

Lunch Debate European Parliament Bxl: “Action for Hearing Loss – Make A Sound Investment”

Hosts: MEP Helga Stevens (Belgium/Flanders, ECR) and MEP Roberta Metsola (Malta, EPP)

Wednesday the 1st of March 2017 – | P1A002 | 11:00-13:00h



**Untreated
Hearing Loss Has
a High Cost !**

> € 178 Billion
per year in the European Union!



- Welcome – MEP Helga Stevens (ECR)
- World Hearing Day Theme - Shelly Chadha (WHO)
- Facts and numbers – Mark Laureyns (AEA)
- Screening & prevention – Mel Gregory (The Ear Foundation)
- The importance of quality hearing care – Lidia Best (EFHOH)
- The socio-economic aspects – Laurence Hartmann (Socio-Economist)
- Conclusion - MEP Roberta Metsola (EPP) & Lunch



Lunch Debate European Parliament March 2017



Screening

Screening inside the European Parliament





Get your hearing checked !

“Action for Hearing Loss – Make A Sound Investment”

Hosts: MEP Helga Stevens (Belgium/Flanders, ECR) and MEP Roberta Metsola (Malta, EPP)



It will only take 3 minutes

4 teams of audiologists will test your hearing




They will give you a full report and extra information on how good your hearing is

Wednesday the 1st of March 2017 – | P1A002 | 09:00-11:00h



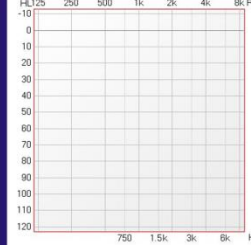
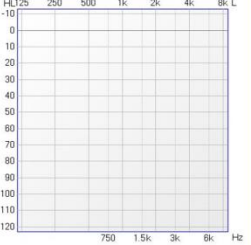











“Action for Hearing Loss – Make A Sound Investment”

Your Audiogram

Wednesday the 1st of March 2017 – | P1A002 | 09:00-11:00h

40 people had their hearing screened and received information on their hearing performance and recommendations during this two hour session. The majority had perfect hearing.

We want to thank the 6 Audiology Students & 3 Audiology Teachers (Marie Haps Brussels – Thomas More Antwerp) who ran Hearing Screening in the European Parliament in Brussels and Otometrics for making 4 Oscilla USB Audiometry systems available for this action.

Lunch Debate European Parliament March 2017



Parlamentum Europaeum





MEP Helga Stevens – ECR – Flanders/Belgium

- **Welcome**
- **Hearing Loss is not a new phenomenon, but more young people acquire hearing loss**
 - They don't understand the danger of using headphones at loud volume.
- **Therefore a threefold approach is needed**
 - **PREVENTION** e.g. Safe Listening Campaign
 - **AWARENESS** e.g. Screening (Babies, Young People & Adults)
 - **INTERVENTION** e.g. All with hearing loss should have access to personalised adequate care and be reimbursed.

World Hearing Day



Shelly Chadha



Shelly Chadha – WHO – Technical Officer,
Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss

- **Unaddressed Hearing Loss has a high economic impact ... On a global scale, the annual cost is \$ 750 billion !!!**
- **Hearing Loss can be PREVENTED** in a lot of cases – e.g. Reducing the risk of noise induced hearing loss – safe listening campaign
- **Hearing Loss should be ADRESSED by**
 - Early identification through screening programmes
 - Use of hearing devices and rehabilitation
 - Education and empowerment
- **It is time for ACTION**



Parlamentum Europaeum

Lunch Debate European Parliament March 2017



Facts & Numbers



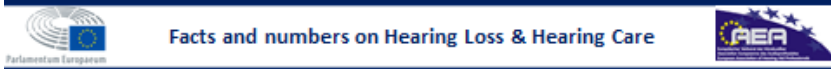
Mark Laureyns

Facts and numbers on Hearing Loss & Hearing Care



Mark Laureyns

European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals



Mark Laureyns – AEA
European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals

- There are 52 million people with self reported hearing loss in Europe and the number will grow to 80 million by 2050
- WHO and the European Commission act on making hearing protection mandatory ... but **less than 20% use hearing protection in noise** ;-(
- We need to ensure that all who can benefit from hearing care can get access – 58% of Europeans do so!
- There is a positive trend -> Action!



Parlamentum Europaeum

Lunch Debate European Parliament March 2017





The Importance of Screening and Prevention

Action for Hearing Loss – Make a Sound Investment
Melanie Gregory, CEO Ear Foundation

Mel Gregory – The Ear Foundation

- Addressing hearing is essential for a health
- We need a lifespan approach
- Addressing Hearing is good for the economy and benefits health and social systems
- Prevention is key...screen
- The time is right and the technology is there



The importance of quality hearing care



Action for Hearing Loss –
Make A Sound Investment

Lunch Debate

Brussels 1st March 2017

Lidia Best
Vice President



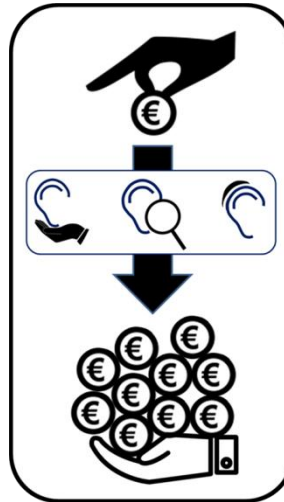
Lidia Best – EFHOH
European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

- Forming a Partnership
Harnessing the Knowledge
 - **Joining forces leads to better impact and results**
- **Essen declaration**
 - Governments need to ensure **accesss to affordable quality hearing care**
 - **The UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities** states that no-one should be priced out of opportunity ... **access to hearing care is a right!**
- **Professional Hearing Care needs to be included and transparent**

Intervention Economic



Laurence Hartmann



- The **Cost of Untreated Hearing Loss** in Europe is **> € 178 Billion per year**
- Hearing Care is a Sound Investment
 - **For every Euro that is spend in Hearing Care ... You get 10 Euro in return** (reduced overall cost of untreated hearing loss)
- Hearing care has a **positive effect on quality of life** at reasonable direct costs and **results in a net savings to society**
- => **European public health** policy should consider **hearing loss as one of the major concern in its action plan**

Laurence Hartman – Health Economist
Conservatoire national des arts et métiers Paris

Lunch Debate European Parliament March 2017



Parlamentum Europaeum



Conclusion



Roberta Metsola

Conclusion

Roberta Metsola
MEP Malta - EPP

Lunch Debate European Parliament Bxl:
"Action for Hearing Loss – Make A Sound Investment"
Hosts: MEP Helga Stevens (Belgium/Flanders, ECR) and MEP Roberta Metsola (Malta, EPP)
Wednesday the 1st of March 2017 – | P1A002 | 11:00-13:00h

March 2017 World Hearing Day
Investing in Professional Hearing Care is a Sound Investment!
• Prevention
• Early intervention
• Rehabilitation

Untreated Hearing Loss Has a High Cost!
> € 178 Billion
per year in the European Union!

- Welcome – MEP Helga Stevens (ECR)
- World Hearing Day Theme – Shelly Chadha (NIHQ)
- Facts and numbers – Mark Laureyns (AEA)
- Screening & prevention – Mel Gregory (The Ear Foundation)
- The importance of quality hearing care – Lida Sext (EHCH)
- The socio-economic aspects – Laurence Hartmann (Socio-Economist)
- Conclusion – MEP Roberta Metsola (EPP) & Lunch

Logos: ECR, Parliament Strasbourg, epp

Conclusion – MEP Roberta Metsola

MEP Roberta Metsola - EPP - Malta

- **Hearing Loss** is a matter that is very close to my heart
- Be even more **vocal** than you already are in **requesting action from the political side** ... since this is a very important cause and the more vocal you are, the more chance that action will be taken.
- **Europe should lead in taking action on hearing loss.**
- We need to **push forward adult screening.**
- Treating hearing loss will make sure we can **keep people in employment.**
- **Let's continue to work together, people with hearing loss** are not asking the impossible, they just **want to lead a life as full as possible**, and **we should help them!**



Parlamentum Europaeum

Lunch Debate European Parliament March 2017



Thank you!

Thank you to all!

We want to thank MEP Helga Stevens and MEP Roberta Mestola for hosting this lunch debate and for their active participation.

We would especially like to thank their staff, Annika, Filip, Matthew and Cristina for helping us with all the practical arrangements and constant very positive support.

Further thank you for the great cooperation with our partner associations – EFHOH – Lidia Best and Marcel Bobeldijk, EHIMA – Soren Hougaard.

Thank you to Patrick Verheyden, Marleen De Sloovere and the six audiology students Angeline, Clément, Constance, Lea, Ombeline and Solenn for organising the Screening.

Thanks to our General Secretary Fritz, for guiding all our guests in the Parliament and for printing the AEA Action Reports that were handed out.

Thank you to all the attendees, that took the time to come to Brussels for this event.

And last but not least, our great panel of invited key note speakers during the Lunch Debate, Shelly Chadha (WHO), Mel Gregory (Ear Foundation) and Laurence Hartmann (Conservatoire national des arts et métiers Paris). Thank you for respecting all the deadlines and perfectly aligning your presentations so they were very complimentary.

