HEALTH INNOVATION FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT: OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ACCESS, RESILIENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS

JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION HOSTED BY MEP NICOLAS GONZALEZ CASARES AND JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY THE MEDICINES PATENT POOL (MPP), DRUGS FOR NEGLECTED DISEASES INITIATIVE (DNDI), AND SALUD POR DERECHO.

9 SEP 2026, 15:00–17:00 (CET)
European Parliament,
Room SPINELLI 3H1, Brussels

BACKGROUND

Governments' investment in biomedical research and innovation plays a critical role in scientific discovery, accelerating technological development, and supporting European competitiveness and resilience, and improving overall health outcomes and systems in the European Union and globally.

Increasingly, R&D funders are exploring how funding frameworks can better ensure that publicly supported innovation translates into stronger public return. Concerns regarding affordability, shortages and supply chain disruptions of medicines, vaccines and other health technologies in Europe and globally and inequities during COVID-19 and ongoing global health criseshave reinforced the importance of ensuring that publicly funded innovation contributes effectively to health objectives, security and strategic resilience.

There is growing recognition and practice that access planning can be integrated into research and innovation funding in ways that improve funders' leverage to strengthen both scientific and societal impact, including delivering accessible, affordable, and available health technologies for patients and health systems, as well as long-term sustainability and global competitiveness of innovation ecosystems. The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) already incorporates some access planning requirements in its funding framework, providing a practical example of how public R&I funders can embed access considerations from the outset of research projects.

Ongoing investments, policy and regulatory reforms at the European Union and globally are key opportunities to incorporate and ensure additional effective implementation of these mechanisms, including in the proposed 2028-2034 10th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10), European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), Biotech Act and the WHO Pandemic Agreement.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Convene EU policymakers, including parliamentarians, governments, and other relevant stakeholders - including R&D funders, innovators, payers, patients and civil society - to explore how to increase public return on EU biomedical R&D investments by accelerating research and development and facilitating equitable access to resulting technologies in the EU and globally.

Present the concept and growing practice of Access Planning in R&D and explore how EU R&D funding and policy instruments can incorporate and effectively implement them.

Foster dialogue among policymakers and relevant stakeholders on the benefits and feasibility of implementing access planning and socially responsible innovation srategies in EU R&D frameworks and policies.

Inform ongoing EU investments, policy reforms and negotiations and examine how access planning can be operationalised in Europe.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction - MEP Nicolas Gonzalez Casares

2. Presentations - Moderated by Esteban Burrone, MPP

- Access Planning in R&D: introduction to policies and practices - **Judit Rius Sanjuan**, independent expert
- Funders' experience with access planning - **Dessie Tarlton**, Access Lead, Unitaid
- Existing EU access R&D policies - **Michael Makanga**, Executive Director, EDCTP3
- Implementing access strategies as a product developer - **Michelle Childs**, Policy Advocacy Director, DNDi
- Access considerations in Europe's preparedness and response- **Ana Burgos Gutiérrez**, Head of Unit, European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (DG HERA)
- Access needs and challenges of European Health Systems – **Javier Padilla Bernáldez**, Secretary of State for Health, Spain

3. Discussion - Moderated by Vanessa López, Salud por Derecho

Invited Respondents:

- **Yannis Natsis**, Director, European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)
- **Becky Jones-Phillips**, Director of Enterprise and Innovation Unit, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- **Anton Stoyanov**, R&I Policy & Advocacy Manager, Resilience Action Network International (RANI)
- **Claire Poppelwell-Scevak,** Consultant, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)

Open forum for discussion.

4. Close of session & key take-aways