



OPEN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE

Highlights

MP OPEN CALL #6

Your Direct Line to Europe's Policymakers

2 March 2021

The Open European Dialogue is committed to strengthening dialogue between policymakers across Europe by providing a neutral, informal, and accessible space for conversation. Our monthly, online MP Open Calls grew out of this mission and are a space for parliamentarians to set the agenda, discuss pressing national and European issues, and support each other by sharing best practices and concerns.

Our call was joined by six parliamentarians from Austria, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Slovenia. They came together to discuss the urgency of an effective vaccine rollout in Europe, the logistics of a vaccine 'Green Pass', and which vaccines are trusted by European citizens.

Highlights from the conversation

- **Europe must keep its promise of a fast and effective vaccine rollout.** Addressing the general frustration experienced by many, one MP quipped that “half of EU countries feel like they have the slowest rollouts.”
 - “There is valid criticism of the slowness [of the rollout], but one can say that the vaccine rollout situation has been better inside the EU than outside of the EU.”
 - “People have ‘jumped the queue’ to get vaccinated earlier in my country.”
 - “I have asked my prime minister to join the Austrian and Danish governments in seeking a new alliance with Israel for future vaccine purchases.”
 - “Production lines are bottlenecking the vaccination process in Europe.”
 - “Do we need compulsory licensing for vaccine production to ramp up the process?”
- **The Green Pass initiative is promising but faces practical policy challenges.** The initiative would allow those that are vaccinated to travel and work freely, “great for the tourism industry,” said one MP, but it has unclear socioeconomic consequences in its implementation.
 - “Having only older, retired generations being able to resume their economic activities does put younger age groups behind economically.”

- “Young children do not get vaccinated, but many are asymptomatic and could spread the virus. Would they be allowed to travel with a vaccine passport?”
 - “Would the green pass ensure safety – what virus variants would it need to cover?”
 - “We already have a yellow pass issued by the World Health Organization that is internationally recognized.”
 - **Trust in the different available vaccines differs from country to country.** One MP described how the little trust toward the AstraZeneca vaccine in Germany has made many unwilling to use it, wondering how the situation looks in other European countries.
 - “Leaders in some other European countries have already begun looking at other vaccine options from China and Russia – are we going to be picky?”
 - “In Russia, there is more positive PR for AstraZeneca as opposed to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines - their media landscape holds opposite opinions to many in the EU.”
 - “We have to be aware of possible political strings attached to the Russian vaccine.”
 - **It is important for governments and MPs to speak openly and to provide information on the vaccines.** As our visiting expert Kristine Berzina described, public opinion on vaccination is easily swayed by opposing media sources. There is also little transparency on the agreements countries are making per vaccine contract, which is eroding public trust in the process – parliamentarians can play a role in setting the record straight for their constituents.
-

Resources

- [OED Research Package: Covid-19 Vaccination Rollout](#), March 2021
 - [Austria and Denmark Plan Vaccines with Israel](#), March 2021
 - [Covid-19: Different Types of Vaccines and How They Work](#), February 2021
 - [The Geopolitics of Vaccines in Europe’s Eastern Neighborhood](#), January 2021
-

New format! OED Policy Sprint: A focused working group for policymakers

As the topic of parliamentary oversight has been brought repeatedly over the last months, the OED will volunteer its process expertise to take the conversation to a next level for all interested network members in the first-ever **OED Policy Sprint**. Following the steps of the design sprint methodology, this new format has interested MPs to tackle a single topic, beginning with problem exploration to working out a feasible way to solve it, in a small number of highly focused meetings. This approach is well suited to groups that have innate expertise in a subject area and is designed to serve as a guided process through which participants formulate a common and impactful response.

As a network member, you are invited to join this pioneer effort to **begin developing realistic solutions for better parliamentary oversight** during crises. This is an opportunity to work with your international colleagues on an issue across parliaments. The OED Policy Sprint will be held in three 90-minute sessions with the same participants over six weeks. Between sessions, the OED research team and external experts will prepare follow-up information and briefings to ensure a highly productive and goal-oriented process throughout. If you did not already express your interest in joining the OED Policy Sprint during the call, you can **contact Rebecca Farulli at rfarulli@gmfus.org to sign-up now.**

What more can we do to drive the conversation forward?

The Open European Dialogue is a network driven by MPs. We look forward to hearing from you and helping you as best we can to connect and work with your colleagues from across Europe in these challenging times.

Keep in contact with your colleagues! Please know that you can always find the contact details of all **OED members** on the [members-only area of the website](#). Should you have issues logging in, you can contact rfarulli@gmfus.org.

OUR NEXT MP OPEN CALL WILL TAKE PLACE ON

Tuesday, 6 April 2021
FROM 08:00 – 09:00 A.M. (CEST)

COOPERATIVELY RUN BY THINK TANKS AND FOUNDATIONS ACROSS EUROPE

STIFTUNG
MERCATOR

King Baudouin
Foundation
Working together for a better society

Robert Bosch
Stiftung

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund
of the United States
SPENDING THE TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Istituto Affari
Internazionali

CIDOB
BARCELONA
CENTRE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DIPLMACY

ELIAMEP
EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
MONEY
AND
FINANCE

APR@POS