

GOING BEYOND

Ending the HIV
epidemic by



2030

From Belgium to the EU

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Belgium and the European Union (EU) have demonstrated a strong commitment to ending the HIV epidemic as a public health threat, recognizing the ongoing challenges and the critical need for continued action. Despite notable progress, both entities acknowledge the evolving dynamics of the epidemic, particularly the demographic shifts among those living with HIV.

To bolster these efforts, Gilead Sciences organized the event **“Going Beyond: From Belgium to the EU – Ending the HIV epidemic by 2030”** on Thursday, 21 March 2024, at the BIP Meeting Center in Brussels. This multi-stakeholder event aimed to unite both Belgian and EU stakeholders, fostering collaboration and dialogue to discuss solutions to address the challenges of HIV. This served as a pivotal platform for sharing insights, strategies, and best practices, underlining the collective commitment to advancing the shared goal to end the HIV epidemic as a public health threat in Europe. This with the aim to enhancing integrated person-centered care looking at the (health related) quality of life of people with HIV, highlighting the key role of innovation in this cause and integrated efforts across Europe to better serve affected individuals and communities, including the most vulnerable ones.

During the policy dialogue, key figures from various sectors — including Belgian policymakers, international key opinion leaders (KOLs), healthcare professionals (HCPs), and members of the European Parliament — contributed their expertise, experience, and knowledge on HIV.

Belgian Policymakers

- **Mr. Frank Vandenbroucke (Vooruit)**, Belgian Federal Minister for Social Affairs and Public Health.
- **Dr. Maggie De Block (Open Vld)**, Member of Parliament for Open Vld and former Belgian Federal Minister for Social Affairs and Public Health.
- **Mr. Orry Van de Wauwer (cd&v)**, Member of the Flemish Parliament for and Senator.

Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs):

- **Mrs. Christine Stegling**, Deputy Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Knowledge at UNAIDS.
- **Prof. Giovanni Guaraldi**, Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in Italy.
- **Mr. Axel Vanderperre** of the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG).
- **Dr. Esteban Martínez**, President of the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS).

Healthcare Professional (KOL)

- **Prof. Jean-Christophe Goffard**, Associate Director at the HIV Reference Center at Hôpital Universitaire de Bruxelles, Hôpital Erasme, ULB

Members of the European Parliament

- **Mr. Cristian-Silviu Buşoi**, Member of the Group of the European People's Party and Chair of the European Parliament Industry, Research, and Energy Committee.
- **Mr. Cyrus Engerer and Mrs. Josianne Cutajar**, both serving as Members of the European Parliament for the S&D Group.

Industry Representative

- **Michael Elliott**, Vice President of Medical Affairs for Australia, Canada, and Europe at Gilead.



The Going Beyond initiative emphasized a shift from reactive to proactive healthcare, focusing on prevention and social determinants of health to build a more robust system that is both equitable and sustainable.

Overview policy asks:

CALL FOR ACTION AND COLLABORATION



Lifespan wellbeing of people living with HIV

- 1.** Address the specific needs (e.g. prevention, assessment and management of comorbidities) of aging populations with HIV, focusing on comprehensive, integrated and person-centered medical care.
- 2.** Develop and support initiatives that prioritize CNS (e.g. cognitive impairment, sleep disorders) and mental health (e.g. anxiety, depression) and substance abuse care, recognizing these as critical components of healthy aging for HIV-positive populations.
- 3.** Combating stigma and discrimination by promoting intergenerational dialogue and educating the society.
- 4.** Advocate for research and policies that consider the long-term success outcomes and quality and health related quality of life for people living with HIV, including chronic inflammation, drug interactions, forgiveness, HIV drug resistance as well as durable viral suppression, and ensuring they receive integrated, person-centered care.



Reaching vulnerable communities



- 1.** Improve testing, rapid linkage and retention to the best prevention and care options, and understanding of available treatments and approaches within these vulnerable communities.
- 2.** Facilitate better awareness and education within communities and among healthcare professionals to improve communication and prevention care for vulnerable populations.

Advocating for holistic HIV policy action plans at all levels


1. Ensure better access to innovative preventive measures and treatment options. Emphasize the importance of combination prevention strategies, such as condom use, screening and testing, early detection, and different PrEP options.
2. Support and Secure funding for innovation in HIV prevention, treatment and care.
3. Expand the network of testing centers.
4. Share and emphasize the crucial 'U=U' message to the general public at EU and national levels to increase awareness and fight against stigma and discrimination.
5. Increase funding and political support for HIV initiatives, and always involve patient communities, HCPs and the broader ecosystem in policymaking.



U = U

Undetectable = Untransmittable

Share and emphasize the crucial 'U=U' message to the general public at EU and national levels to increase awareness and fight against stigma and discrimination.



The call for a cohesive, collaborative and integrated approach resonates across all policy asks, advocating for networks and partnerships that unite stakeholders and policymakers in a shared mission to end the HIV epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 in Europe and to ensure long term success and health outcomes for people living with HIV. This collaborative effort is crucial, aiming to align EU, Belgian and other national policy efforts with the distinct challenges in engaging vulnerable communities and ensuring the overall wellbeing and healthy aging of people with HIV.

Together, we can help end the HIV epidemic for everyone, everywhere.



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