

14 million of your female constituents battle with the symptoms of endometriosis every single day

The symptoms of endometriosis can be so severe that it can leave a woman unable to finish an education or maintain a career and the disease can have significant effect on her quality of life, relationships, ability to have children, and carries a substantial socio-economic impact.

Yet the origin of endometriosis is poorly understood, most treatments have side effects, and there is no cure. Recent data shows that this costs society more than migraine and Crohn's disease.

Diana Wallis MEP, herself an endometriosis sufferer, will host a sandwich lunch with refreshments on

28 March 2007 at 12.30

European Parliament, Spinelli building, room ASP 1H1

Please join:

Professor Thomas D'Hooghe from Leuven University Hospital, Belgium, who will present data, which confirms the socio-economic impact of endometriosis and the struggle researchers face due to lack of funding. Professor D'Hooghe chairs the Special Interest Group on Endometriosis within the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE).

Italian Senator, Laura Bianconi, who will provide an overview of the actions, which have been undertaken by the Italian Senate – the first in Europe to recognise endometriosis as a social disease. The Italian Senate has produced a five-year plan to improve treatments for those with endometriosis and Senator Bianconi calls upon her colleagues across Europe to be inspired to do the same.

Lone Hummelshoj, Secretary General of the World Endometriosis Society and Co-Coordinator of the European Endometriosis Alliance, who will present recent developments within this field and the areas where attention, action, and investment is needed.

There will be plenty of time for questions and debate.

In 2005, the Written Declaration on Endometriosis attracted more signatures than any other human health issue - now we need to move that into action!

Please show your support for the millions of women in Europe, who suffer from endometriosis. Join us on 28 March to learn more about the personal and social challenges of this disease. Meet with those representing sufferers across the European countries, and take away information on what you can do for your constituents.

For more information, please contact Diana Wallis MEP: diana.wallis@europarl.europa.eu | +32 (0)2 284 7201

Endometriosis is a disease where tissue, similar to the lining of the uterus, is found in other areas of the body, where it may cause pain and infertility. A lack of awareness leads to an average diagnostic delay of more than eight years. Treatments include pain killers, hormonal drug therapies, surgery, assisted reproduction – and as a last resort: hysterectomy. The origin of endometriosis is poorly understood, most treatments have side effects, and there is no cure.



www.eshre.com



www.endometriosis.ca

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www.endometriosis.org/eea.html