



*EAACI's 60 years celebration – Dedicated to allergy science, committed to your health*

## **Allergy and asthma awareness event at the European Parliament draws hundreds to test their allergies**

- **Over 400 people found out their allergy status at “Test Your Allergies 2016 – Test, Inform, Prevent” event held from 26-28 April 2016 at the European Parliament in Brussels**
- **Members of the European Parliament are calling for more funding for prevention and control of allergies and asthma and for recognition of allergology as a full speciality in all EU countries**
- **150 million Europeans live with allergies and it is estimated that 1 in every 2 Europeans will suffer from this disease by 2025. 45% of patients never receive a proper diagnosis**
- **Allergies and asthma often occur together: 90% of asthmatic children and 50% of asthmatic adults are allergic**

**Zurich, 3 May 2016** – In a ramp-up to the 19<sup>th</sup> annual World Asthma Day on 3 May, the [European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma](#) organised an Allergy and Asthma Awareness Event at the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels from 26-28 April. The event was organised with the support of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA). The gathering took place under the theme **“Allergy at the forefront of EU Chronic Diseases Policy: The road towards better prevention and management of Allergy in Europe”**.

Representatives from national allergy societies, patient organisations, the pharma industry, pharmacists and other healthcare providers engaged in a constructive dialogue with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) about finding ways to improve the quality of care for patients with allergy and asthma. MEPs Pietikäinen (Finland), Childers (Ireland) and Kadenbach (Austria) underlined the burden of the disease and the need for better programmes to tackle the allergy epidemics, calling for allergology to be recognised as a speciality in all member states. World Health Organisation (WHO) representative Roberto Bertollini discussed the new directions in WHO policies for chronic disease and stressed the need for a holistic approach across the European Union.

At the same time, an allergy and asthma exhibition and a “Test, inform, prevent” event were organised inside the European Parliament between 26-28 April. More than 400 people were tested and informed about how allergies can be diagnosed, managed and prevented. Fifty-three percent of the skin prick tests performed were positive, and 15% reported to have symptoms in the lower airways, which may indicate allergic asthma. Sixteen MEPs also took the test, and three of them joined the EP Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma.

Pictures from all three days can be accessed in the [web gallery](#).



### **About EAACI**

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) is a non-profit organisation active in the field of allergic and immunologic diseases such as asthma, rhinitis, eczema, occupational allergy, food and drug allergy, and anaphylaxis. EAACI was founded in 1956 in Florence and has become the largest medical association in Europe in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. It includes over 9,000 members from 121 countries, as well as 52 National Allergy Societies.

### **About the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma**

The European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma serves as a forum to share expertise and best practices, and align interests engaging with relevant EU policy-makers and stakeholders on allergy and asthma health. It strives to be a source of valuable, accurate data for evidence-based policymaking.

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