
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
46 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.
In 2 hours, 46 people had their hearing screened

The average age of all the participants was 42 years (20 to 66y).

- 6 (13%) had two ears where at least 3 frequencies were not in normal level (> 20 dBHL).
- 2 (4%) had one ear where at least 3 frequencies were not in normal level (> 20 dBHL).
- 38 (83%) participants had normal hearing

All participants received a copy of their audiogram and an explanation by an audiologist on the status of their hearing performance.
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.
Unadressed 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
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 are acting 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!
The Importance of Screening and Prevention

Action for Hearing Loss – Make a Sound Investment
Melanie Gregory, CEO 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
Lidia Best

Intervention Quality Care

The importance of quality hearing care

- Forming a Partnership
- Harnessing the Knowledge
  - Joining forces leads to better impact and results
- Essen declaration
  - Governments need to ensure access 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

Lidia Best – EFHOH
European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Action for Hearing Loss – Make a Sound Investment
Lunch Debate
Brussels 1st March 2017

Lidia Best
Vice President
**Intervention Economic**

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 Hartmann – Health Economist
Conservatoire national des arts et métiers Paris
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!
Thank you!

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- EFHOH
- European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Lunch Debate European Parliament March 2017
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.