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Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

Participants' biographies

Public hearing

Tuesday 26 January 2010, 8.15am-10am, Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, Room 1

The handling of the H1N1 pandemic: more transparency needed?

Dr Keiji Fukuda was named Special Adviser on Pandemic Influenza to the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in October 2009. Prior to that, he was the Assistant Director-General for Health Security and Environment *ad interim*. He joined WHO in 2005 as a Co-ordinator of the Global Influenza Programme from 2006 to 2008 and then was appointed its Director. Under his guidance, the programme expanded its global role in providing technical leadership and guidance related to seasonal, avian and pandemic influenza. At WHO, he has helped shape the global approach to pandemic preparedness, strengthened surveillance, and played an instrumental role in facilitating intergovernmental discussions over the sharing of influenza viruses and related benefits. He has participated in many field investigations including the earliest outbreaks of avian H5N1 influenza and the emergence of SARS. He has been extensively involved with efforts to address the current H1N1 pandemic. Before joining WHO, Dr Fukuda was Chief of the Epidemiology Unit, Influenza Branch at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States. He is a physician and received his BA from Oberlin College, MD from the University of Vermont and MPhil from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr Luc Hessel graduated in medicine from the University of Bordeaux in 1973, followed by 13 years of clinical and academic activities. He joined Sanofi Pasteur in 1986 to work in clinical research and the development of new vaccines and other biopharmaceuticals. In 1992 he was promoted to direct the Medical Department and in 1997 to set up the Medical Department of Sanofi Pasteur MSD, the European Joint Venture between Sanofi Pasteur and Merck & Co, leading companies in vaccines and biotechnology products. From 2001 to 2007 he was in charge of medical and public affairs and now Dr Hessel is Executive Director, Policy Affairs, Europe at Sanofi Pasteur MSD. Dr Hessel is an active member of

several international scientific committees and advisory boards. He has been chairing the influenza vaccines working groups of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) and of the European Vaccine Manufacturers (EVM), a specialised group of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industry Associations (EFPIA). He is currently chairman of the Public Health Policy and Advocacy Working Group of the EVM, and is member of the Biologicals and Vaccines Committee and the Influenza Vaccine Supply International Task Force of IFPMA. Dr Hessel has co-authored over 90 articles in renowned journals and contributed several chapters to books on vaccines.

Professor (Emeritus) Dr Ulrich Keil is University Professor at the Institute for Epidemiology and Social Medicine at the University of Münster and Adjunct Professor for Epidemiology of the Department for Epidemiology at the School of Public Health of the University of North Carolina. He has previously held senior research positions at the University of North Carolina and the Ruhr University in Bochum. Professor Keil has served as advisor to national and international scientific councils including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the German Research Board, the Science Advisory Board of Germany and the BIOMED programmes of the European Union. Professor Keil is currently Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular and other Chronic Diseases at the University of Münster, and has been an advisor to the WHO since 1973. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London (FRCP). His research interests include the epidemiology of cardiovascular diseases, the epidemiology of respiratory diseases and occupational epidemiology.

Dr Wolfgang Wodarg studied medicine in Berlin and Hamburg and obtained his medical degree and PhD from the University of Hamburg. He obtained his postgraduate qualifications in internal medicine and pneumology, in public health, social medicine, hygiene and environmental medicine in Germany and further training in epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore (USA). Dr Wodarg worked as a ship's doctor, port health authority and in the Bernhard-Nocht Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Hamburg. He practiced medicine in several clinics and was the director of a public health institute in Northern Germany for 13 years before being elected to the German Bundestag. From 1994 until 2009 he was a member of the Bundestag and its Health Committee and since 2005 also a member of the Committee for Economic Co-operation and Development. He initiated and was the speaker of the Commission on Law and Ethics of Modern Medicine at the German Bundestag. From 1998 until January 2010, he has been a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE). He was recently *rapporteur* on "Private military and security firms and the erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force" for the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and on "Palliative care: a model for innovative health and social policies" for the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee.