is important to identify the causes of the crisis and seek constructive solutions. Aspects such as the availability of psychiatric services, the quality of care and prevention in this area, especially targeting children and youth, will be discussed, as well as the challenges facing the healthcare system related to these aspects.

Scene Setting:

- **Andrzej Kłoda**, psychiatrist, Mental Health Center, Cieszyn
- **Tomáš Petříček**, Director of the Progressive Centre and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czechia

Panel discussion with:

- **Natalia Kallio**, Board member, European Youth Forum
- **Tomasz Szafrński** - Head of Department of Psychiatry, Lazarski University & Wolski Mental Health Center, Warszawa, President-Elect, Polish Association of Community Psychiatry.
- **Joanna Wicha**, Member of the Polish Parliament, Nurse

Q&A

- Chair: **Paulina Nowak**, Europe a Patient

12:30 – 13:00

**NETWORKING LUNCH**

13:00 – 14:00

**The systemic burden of Long Covid and well-being in the workplace**

Long Covid is a topic almost absent from the public sphere, but the phenomenon's scale means it can no longer be overlooked. We need a debate about both treatments, diagnosis and prevention options.

Panel discussion with:

- **Paweł Grzesiowski**, Polish paediatrician, doctor of medical sciences, expert of the Supreme Medical Council (NRL) on the fight against COVID-19 (tbc)
- **Małgorzata Gasperowicz**, Developmental biologist and researcher affiliated with the University of Calgary
- **Marcelina Zawisza**, Member of the National Board of the Razem (Together) party, Polish MP

Q&A

- Chair: **Aleksander Temkin**, Europe a Patient

14:00 – 15:00

**TOWARDS A EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION**

Can Europe deliver better health for all? It should and it can. The EU can have a transformative power to help deliver better access and quality for care and health services all across the Union. This session will explore how political cooperation at the EU level can be a determinant of our well-being and what policies should be constructed to build a solid European Health Union. For instance, steps have to be taken to better pool European resources and make health and pharma products more affordable, to tackle health disparities and improve on quality standards.

Panel discussion with:

- Solidaris
- **Mihály Kökény**, Professor, Geneva Graduate Institute and author of the [book](#)
- **Nicolas Moravek**, Member of the Citizens' Panels, Conference on the Future of Europe, Working Group on Health
- Member of the European Parliament

Q&A

Chair: **Ania Skrzypek**, Director for Research and Training, FEPS

15:00 – 15:10

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

**Konrad Golota**, Chief of Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister