



Dear Readers,

At the beginning of 2023, the European Parliament has set up a new subcommittee on Public Health, the [SANT Subcommittee](#). It deals with programmes and specific actions in the field of public health, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, health aspects of bioterrorism, the European Medicines Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. During the first months of its activities, the SANT Subcommittee prepared two own-initiative reports (on non-communicable diseases and on mental health) and one implementation report (on nutrition and health claims made on foods). It also organised a delegation to Washington DC to discuss with its US partners about the current most important topics for public health policies. In 2023, the SANT Subcommittee organised four hearings (on non-communicable diseases, on mental health of youth, on medicine shortages and on access to and security of supply of critical medicines) and multiple discussions with

experts and key actors for EU public health policies. As the Chair of the SANT Subcommittee, I would like to invite you to read this newsletter and to follow the works of our subcommittee.

[Adam Jarubas](#)

Chair of the Subcommittee on Public Health

Mental Health



This report followed the Communication from the Commission of 7 June 2023, presenting a comprehensive approach to mental health, setting out various initiatives to alleviate mental health stress and conditions in the EU. The rapporteur of the SANT Subcommittee ([Sara CERDAS](#), S&D) welcomed this important initiative, and presented this report with the aim of drawing insights and recommendations for mental health promotion, prevention of mental health conditions and accessibility, early diagnosis, treatment, and integration of all individuals in a mental-health-in-

all-policies approach. Members tabled 524 amendments to the draft report. This report was adopted by the ENVI Committee with 79 votes in favour, 6 against and 4 abstentions, and [adopted in plenary](#) in December 2023.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)



The rapporteur was report on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) [Erik Poulsen](#), (RENEW). It stresses the importance to identify and diagnose people in high risk of developing this kind of diseases. It also aims at strengthening incentives for investments in innovation with regards to development of technologies, medicines and healthcare practises, and new and better treatments of NCDs. Moreover, the report proposes actions to prevent premature deaths, improve quality of lives of citizens and ensure EU's competitiveness. Members tabled 836 amendments, with additional 21 amendments tabled by the opinion giving committee (DEVE) under

Rule 56. The report was adopted by the ENVI Committee with 63 votes in favour, 6 against and 4 abstentions, and [adopted in plenary](#) in December 2023.

SANT delegation to Washington DC



From 30 October to 1 November 2023, a delegation of the SANT Subcommittee visited Washington DC in the United States. The purpose of the delegation was to visit public authorities that are central to the US public health policies. Members of the SANT delegation were informed about the competences of federal institutions responsible for public health policies, division of powers and competences, in this area, between the Federal and States levels as well as most urgent issues for the public health in the US and in Americas in general. The SANT delegation focused on current topics on the agenda of the SANT Subcommittee and how these questions are

addressed by US institutions. These topics covered, among others, nutrition and health claims made on foods, medicines shortages, non-communicable diseases and mental health aspects of health policies as well as potential for international cooperation in the sector of public health.

Report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods (NHCR)



SANT has also drawn up a report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods (NHCR), rapporteur [Tilly Metz](#) (Greens/EFA), and to address the issue of the list of health claims on botanicals, whose evaluation by the Commission has been suspended for ten years. Those botanicals with unsubstantiated claims, however, continue to be on the market on the basis of the transitional arrangements of NHCR. The report emphasises the importance of setting up nutrient profiles in order to meet the objective of NHCR. The Commission and

the Member States are invited to help consumers to make informed choices about food products by adopting swiftly a mandatory and harmonised EU front-of-pack nutritional label. The report further emphasises the need to address the 'on-hold' list of claims on botanicals by further evaluating these claims as an urgently required measure for consumer protection. The Commission is also asked to update the NHCR to the online environment by drafting comprehensive guidelines for the enforcement of the NHCR online. Members tabled 136 amendments. The [report](#) was adopted by the ENVI Committee with 70 votes in favour, 8 against and 6 abstentions. This report was adopted in plenary in January 2024.

ABOUT THE EDITOR:

European Parliament Directorate General for Internal Policies of the Union
Subcommittee on Public Health
Head of Secretariat: Henrik Kjellin
Layout: Gina Duma

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