

Dr. Thomas Ulmer

**Children and Diabetes
Lunch Discussion
Tuesday 30th January, 12:30 – 14:30
Members' Salon, European Parliament, Brussels**

Brussels, January 2007

Dear Colleague,

It is my pleasure to invite you to a lunch discussion on ‘Children and Diabetes’ which will take place on 30th January at 12:30 – 14:30 in the Members’ Salon in the European Parliament in Brussels. The discussion is organised with the active support of the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) and the International Diabetes Federation – Europe (IDF Europe).

Diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood and poses many serious challenges. Type 1 diabetes accounts for the majority of childhood onset diabetes and is growing by 3% per year in children and adolescents, and at an alarming 5% per year among pre-school children. An additional worrying trend is that type 2 diabetes, which is often linked with overweight, is growing at an alarming rate among children and adolescents. Unfortunately diabetes in children is often diagnosed too late or misdiagnosed.

Diabetes and management of the condition has a unique impact on the daily life of children and their families. If not managed well, diabetes can lead to serious and costly complications such as cardiovascular disease, kidney failure, blindness and amputations.

During our discussion, we would like to explore which measures can be taken at EU and national level to help improve prevention and management of diabetes in children. The time is right for the discussion as the Health Council has recently adopted Conclusions on diabetes. In addition, the International Diabetes Federation and the WHO have dedicated the World Diabetes Day campaign in 2007 to the theme: “Diabetes in children and adolescents”.

I do hope you will be able to attend this important meeting and contribute to the debate. I look forward to welcoming you on 30th January.

Yours sincerely



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