



Brussels, 26 September 2011

Invitation:
***Meeting of the European Parliament Interest Group on
Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)***

Topic: The need for research into health promotion and CAM

Date: Tuesday 11 October 14.30 –16.00

Venue: European Parliament --- Room 8F388

To date, health research has mostly focused on studying diseases and the effect of various therapeutic interventions upon them. Comparable progress in understanding how a state of health can be maintained and how, via prevention and intervention, better health can be attained, needs to be made urgently.

CAM can play an innovative role in the context of the enormous personal, social and economic cost of chronic disease and health inequalities. CAM is primarily aimed at maintaining and restoring the persons' own natural systems for maintaining health and fighting disease, and for sustaining health improvement. For these reasons and given its widespread demand among European citizens, research into its innovative contribution to EU health programmes should have a high priority.

Professor Dr Harald Walach, one of the most experienced European researchers in the field of CAM, will present the evidence for the contribution CAM can make in public health programmes and for what future research is needed to bring that contribution into effective partnership in European health systems.

Mr Alain Vanvossel will present the perspective of DG Research on the topic.

The meeting will offer the opportunity for policy makers and stakeholders to enter into an active dialogue and thereby assist the EP Interest Group on CAM and the Commission to make informed decisions on a subject highly relevant for the health of all EU citizens.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to welcoming you on 11 October.

With best wishes,

Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP
Elena Oana Antonescu MEP
Thomas Ulmer MEP

Marian Harkin MEP
Liisa Jaakonsaari MEP
Chiles Chichester MEP

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome and introduction: Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP**

- 2 Position of DG Research**

Mr Alain Vanvossel
DG Research, adviser on research, innovation and health

- 3 Position of EUROCAM, the alliance of European umbrella organisations of patients, physicians and practitioners in the field of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)**

Prof. Dr. Dr. phil. Harald Walach
Institute for Transcultural Health Studies, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany

- 4 Open discussion**

- 5 Close: Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP**