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## The EUROCAM post

### It is time to vote

The European Elections will take place from 23 till 26 May. As Member States have different voting traditions the European elections take place over 4 days.

It is important that the future EU political leaders in the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council are aware of the need to include CAM in the 2019-2024 legislature. EUROCAM recommends that you look closely at your national political parties to check their position on sustainable health care and in particular Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM).

### **EUROCAM focus in these elections**

EUROCAM is working hard to influence the decision making of EU political leaders. The focus is on convincing them to support and provide the means to mainstream CAM into European health policies and healthcare systems, as well as funding research into the benefits and cost-effectiveness of CAM.

Together with hundreds of millions of European citizens we all have the chance to elect who will represent us as Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)

in the new European Parliament for the 2019-2024 parliamentary term.

## **How does the European Parliament work?**

The European Parliament consists of 751 MEPs elected from the 28 European Member States. The allocation of seats depends on the size of the population of each country.

After MEPs have been elected they become a member of one of the transnational political groups their party is affiliated with. An MEP can debate about and vote on new European legislation.

It's worth noting that the EU cannot legislate on healthcare; it has to respect the decisions of each Member State for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care. However, the EU has a mandate to complement national action on health with the objectives of protecting people from health threats and disease, promoting healthy lifestyles; and helping national authorities in the EU cooperate on health issues.

In addition, the EU has the competence to adopt harmonising measures that take away obstacles to the freedom to provide services and the freedom of establishment.

The results of the European elections will have an impact on all European citizens' health and lives. Our votes will contribute to a Europe in the next political era.

## **CAM's contribution to health policy**

EU health systems are facing a number of challenges, like ageing populations, antimicrobial resistance, non-communicable diseases and soaring healthcare costs.

CAM can make a substantial contribution to address these health policy issues, as CAM treatments are more adapted to the individual needs of patients and complement conventional medicine to improve treatment outcomes.

Moreover, CAM modalities can often be used as a first option in treating many conditions, reducing the use of usually costly conventional drugs, which nevertheless would remain for use if required.

CAM modalities can help to prevent the long-term dependency on conventional medication and to reduce the enormous burden of mortality and morbidity caused by the adverse effects of conventional drugs.

EUROCAM calls on the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council, in the 2019-2024 legislature, to include CAM in their policies to tackle the

following issues: antimicrobial resistance (AMR), non-communicable (chronic) diseases (NCDs) and reducing healthcare costs.

More information can be found on EUROCAM's website on the [European election page](#).

## **EU4Health**

European and International Organisations with a shared vision for health in Europe are participating in an EU4health initiative.

In the joint statement 'Let's do more for health' 7 concrete targets on health are set out for the next European Parliament and Commission. All 7 are within the EU competences.

EUROCAM is one of the 19 organizations participating in this [EU4Health](#) initiative.

EUROCAM recommends that you look closely at your national political parties to check their position on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) and take this outcome into account when casting your vote. Having more supportive MEPs will certainly facilitate EUROCAM's advocacy work in Brussels.



## **GDPR**

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EUROCAM is a foundation uniting and representing European organisations in the CAM sector. Our objective is to promote and facilitate CAM's role in enhancing and maintaining citizens' health, highlighting the health promotion and illness prevention aspects of CAM for EU public health policy and programmes. EUROCAM seeks to achieve advantage in the accessibility, affordability and availability of CAM and generally promote CAM at European level.

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