

PRESS RELEASE

3 days, 19 workshops, 3 plenary discussions, 2 press conferences: The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) 2020 goes virtual – and welcomes you for an extraordinary edition!

- From 30 September – 2 October, the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) promises a unique virtual conference experience, with stimulating discussions among leading public health experts on how to rebuild a stronger and healthier Europe.
- The Swedish State Secretary for Health, the Belgian Minister of Health and the new Deputy Director General from DG SANTE in the European Commission as well as a prominent Member of the European Parliament and a senior official from the World Health Organization are the latest additions to a strong and diverse line-up.
- For a taste of things to come, join our [webinar](#) “Stronger together: Solidarity for an accessible COVID-19 vaccine” on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

REGISTER FOR OUR ONLINE EHFG 2020 [HERE](#).

*Participation for accredited journalists at the EHFG 2020 is free.*

*On the registration page, please, in a first step, select standard fee, and for the coupon code please enter “EHFGJournalist2020”.*

**Kindly register before 28 September!**

10 September 2020, Bad Hofgastein, Austria – Under the theme of “Dancing with elephants – New partnerships for health, democracy, business”, the [European Health Forum Gastein \(EHFG\) 2020](#) will bring together distinguished speakers across the spectrum of government, the WHO, academia and civil society. Over the course of three days, **30 September – 2 October 2020**, they will explore the implications of the coronavirus pandemic for the future of health in Europe, and how concepts of well-being, democracy, and sustainability will lead the way for a healthy recovery.

With many countries across Europe seeing a resurgence in coronavirus infections over the past weeks, European leaders are trying to formulate a coordinated, harmonized response to avoid the breakdown of already stretched health care systems and further economic recession. While this year’s EHFG will focus on the lessons learnt and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, it will also explore other health topics whose importance has been amplified by the pandemic, such as access to medicines, the digital transformation of health and data governance, inequalities in access to care and health system resilience.

The latest additions to the [speaker line-up](#), joining the ranks of high-level representatives from government, academia, industry, and civil society, are:

- **Maggie De Block**, Minister of Health, Belgium
- **Maja Fjaestad**, Secretary of State for Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden
- **Sylvie Briand**, Director of Global Infectious Hazards Preparedness Department, World Health Organization

- *Sandra Gallina*, Deputy Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
- *Mohammed Chahim*, MEP, Socialist & Democrats Group, European Parliament.

The EHFG 2020 offers the unique flexibility to choose from a [vast range of workshops, plenary discussions, networking activities and press conferences](#) – all from home or your office. To get a glimpse of what to expect of this year’s digital EHFG, join our [webinar](#) “*Stronger together: Solidarity for an accessible COVID-19 vaccine*” on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

For any questions, please contact the press office at [press@ehfg.org](mailto:press@ehfg.org) or +32 2 321 90 16.

#### About European Health Forum Gastein

The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was founded in 1998 as a European health policy conference. It aims to provide a platform for all stakeholders from the fields of public health and healthcare, and beyond. Over the past decade, the EHFG has established itself as an indispensable institution in the scope of European health policy. It has made a decisive contribution to the development of guidelines and above all the cross-border exchange of experience, information and cooperation. Leading experts participate in the annual conference held in the Gastein Valley in the Austrian Alps for three days in late September/ early October, which in 2020 will be replaced by a digital format due to the current situation surrounding COVID-19.