

# Activity highlights & achievements of the Interest Group (2014-2019 legislature)

2015



- **March:** [Launch of the Interest Group - policy meeting on the burden of allergic disease](#)
- **June:** Review of the NEC Directive - Members of the group in the ENVI committee submitted amendments to the report on the review of the National Emissions Ceiling (NEC) directive, outlining the links between clean air and better health and supporting stricter emission reduction commitments, compulsory reduction of air pollutants by 2025, compulsory targets for methane, ammonia and mercury. Amendments were included in the final ENVI committee report.
- **July:** [Policy event "Allergy and Asthma Patients need Clean Air in Europe" - context of the review of the EU clean air regulations, anticipating the ENVI committee vote on the NEC Directive.](#)
- **The meeting highlighted key needs for improved air quality in Europe and discussed how to implement "health in all policies".**
- **Throughout year:** Informative collaterals on the Interest Group, on clean air and chronic diseases

2016



- **April:** Allergy exhibition ["Test Your Allergies – Test, Inform, Prevent"](#) and skin prick testing for allergies in the European Parliament and policy event "Allergy at the forefront of EU Chronic Diseases Policy" discussing how to improve allergy prevention and care in the context of the EU reflection process on chronic diseases.
  - > **Over 400 people tested, 53% of which were sensitised**
  - > **Awareness raising video to inform about allergy and asthma**
  - > **Articles by Members of the Group in the Parliament Magazine.**
- **October-January 2019:** European Parliament [written declaration 115/2016](#) on chronic respiratory diseases, initiated by members of the group.
  - > **Supported by 1 out of 3 MEPs, from 26 EU countries**
  - > **Launched and leveraged during two events hosted by the Interest Group in the European Parliament in Strasbourg with spirometry testing, and in Brussels "The ABC to lead actions on Chronic Respiratory Diseases in Europe", with insight on sustainable healthcare, prevention and research, and on EU and national policies on chronic diseases.**

2017



- **April-Sept:** Political [Call to Action "United Action for Allergy and Asthma"](#) and pan European campaign
  - > **Launched during a policy meeting in the European Parliament, which highlighted good practices on allergy and asthma including the Finnish Allergy Programme.**
  - > **Recognised by the Commission as a valuable collaboration between patients, doctors and policy makers.**
  - > **Endorsed by over 183 national, European and international organisations (80% Europeans), including 16 EU-level organisations, and over 30 MEPs.**
- **September-October:** Amendments submitted by members of the group to the Parliament's report on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, pointing at the need to have an indoor air quality certificate to prevent chronic respiratory diseases, and to guarantee the right to clean air in EU indoor spaces.

2018



- **October:** Policy event in the context of the discussions on the next EU framework programme for research and innovation Horizon Europe, ["How to overcome the barriers to research in chronic NCDs in Europe? The case of allergy and asthma"](#) highlighting the societal importance of tackling universal access to high quality respiratory care, as well as the need for translational research and to prioritise research challenges and funding for allergy, asthma in the next research programme.
- **October:** [Launch of the Interest Group's website](#)

# About the European Parliament Interest Group

## The Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma is meant to serve as a unifying platform to:

- Contribute to EU policies on chronic diseases to reflect the needs of allergy and asthma patients and better prevent these diseases
- Improve EU policies against outdoor pollution and promote action to tackle indoor pollution
- Foster European research in environmental health, with an emphasis on unmet needs of allergy and asthma research
- Inform on needed action on labelling of chemicals and allergens in consumer products
- Facilitate the exchange of best healthcare practices and recognition of allergology as a full medical speciality across the EU

For more information visit our website

[www.allergyasthmaparliament.eu](http://www.allergyasthmaparliament.eu)

[#EPAllergyAsthma](https://twitter.com/EPAllergyAsthma)

