

HEAL celebrates its 10th year anniversary

European Parliamentarians show support

To celebrate HEAL's creation in 2003, a very special evening reception was held on 25 September 2013 at the European Parliament hosted by MEPs Peter Liese, Jo Leinen, Satu Hassi and Corinne Lepage, representing the cross party political support that HEAL has received over the years.



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Video messages from three Commissioners



Janez Potočnik,
EU Commissioner for Environment



Connie Hedegaard,
EU Commissioner for Climate Action



Tonio Borg,
EU Commissioner for Health

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Formal remarks were presented by HEAL's president, Dr Peter van den Hazel (far left). Keynote speakers included Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe, and Philippe Grandjean, Harvard School of Public Health and University of Southern Denmark.

In her remarks, Ms Jakab said, "I am not a fortune teller, but evidence tells us that air quality, climate change, the safe management of chemicals, and sufficient, reliable and safe sources of water, food and energy are the great public health challenges of today and tomorrow in a world marked by population growth, urbanization, longevity and economic growth and prosperity. ... We also need the full and meaningful engagement of everyone. This is where HEAL and organizations like yours play a central role."

Professor Philippe Grandjean (above right) said, "HEAL is acting like the caring physician, in this case with the environment as the patient. I admire everybody who is part of this highly qualified, well argued, and socially responsible effort."



The online gallery of HEAL's environmental health champions – made up of the individuals who have made a difference in securing more protective health policies in Europe and beyond – was unveiled by Génon K. Jensen, HEAL's Executive Director.

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Potočnik cuts the cake

The following day, HEAL had the pleasure of welcoming the EU Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik to address the Annual General Assembly on his health priorities. Here he is seen cutting a slice of a specially designed cake with HEAL's President Peter van den Hazel and Executive Director Génon K. Jensen.



'Our health depends on the environment, just as much as the health of the environment depends on us. This is why we cannot tackle environment-related challenges to health from a purely environmental or health perspective. Our approach needs to be more comprehensive, integrated and long-term.'



HEAL's President Peter van den Hazel presents Commissioner Potočnik with his new book on children's health and the environment



From left to right: Yannick Vicaire, HEAL Vice-President, Roberta Savli and Irina Rodriguez de la Flor, HEAL Executive Board Members highlighted their priorities on hormone disrupting chemicals, air quality, and mercury and electromagnetic fields.