



## Invitation

**Meeting of the European Parliament Interest Group MEPs for CAM  
(Complementary and Alternative Medicine)**

***Ensuring the availability of CAM medicinal products  
for the benefit of EU citizens  
in order to exploit their potential to address  
some major health issues of our time such as  
antimicrobial resistance and chronic disease***

**Date:** Wednesday 1 July 2015, 15:00-17:00

**Venue:** European Parliament, Room ASP 1 E 201

In several EU Member States the availability of CAM herbal, homeopathic, and anthroposophic medicinal products is unnecessarily restricted, a fact confirmed by a recent report by Matrix Insight, commissioned by DG Health and Food Safety. The lack of availability of these products inhibits an increasing demand by EU citizens for low risk, health enhancing CAM medicines, hampering the ability of doctors and practitioners to deliver CAM treatments effectively. It also undermines the potential benefit of these products in helping to tackle health issues prioritised by the Commission e.g. combating anti-microbial resistance, managing chronic conditions and sustaining healthy ageing. Urgent measures are now needed to increase the availability of these products across the EU.

Experts from the CAM community will outline issues that limit availability of CAM medicinal products, presenting proposals for positive action within the current legal framework in order to improve their accessibility.

The meeting will offer the opportunity for policy makers, researchers and stakeholders to enter into an active dialogue on a subject of great importance for the health of EU citizens, one in two of whom currently use CAM.

Thank you for your interest and support; we very much look forward to seeing you on 1 July.

Hosted by Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP

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## **AGENDA**

### **15h00 Welcome and Introduction**

MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland)

### **15h05 Position of the Commission**

Mr Tipani Piha, Unit SANTE 3 - Health systems (tbc)

### **15h20 Presentations**

#### **1. Introduction: CAM - its current state-of-play in Europe**

Ton Nicolai MD, EUROCAM spokesman/coordinator

#### **2. European citizens – the patients' demand for CAM medicinal products**

Sato Liu, General Secretary, European Federation of Homeopathic Patients' Associations

#### **3. Herbal medicinal products (e.g. Western, TCM and Ayurvedic)**

##### **a. General comments with reference to the Matrix report**

Herbert Schwabl PhD, Board member DaKoMed - Swiss Umbrella Organisation of Complementary Medicine

##### **b. The situation in the United Kingdom**

Michael McIntyre

Chair, European Herbal & Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association

Visiting Professor, Middlesex University, UK

#### **4. Homeopathic medicinal products - with reference to the Matrix report**

Stephen Gordon MCH RSHom FSHom, General Secretary, European Central Council of Homeopaths

#### **5. Anthroposophic medicinal products - with reference to the Matrix report**

Madeleen Winkler MD, Vice-President, International Federation of Anthroposophic Medical Associations (IVAA).

### **16h20 Open discussion**

### **16h50 Closing**

MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen