

## Week of 29 September 2014



### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*The discoveries have solved a problem that has occupied philosophers and scientists for centuries*

The Nobel Assembly emphasizes the importance of work of three scientists - Edvard Moser, John O'Keefe and May-Britt Moser, who discovered the brain's "GPS system". They were awarded this year's Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine.  
Find out more in Articles of interest section.

### AGENDA WATCH

#### **Draft agenda of the Research Working Party meeting (*Council Register*)**

Research Working Party Meeting will take place on July 7.

Items on the agenda include:

- Draft Council conclusions on a Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
- (pos.) Horizon 2020 first lessons learned

### ARTICLES OF INTEREST

#### **Nobel Prize for the brain's GPS discovery (*BBC News, Health*)**

The Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine has been awarded to three scientists who discovered the brain's "GPS system".

#### **Andriukaitis must be clearer on health issues (*EPP Group, European Parliament*)**

Health and food safety will continue to be a focus of attention in the interest of European citizens. This is why Europe needs a strong EU Commissioner. "The Commissioner-Designate on Health and Food Safety has tried to make it clear today that he wants to play an important role in this. We regret, however, that some of his answers were very vague," said the EPP Group spokesperson on health and food safety, Peter Liese MEP.

#### **S&Ds demand equal access to healthcare to be a key priority for future commissioner Andriukaitis (*S&D Group, European Parliament*)**

The Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament today made sure that the commissioner-designate for health and food safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, will both protect and enhance equal access to healthcare and safeguard food safety.

#### **Researchers demonstrate direct brain-to-brain communication in human subjects using non-invasive technologies (*EC DG CONNECT*)**

In a first-of-its-kind study, an international team of neuroscientists and robotics engineers have demonstrated the viability of direct brain-to-brain communication in humans. Recently published in PLoS ONE, the highly novel findings describe the successful transmission of information via the internet between the intact scalps of two human subjects located 5,000 miles apart.

#### **The Future of Europe is Science (*European Commission RAPID*)**

On 6 October 2014 the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso was in Lisbon to attend the high level conference on "The Future of Europe is Science".

#### **European Health Forum Gastein - Press Releases 2014 (*European Health Forum Gastein*)**

#### **Patients to discuss benefit-risk evaluation of medicines with the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (*EMA*)**

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has launched a pilot project to involve patients in the assessment of the benefits

and risks of medicines in its Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP).

### **EMA confirms positive benefit-risk for antidepressant Valdoxan/Thymanax (agomelatine) (EMA)**

In Europe, health spending continued to fall in 2012 in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, as well as in the Czech Republic and Hungary. In Greece, health spending in real terms was 25% lower in 2012 than in 2009, primarily driven by cuts in public spending.

### **The EP's position on the General Data Protection Regulation threatens EU Research! (League of European Research Universities, LERU)**

LERU expresses serious concern at amendments made by the European Parliament to the European General Data Protection Regulation and calls upon the Council of Ministers to oppose the amendments that would be highly detrimental for scientific research, in particular amendments to Article 81 and Article 83.

### **EU in need of 'sustainable and patient-centred' health policies (The Parliament Magazine)**

According to Helmut Brand, 'there is plenty of need and plenty of room for new ideas' in European health policy.

### **Depression affecting 30 million people across the EU (The Parliament Magazine)**

Depression has a huge impact on the daily lives of sufferers and, according to Jutta Steinruck, it's the duty of policymakers to address the growing problem.

### **IMI Future Topics (Innovative Medicines Initiative)**

Data collection and exploitation is a growing phenomenon; in response to industry and grassroots demands the European Commission is today calling on national governments to wake-up to this "big data" revolution.

### **New health Commissioner calls for more innovation and improved health and food safety (Science Business)**

Vytienis Andriukaitis pledges to widen access to innovative healthcare across the EU and to keep the highest health and food safety standards in a more equal 'Health Union'.

### **Row erupts over Juncker's proposal to shift oversight of Pharma (Science Business)**

Pharma industry denies it lobbied for medicines to move from health to enterprise directorate.

### **EU chooses its new torch-bearer for science, research and innovation (Science Business)**

Carlos Moedas, Portugal's nominee for EU Commissioner for research, wins over MEPs. Now it's time for implementation, implementation, implementation, he says.

### **EPHA urges European Parliament to reject moving EU pharma policy to enterprise portfolio (EPHA)**

When questioning the EU Commissioners-designate this week, MEPs should reject the decision by Jean-Claude Juncker, the European Commission President-elect, to move pharmaceutical policy from the health to the enterprise portfolio. The main driver of EU policies concerning pharmaceuticals and health technologies should be promoting and protecting health and patient safety, not simply boosting the competitiveness of the industry.

### **EP hearing - Elzbieta Bienkowska European Commissioner-designate for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Pharma industry denies it lobbied for medicines to move to DG Enterprise (EPHA)**

The pharmaceutical industry is the biggest sector in the world. In terms of production, the EU occupies third place when it comes to export of medicines worldwide. This sector is highly innovative, which is why it makes sense to place it within DG Enterprise, claimed Bienkowska.

### **Polish EU commissioner: 'I'm lobbyist-proof' (euobserver)**

Elzbieta Bienkowska, who is to take over the single market portfolio, will, in a restructuring, also take charge of healthcare technology and pharmaceuticals as well as co-running the European Medicines Agency, which authorises new drugs.

### **Pharma industry denies it lobbied for medicines to move to DG Enterprise (EurActiv)**

Europe's pharmaceutical industry has said it did not lobby for medicines and medical devices to be moved from the European Commission's health directorate (DG Sanco) to the enterprise directorate (DG Enterprise).

### **Vytienis Andriukaitis's confirmation hearing - as it happened (European Voice)**

The former Lithuanian minister of health has been nominated to be the next European commissioner for health and food safety.

### **Juncker defends lobby-friendly restructuring of commission services (EU Observer)**

New EU commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker has defended his decision to shift the health technology and pharmaceutical policy services back to the more lobby-friendly internal market directorate.

## FOR YOUR AGENDA

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### Official intergroups of the European Parliament timetable:

- 22 October 2014 - Submission by Members of the applications for the establishment of intergroups in accordance with the Rules governing the establishment of intergroups.
- 26 November 2014 - Adoption by each political group of their final priority list of intergroups.
- 9 December 2014 - Presentation for the meeting of the political groups' Secretaries-General of the lists of the confirmed intergroups.
- 11 December 2014 - Final approval of the intergroups by the Conference of Presidents.

Please click [here](#) to access more information about the official intergroups of the European Parliament. A complete list of all official intergroups will be reported in the EER once they have been approved.

### Forthcoming events:

1-3 October, Bad Hofgastein, Austria: the **17th European Health Forum Gastein**

09 October, Oslo, Norway: **The development of homes and housing services for persons with disabilities, persons with mental health problems, homeless people and people in need of housing support.**

15 October, Brussels, Belgium: The European Association of Research and Technology Organisations holds a policy event on **Future challenges of Europe's research and innovation (R&D) policy.** (PDF)

17-20 November, Brussels, Belgium: **6th European Innovation Summit**

24 - 25 November, London, UK: **EMA workshop on the clinical investigation of medicines for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease**

16-18 December, Venice, Italy: the **European Conference on Youth Mental Health from Continuity of Psychopathology to Continuity of Care**

### EBC specific meetings:

Date	Type of meeting
17 December	3 <sup>rd</sup> EBC Board Meeting

### EBC Members events:

Name	Date	Location
EANS European Congress of Neurosurgery 2014	14 - 17 October 2014	Prague, Czech Republic
27th ECNP Congress	18 - 21 October 2014	Berlin, Germany

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