



1st MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

JA-CHRODIS

INTERVENCIÓN SECRETARIO GENERAL DE SANIDAD Y CONSUMO

18 de Febrero, 2015

Lugar: Spanish Research Council (CSIC), Rue du Trône, 62 (6th floor), 1050
Brussels, Belgium.

Good morning, dear representatives of the DG Santé and CHAFEA, representative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, representatives of the Ministries of Health, leaders and co-leaders of the work packages of CHRODIS,

I warmly welcome all of you, to this first meeting of the Governing Board of the Joint Action: *“Addressing Chronic Diseases and Healthy Ageing across the Life Cycle”*, CHRODIS.

It is well known that chronic diseases represent a critical challenge for our health systems, and they also undermine the economic growth.



Population is getting older and the consequence of this is an increase in morbidity and mortality associated to chronic conditions. Furthermore, chronic conditions are strongly related to disability and dependence.

The European Commission is aware of these challenges and has supported several initiatives in the last years. For instance, the *“Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health”*, in its three editions, provided funding for projects on priority areas related to chronic diseases.

The *“European Partnership for Innovation in Active and Healthy Ageing”*, is also a relevant initiative aiming at responding to the social challenges posed by population ageing by searching for innovative solutions which, at the same time, give an impulse to competitiveness and economic growth.

The Regional Office for Europe is also doing a very significant work on chronic diseases. I will only mention the *“Action Plan for implementation of the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2012–2016”* or the Ashgabat Declaration on the *“Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases in the Context of Health 2020”* adopted in December 2013.

These are just some examples of the enormous effort done in response to the international commitment to fight chronic diseases and their health



determinants. The maximum exponent of this commitment was the Political Declaration adopted at the *“United Nations high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases prevention and control”*, in New York, in September 2011.

Spain, as most European Member States, is also reacting to the challenges. In the last years the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality launched two new National Strategies: the *“National Strategy for Addressing Chronicity”* adopted in two thousand twelve (2012), and the *“National Strategy for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention”* adopted in two thousand thirteen (2013).

But today, we are here to talk about CHRODIS. This Joint Action, which is funded under the *“Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health”* aims at identifying and share best practices in the prevention and management of chronicity.

The Joint Action brings together a remarkable number of partners, over 60 associated and collaborating partners from 25 Member States and Norway. But additionally, CHRODIS includes the creation of a Governing Board with representatives of the Ministries of Health, the European Commission and WHO.



The Governing Board is thought to be a bridge body between the activities of CHRODIS and the Member States' policies and strategies on chronic diseases. The objective is to generate synergies to facilitate the application of experiences and tools developed in CHRODIS, into national policies and plans.

The Governing Board will also contribute to lay the ground for the potential establishment of a permanent network of chronic diseases in the European Union. This network will advocate for the maintenance of chronic diseases and healthy ageing in the political health agendas.

Dear friends, I am aware of the differences between our Health Systems. But I also think that we can exchange experiences and identify action lines that will contribute to the promotion of health and, to enhance comprehensive care for persons suffering of chronic diseases.

I thank you and your Ministries of Health for taking the chance of participating in the Governing Board of CHRODIS. I am sure that we will work together in this project on the basis of good understanding and collaboration.

Thank you very much!

Rubén Moreno