



**The Greens | European Free Alliance**  
in the European Parliament

## **Goodbye universal services? The Undermining of Health and Social Services in the European Union**

**19th-20th September 2007**

Wednesday 19th September 15:00-18:30 Thursday 09:30-12:30

European Parliament Brussels, Room ASP 1G2

Social and Health Services are key instruments to achieve fundamental rights and social cohesion. They serve to improve the living conditions of people living in the European union and are essential to allow citizens, especially those at risk of exclusion access to and participation in civil society. Although Social and Health Services are organised, delivered and financed at Member State, regional or local level, the EU interference in this field is increasing. Providers of these services risk interference with commercial-market-oriented legislation such as competition legislation, financing rules (state aid) and procurement rules. With the Services Directive the EU has set down principles how to apply the free movement of (commercial) services.

How can we stop this indirect undermining of Health and Social Services?

How can we accompany the recent legislation in the field of Social and Health Services?

What do we need from the EU? Legislation? Clear exceptions? Rückzug (withdrawal)?

## Programme

Wednesday September 19th 15:00-18:30

9.30 Opening and introduction by **Sepp Kusstatscher**, MEP, Greens/EFA

### Introduction:

#### The Current State of Play at European Level:

#### Legislative interferences affecting Health and Social Services

Jean Lambert, MEP, Greens/EFA

### Key speech:

#### The current legal conditions for Health and social services in the internal market.

#### Room to act?

Rita Baeten (*European Social Observatory*)

### Panel 1:

#### The Status Quo: How the EU does interfere at "acting level"?

#### Service providers present their day-to-day situation delivering Social and Health Services

Chairperson **Elisabeth Schroedter**, MEP, Greens/EFA

**Territorial Cohesion:** Accessibility and availability across Europe?

(German County association)

**Major non-profit organisations:** How to act efficiently and economically sustainable but not clash with competition legislation?

(Eurodiaconia - a key provider of social services)

**Social housing:** an economic activity like any other?

(Fédération nationale des associations d'accueil et de réinsertion sociale)

**Care Services:** Combining health and social services.

(Lega Coop - South Tirolian service provider in a border region)

Thursday September 20th 09:30-13:00

**Panel 2:**

**The needs analysis:**

**We, users and providers of Health and Social Services expect from the European Union ....?**

Chairperson **Heide Ruehle**, MEP, Greens/EFA

**The most vulnerable users**

(FEANTSA European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless)

**The role of public institutions as Service Providers**

(European Public Services Union/ National Health Service UK)

**The health care sector in a changing legal environment**

(HOPE European hospital and health care federation)

**A key target and user group: people experiencing poverty**

(EAPN European Anti-Poverty Network)

**PANEL 3**

**Conclusions for the EU-level:**

**How to act, how to protect and develop Health and Social Services at European level?**

Chairperson: **Pierre Jonckheer**, MEP, Greens/EFA

**The Legislator's perspective**

European Commission

**The Parliament's perspective**

MEP

**The providers' perspective**

SOLIDAR

**The users' perspective**

(AGE the European Older People's Platform)

**Registration is required.**

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In case you don't have a valid EP entrance badge, please indicate your date of birth and address.

**Translation in English, German, French will be provided.**