



## **Seminar on Improving medicines for older people**

*On the occasion of the World Awareness Day against Elder abuse*

**European Parliament, 15 June 2011 – Room: JAN 6Q1**

**10.00 – 12.00**

**Chair: Lambert Van Nistelrooij**

***MEP and co-chair of the Intergroup on Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity***

Older people constitute between 13% to 20% of the population of developed countries. They use more than 30% of prescribed medicines, and more than 40% of over the counter medicines. Moreover, in some countries, they account for up to 60% of total pharmaceutical expenditure. In addition, the percentage of older subjects who take several medicines is high and on the increase. Older people also have the highest risk to develop Adverse Drug Events (ADEs). In Europe, ADEs cause 20% of physicians visits as well as up to 30% of hospital admission in older people. Despite the above, older people are still generally excluded from clinical trials. As a result medicines are not developed for their specific use in older people. In February 2011, the European Medicines launched a strategy on geriatric medicines to cover these issues, which was welcomed by a high number of organisations. Beyond this strategy, other challenges are also to be taken on board.

## Draft agenda

### 10.00 – 10.10 Opening Speech

Lambert Van Nistelrooij MEP, co-chair of the Intergroup on Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity

### 10.10 – 11.00 The new EMA strategy on geriatric medicines

- **Presentation of EMA's new strategy on medicines for older people:**  
Francesca Cerreta, European Medicines Agency (15 min)
- **The point of view of geriatricians:**  
Antonio Cherubini, European Union Geriatric Medicines Society (EUGMS) (7 min)
- **The point of view of the pharmaceuticals industry:**  
Ad van Gorp, LeadPharma (7 min)
- **Older people's point of view:**  
Bozidar Voljc, AGE Platform Europe, Vice Chair of the Health expert group (7min)

*Questions from the floor (15 min)*

### 11.00 – 11.45 Beyond the new EMA strategy on geriatric medicines: what are the challenges?

- **Ensuring a positive impact of new medicines for older people**  
Dr Heidi Goethals, Belgian Christian Mutuelle (10 min)
- **Involving older people in clinical trials: the PREDICT Charter**  
Gary Mills, Deputy Coordinator of the PREDICT Project (10 min)
- **Pharmaceutical and medical abuse: a taboo**  
Barbro Westerholm, member of the Swedish Parliament (10 min)

*Questions from the floor (15 min)*

### 11.45 – 11.55 Conclusion remarks

Anne-Sophie Parent, AGE Platform Europe Secretary General

Liz Lynne MEP, Co-chair of the Intergroup on Ageing and Intergenerational solidarity on the World Awareness Day against Elder abuse

### 11.55 – 12.00 Closing speech

Lambert Van Nistelrooij, Co-chair of the Intergroup on Ageing and Intergenerational solidarity