










Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2023/2075(INI)	Procedure completed
Non-communicable diseases		
Subject 4.20.01 Medicine, diseases		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		20/04/2023
		 POULSEN Erik	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 SKYTTEDEL Sara	
		 UJHELYI István	
		 RIVASI Michèle	
		 KARSKI Karol	
		 KONEČNÁ Kateřina	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Development		13/06/2023
		 LUCKE Karsten	
European Commission	Commission DG Health and Food Safety	Commissioner KYRIAKIDES Stella	

Key events			
15/06/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/11/2023	Vote in committee		
17/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0366/2023	Summary
13/12/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0467/2023	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2075(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/9/12216

Documentation gateway					
Amendments tabled in committee		PE752.881	08/09/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE752.914	08/09/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE752.915	08/09/2023	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE750.007	06/10/2023	EP	
Committee draft report		PE751.761	27/10/2023	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0366/2023	17/11/2023	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0467/2023	13/12/2023	EP	Summary

Non-communicable diseases

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the own-initiative report by Erik POULSEN (Renew, DK) on non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The report noted that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are diseases that are not passed from person to person. They cause 90 % of all deaths in the EU, account for 80 % of the health burden in EU countries and their prevalence continues to grow across the EU.

Moreover, premature deaths as a result of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases account for 68 % of all premature deaths in Europe.

Improved health promotion and disease prevention can reduce the prevalence of NCDs by as much as 70%.

NCD prevention

Members stressed that it is important to prevent and reduce the prevalence of NCDs through early diagnosis and screening, better access to public healthcare, and through better disease management and treatment.

Member States are also encouraged to develop, implement and monitor national NCD plans and strategies, in particular for the most prevalent diseases with high mortality and morbidity rates.

Highlighting that 60 % of children are exposed to second-hand smoke at home which can lead to sudden infant death syndrome, lower respiratory infections, ear infections and more severe asthma, the EU and the Member States are called on to ensure greater protection of non-smokers from second-hand smoke and to develop campaigns in order to create a smoke-free environment and to raise the first tobacco-free EU generation by 2040.

Members also called on the Commission and the Member States to:

- promote smoking cessation and implement measures to help tobacco users quit and follow up on the scientific research and evaluations by public health authorities on the health risks related to electronic cigarettes, particularly taking into consideration the threat posed to non-smokers, children and youth;
- protect minors from commercial communications on alcohol consumption;
- encourage and help consumers to make informed and healthy choices about food products, empowering them to follow healthy, varied and balanced diets;
- propose a new, comprehensive and integrated EU action plan for obesity with benchmarks, indicators and mechanisms to monitor and guarantee results;
- promote physical activity and the practice of sports in urban planning as an accessible and widely available means of reducing the risk factors for NCDs;

Identification of high-risk populations and early diagnosis of NCDs

The report pointed out that many people living with NCDs in Europe are undiagnosed and unaware of their illness, and, thus, fail to get proper, timely treatment. The Commission should collect examples of best practices regarding screening for and early detection of NCDs. NCD prevention and management can help lighten the burden of NCDs on healthcare systems and strengthen their resilience in the face of health crises.

Member States are encouraged to introduce targeted health checks for high-risk individuals and promote self-sampling to address the main shared metabolic risk factors such as high blood pressure, high blood glucose, high BMI and high LDL cholesterol.

Improving NCD healthcare

Stressing that healthcare professionals, patient organisations and the third sector at large play a significant role in referring patients for early diagnostic tests and treating NCDs, the report encouraged Member States to ensure continued patient access to primary and secondary care, and to offer inter-professional training to healthcare professionals in order to better recognise at-risk individuals and to better prevent, identify and treat NCDs.

The report also stressed the importance of accessible and cost-effective healthcare, so that limited resources are put to the best use and provided to the patients in most need.

The valuable role of community pharmacies is stressed in continuously providing essential services to support the treatment of NCDs and to keep the general public informed.

Members called for the adoption of an EU strategy to anticipate and monitor the impacts of serious health threats on people affected by communicable diseases and NCDs, and other diseases or conditions. They proposed exploring the possibility of creating an emergency reserve of European NCD specialists, composed of voluntary NCD experts trained and ready to be deployed to provide care to people living with NCDs in any Member State or neighbouring country in times of crisis.

Patient empowerment and health literacy are also crucial in preventing NCDs.

Lastly, digital health solutions are strongly welcomed which can enable better access to healthcare in rural areas and protect immunosuppressed NCD patients from exposure to infectious diseases.

Non-communicable diseases

The European Parliament adopted by 578 votes to 39, with 15 abstentions, a resolution on non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Members recalled that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are diseases that are not passed from person to person. They cause 90 % of all deaths in the EU, account for 80 % of the health burden in EU countries and their prevalence continues to grow across the EU. Moreover, premature deaths as a result of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases account for 68 % of all premature deaths in Europe. NCDs account for the largest share of Member States healthcare expenditures, resulting in an estimated cost of EUR 115 billion, or 0.8 % of GDP annually.

Improved health promotion and disease prevention can reduce the prevalence of NCDs by as much as 70%.

NCD prevention

Tobacco use, unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity and harmful use of alcohol and environmental factors such as air, food, water and soil pollution, noise pollution, UV radiation or exposure to chemicals, as well as the socio-economic determinants of health, considerably increase the risk of NCDs.

Members stressed that it is important to prevent and reduce the prevalence of NCDs through early diagnosis and screening, better access to public healthcare, and through better disease management and treatment.

Member States are also encouraged to develop, implement and monitor national NCD plans and strategies, in particular for the most prevalent diseases with high mortality and morbidity rates.

These plans should not simply aim to reverse the trend in the number of people suffering from NCDs, but also to improve the quality of life and well-being of those affected. The Commission and the Member States should also set up public awareness campaigns on the prevention of NCDs.

Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to:

- promote smoking cessation and implement measures to help tobacco users quit and follow up on the scientific research and evaluations by public health authorities on the health risks related to electronic cigarettes, particularly taking into consideration the threat posed to non-smokers, children and youth (tobacco use was responsible for 1.6 million deaths in Europe in 2019 and 60% of children are exposed to second-hand smoke at home);
- protect minors from commercial communications on alcohol consumption and improve the labelling of alcoholic beverages, in particular by including moderate and responsible drinking information (one in ten deaths in the WHO European Region results from alcohol use, or about 1 million deaths every year);
- encourage and help consumers to make informed and healthy choices about food products, empowering them to follow healthy, varied and balanced diets;
- propose a new, comprehensive and integrated EU action plan for obesity with benchmarks, indicators and mechanisms to monitor and guarantee results;
- promote physical activity and the practice of sports in urban planning as an accessible and widely available means of reducing the risk factors for NCDs;

- protect people from exposure to environmental risks, both in their daily lives and in their working environment (reducing the use of pesticides and implementing effective waste disposal mechanisms that avoid polluting the environment).

Pointing out that comorbidities, including HIV infection, diabetes, hypertension, cancers and chronic respiratory diseases, were particular risk factors during the COVID-19 pandemic, Members stressed that specialised treatments should be integrated into primary and national healthcare systems, in order to prepare for future pandemics.

Identification of high-risk populations and early diagnosis of NCDs

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The resolution stressed the importance of accessible and cost-effective healthcare, so that limited resources are put to the best use and provided to the patients in most need. The valuable role of community pharmacies is stressed in continuously providing essential services to support the treatment of NCDs and to keep the general public informed.

Members also called for the adoption of an EU strategy to anticipate and monitor the impacts of serious health threats on people affected by communicable diseases and NCDs, and other diseases or conditions. They proposed exploring the possibility of creating an emergency reserve of European NCD specialists, composed of voluntary NCD experts trained and ready to be deployed to provide care to people living with NCDs in any Member State or neighbouring country in times of crisis.

Patient empowerment and health literacy are also key to preventing non-communicable diseases.

Lastly, digital health solutions are strongly welcomed which can enable better access to healthcare in rural areas and protect immunosuppressed NCD patients from exposure to infectious diseases.

Transparency				
SKYTTEDAL Sara	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/12/2023	Pouchforum.eu
SKYTTEDAL Sara	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	29/11/2023	NNPA
SKYTTEDAL Sara	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	03/11/2023	Livsmedelsföretagen
UJHELYI István	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/09/2023	Servier
UJHELYI István	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/09/2023	Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe
POULSEN Erik	Rapporteur	ENVI	31/08/2023	European Thrombosis and Haemostasis Alliance
POULSEN Erik	Rapporteur	ENVI	31/08/2023	European Public Health Alliance
POULSEN Erik	Rapporteur	ENVI	31/08/2023	Mental Health Europe
POULSEN Erik	Rapporteur	ENVI	20/07/2023	Transforming Breast Cancer Together
POULSEN Erik	Rapporteur	ENVI	20/07/2023	Nobody Left Outside Initiative
O'SULLIVAN Grace	Member	31/10/2023	Alcohol Action Ireland	
	Member	18/10/2023	FoodDrinkEurope	
BJÖRK	Member	13/10/2023	IOGT-NTO	

Malin				
	Member	11/10/2023	European Cancer Organisation	
CLUNE Deirdre	Member	19/07/2023	European Cancer Organisation	