



The European HTI Summit Brussels 2022

was held on December 8, 2022 live at the European Parliament

as a networking event that brought together key World and European tourism institutions and organizations, representatives of the European Parliament and key health tourism experts.

The meeting gathered 52 participants from 21 countries, representatives of both the private and public sectors from the medical, thermal and wellness tourism sector, including medical service providers, travel agencies, facilitators and other stakeholders.

The summit was opened by the moderator and host member of the EP **Istvan Ujhelyi**, vice-president of the Transport and Tourism Committee, and after him the participants were greeted by Mr. **Jan Fluxa**, deputy minister of regional development of the Czech Republic, the EP's presiding country.

The speech was then given by Mrs. **Julia Simpson**, President and CEO of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

Summit participants were addressed by Mrs. **Alessandra Priante**, director for Europe at the Worlds Travel Organization (UNWTO) and Mr. **Eduardo Santander**, director of the European Travel Commission (ETC) via video messages, considering that they could not physically participate, but wanted to express their support for HTI's activities.

The speakers emphasized the importance of health tourism, especially in the post-covid period, and the importance of joint cooperation between key institutions and experts in health tourism.

MEPs **Jordi Sole** from Spain and **Elena Kountoura** from Greece gave short presentations on health tourism and the development of health tourism destinations, considering that both represent the values and development of health tourism in the EP. After them, Mr. **Thomas Segretain**, Policy Officer from the European Commission held a presentation entitled "Co-implementation of the transition pathway for tourism".

This was followed by short greetings from Mrs. **Ivana Kolar**, organizer of the Summit and partner in the organization of the Summit, Mrs. **Csilla Mezösi**, director of the European Spas Association (ESPA) and **Simone Zagrodnik**, director of the European Heritage Thermal Towns Association (EHTTA).

A short presentation development plans of India was held virtually by Mr. **Lav Agarwal**, State Secretary in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of Republic of India, who presented the connection between preventive and curative health tourism in India and the initiative to connect the activities of India and European countries in the field of health tourism and development of the same.

At the end, Mr. **David Boucher**, Chief Partnership Officer at Bumrungrad International Hospital Bangkok, Thailand presented the activities of one of the most important hospitals in Thailand.