



EULAR Brussels Conference 2016

Reducing the burden of chronic diseases in the workplace

New policies for better working conditions and the retention of ill people at work

*Brussels, Thon Hotel EU
12 October 2016
#EULARbrussels2016*

Agenda

8:15 – 09:15 Registration

9:15 – 10:00 Opening session – Live streamed

- ◆ **Prof. Gerd R. Burmester**, EULAR President
- ◆ **Marianne Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility (video-message)
- ◆ **Roberta Metsola**, Member of the European Parliament
- ◆ **Marios Kouloumas**, EULAR Vice-President representing People with Arthritis/Rheumatism in Europe (PARE)

10:00 – 11:00 How well is Europe doing in preventing musculoskeletal diseases in the workplace and facilitating people with RMDs to stay at work? What else needs to be done? – Live streamed

- ◆ **Main challenges in health and safety at work for people with chronic conditions**
Laurène Souchet, Policy Officer, European Patients' Forum (EPF)
- ◆ **Work is good - RMDs, clinical impact and preventive strategies**
Dr. Rikke Helene Moe, Physical Therapist and Researcher, National Advisory Unit on Rehabilitation in Rheumatology (Norway)



- ◆ **How does the EU intend to contribute to reducing the burden of RMDs and other chronic diseases in the work place? Legislation and policy initiatives developments**
Antonio Cammarota, Head of the OSH Committees and International Relations Team, DG Employment and Social Affairs, European Commission
- ◆ **Preventing RMDs and including people with RMDs in the work place: The experience and views of the RMD community**
Marios Kouloumas, EULAR Vice-President representing People with Arthritis / Rheumatism in Europe (PARE)
- ◆ **Q&A**

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 13:10 Workshops

- ◆ **Primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of RMDs in the work place: What legislation and policy initiatives do we need?**
Co-organiser: European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)
Chairs: Prof. Hans Bijlsma (EULAR) & Mathias Maucher (EPSU)
- ◆ **Dealing with RMDs in the workplace: How to improve access to occupational health professionals and therapists?**
Co-organiser: European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)
Chairs: Annette Ladefoged de Thurah (EULAR) and Dr. Franz Terwey (ESIP)
- ◆ **How to facilitate the retention of people with RMDs in the work place as well as the return to work after sick leave?**
Co-organiser: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work- EU-OSHA
Chairs: Ailsa Bosworth (EULAR & NRAS) & Brenda O'Brien (EU-OSHA)

13:10 – 14:20 Lunch

14:20 – 14:55 Report of workshops – Live streamed

- ◆ **Report of workshops**
- ◆ **Q&A**



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fighting rheumatic & musculoskeletal
diseases together

14:55 – 16:10 Panel debate: Do we need better EU legislation to reduce the burden of RMDs in the work place? – Live streamed

- ◆ **Heinz K. Becker** (Member of the European Parliament) | **Antonio Cammarota** (Head of the OSH Committees and International Relations Team, DG Employment and Social Affairs, European Commission) | **William Cockburn** (Head of the Prevention and Research Unit, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work) | **Esther Lynch** (Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation) | **Ber Oomen** (Executive Secretary, European Specialist Nurses Organisation) | **Prof. Anthony Woolf** (Universities of Exeter and Plymouth & EULAR); Moderator: Cathy Smith (Journalist)

16:10 – 16:45 Closing session – Live streamed

Chair: Prof. Gerd R. Burmester, EULAR President

- ◆ **Takis Hadjigeorgiou**, Member of the European Parliament
- ◆ **Ricardo Baptista Leite**, Member of Parliament, Portugal
- ◆ **Leen Meulenbergs**, WHO Representative to the European Union

16:45 – 17:30 Cocktail

