

# AUSTERITY: should immunisation be ring-fenced?

As European governments look to reduce spending, vaccine advocates – including some in the World Health Organisation, the European Parliament and European Commission – are pushing to have immunisation programmes protected from cutbacks.



“ Immunisation is one of most successful interventions available and really does not cost that much money. Money spent on immunisation comes back three and four-fold. ”

**Karin Kadenbach**  
Member of the European Parliament

“ Low spending on prevention is absolutely unacceptable. We must fight the misconception that prevention produces returns only in the longer term. ”



**Roberto Bertolini**  
Chief Scientist and WHO Representative to EU



“ Investing in prevention is a win-win. We all agree that effective prevention is essential to people living healthy and active lives. However only 3% of national health budgets is devoted to prevention and 97% to healthcare. ”

**John F. Ryan**  
Acting Director for Public Health at the European Commission Directorate General for Health and Consumers

“ If 75% of risk groups received the flu vaccine every year, we would prevent 1.7 million cases of flu and avoid 770,000 GP visits. ”



**Mike Watson**  
Vice-President of Global Immunisation Policy at Sanofi Pasteur and a Vaccines Europe board member



“ We can't just preach to the choir. Pro-vaccine voices should confront the small but vociferous anti-vaccine lobby head on. ”

**Professor Marc van Ranst**  
Leading virologist at the University of Leuven

“ For almost every disease we have a patient group but vaccination across the lifespan is an orphan. We must create more leadership for vaccination in the EU. ”



**Hildrun Sundseth**  
European Institute of Women's Health



“ The health sector is so large and disparate that it struggles to speak with one voice. Flu vaccination is a bit of a no-brainer given the costs of having people regularly off sick each winter. ”

**Giles Merritt**  
Co-founder of Friends of Europe

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QUOTES FROM A DEBATE ON HEALTH SPENDING, HOSTED BY THE FRIENDS OF EUROPE THINK TANK AND SPONSORED BY VACCINES EUROPE.