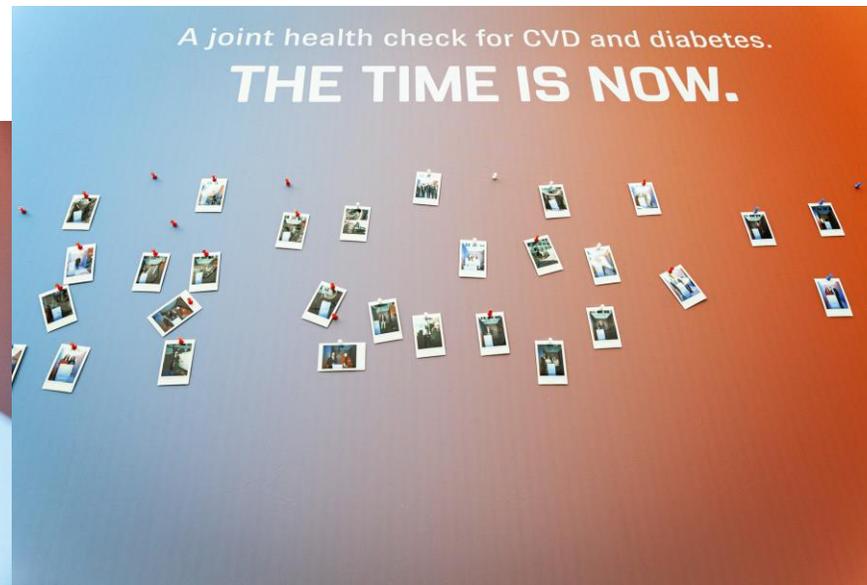




Because we can't afford not to: Let's make a joint health check for CVD and diabetes happen

Report of the event and exhibition in the European Parliament

28 February – 2 March



Objectives

Raising awareness and building support on the need for timely policy actions to reduce premature deaths from CVD and diabetes



The exhibition and the expert sessions aimed at raising awareness on the existing gaps in the screening pathways for CVD and diabetes and the need to promote early detection to improve disease management and overall health outcomes for people living with CVD and diabetes.



The theme of the discussions was the need to improve the early detection of CVD and diabetes through the implementation of a targeted screening approach that would consist of joint cardiovascular and diabetes *health checks* at the primary care level for at-risk individuals.



The event aimed to bring together policymakers (Members of the European Parliament) and stakeholders from the CVD and diabetes communities, such as patients, healthcare professionals, researchers and industry, to discuss what policies are needed to improve screening and early detection of CVD and diabetes and promote the implementation of joint cardiovascular and diabetes health checks at national level.

BRINGING THE RIGHT STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER

150+ ATTENDANTS | 20+ SPEAKERS | 4 ORGANIZING PARTNERS

Organizing partners:



MEPs that spoke in one of the sessions or were present at the exhibition:



Representatives from the following institutions and organizations:



MEP Engagement



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament



OVER 10 MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VISITED THE EXHIBITION OR TOOK PART TO THE SESSIONS

including host MEP Istvan **Ujhelyi**, EP Vice-President Marc **Angel**, MEP Maria da Graça **Carvalho**, MEP Christel **Schaldemose**, MEP Nicolas **Gonzalez Casares**, MEP Franc **Bogovic**, MEP Susana **Solis Perez**, MEP Frédérique **Ries**, MEP Kateřina **Konečná**, MEP Stelios **Kypouropoulos** to name a few.

The exhibition received **cross-party support and participation of MEPs from 4 political groups** – EPP, S&D, Renew Europe, the Left. **5 MEPs** spoke during the sessions, and **EP Vice-President Marc Angel** kicked off the exhibition on 28 February. A total of over **20 MEPs** visited the exhibition, engaging and interacting with the speakers, the stakeholders and the partners of the event.

Concurrently, MEPs got vocal about the need to step action to tackle CVD and diabetes during an exchange of view with the Commission in the Committee on Public Health (ENVI) held on 2 March:

- **MEP Liese** raised the point of the **burden of heart disease** and asked how the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan can be leveraged in tackling other **NCDs**.
- **MEP Konecna** called for **improved monitoring, early detection** and appropriate management of complications for **people living with diabetes**.



Overview of attendees

MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE VISITED THE EXHIBITION AND ATTENDED THE SESSIONS OVER THE THREE DAYS

Some numbers from the “*meet-the-expert*” sessions:

6+ HOURS OF DISCUSSIONS | 6 MEET-THE-EXPERT SESSIONS | 6 MEPS | 5+ MEDICAL EXPERTS AND ACADEMICS | 15+ PATIENT REPRESENTATIVES

CVD and Diabetes **experts** stressed how **more effective financing methods for healthcare systems** must be found to ensure that resources are allocated appropriately, and how making good use of the data that is available to healthcare systems could help prevent complications and unnecessary treatments, ensuring better outcomes for people with diabetes and CVD.

Most **patient ambassadors** explained how screening needs to be made **easily comprehensible** and **accessible** to those who need it. According to most of them, people need to be made more aware of the risk factors that are commonly associated with CVD and Diabetes, such as smoking habits, cholesterol levels and genetic predisposition to name a few.



Media and Social Media Coverage

THE EVENT WAS FEATURED ON POLITICO AND GAINED HUGE TRACTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA (#HealthCheck)
THE EVENT GENERATED 40+ TWEETS AND RETWEETS, AND OVER 30 LINKEDIN POSTS

POLITICO

ALSO IN THE EP, DIABETES. The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations together with IDF Europe and others launched on Monday a series of events at the Parliament to promote more regular and standardized heart and diabetes check-ups to improve disease prevention. There's an interactive display on the third floor where you can test your CVD/diabetes knowledge (spoiler: Morning Health learned that smoking is a risk factor for diabetes), and there are events throughout the week.



Gerardo Fortuna @gerardofortuna · Feb 28
If you happen to be at the European Parliament this week, you'll notice a stand on a joint #healthcheck for cardiovascular (CVD) diseases. "I hope CVD and rare diseases will be on the agenda after 2024 and there'll be more EU responsibilities on health," said MEP @mgraca Carvalho



Wojciech Nowak · 1st
Global Senior Director @ Novartis | Incoming Board Member @ JCC | Governm...
27k
The Time is Now! 🕒
Health Checks are an investment in millions of lives: measuring the 5 top risk factors for cardiovascular disease (#CVD) and diabetes (#T2D) can help reduce the burden of these diseases! 📉
It is crucial to diagnose people with #CVD or #T2D as early as possible to prevent complications and save downstream costs. 📌
Given the interlinks between CVD and diabetes, joint health checks based on common risk factors for both co-morbidities (such high BMI, high blood pressure, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, high blood glucose and high LDL cholesterol) as are a sensible and cost-effective option for previously identified at-risk individuals.

It's been an eye-opening visit to the exhibition in the European Parliament (Brussels, BE) and insightful discussion on how a joint #HealthCheck could save lives!
Thank you Christian Thonke, Agnes Estes, Sophie Millar, Sarah Mounoir, Enrica Obizzi, Nikos Manaras, Magdalena Daccord, Brett Kobie, Gabriele La Fata 🙌



KEY TAKEAWAYS



The current **political commitment** towards **improving conditions for people living with diabetes and cardiovascular diseases** in Europe is still insufficient. More needs to be done to prioritise CVD and diabetes in the European political agenda.



EU institutions can make a difference. The EU can set common targets for Member States to achieve and promote a harmonized approach across Europe, as well as provide guidance and best practices to help countries track progress towards the achievement of the common goals.



Many Members of the European Parliament stated that **effective policy action is needed to tackle CVD and diabetes** and improve conditions for people living with it.



The call for the implementation of joint and targeted cardiovascular and diabetes health checks is a step in the right direction for improving conditions for people living with the diseases and **relieving pressure on healthcare systems.**



The experts stressed repeatedly how **more effective financing methods must be found to ensure that resources are allocated appropriately within national healthcare systems.**



Screening needs to be made easily comprehensible and accessible to those who need it. **People need to be made more aware of the risk factors** that are commonly associated with CVD and diabetes, such as **smoking habits and cholesterol levels.**



There are strong interlinks and common risk factors between CVD and diabetes. This is **why integrated policy solutions and a joint prevention approach** – such as joint and targeted cardiovascular and diabetes health checks at primary care level – **are needed.**