



EMBASSY OF DENMARK
Paris



FRENCH-DANISH CONFERENCE

**WHAT ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE
COMMON CHALLENGES POSED BY CHRONIC DISEASES?**

A comparative perspective between France and Denmark
- from prevention to treatment production



MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026



PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

OPENING REMARKS

Chantal Deseyne, Senator for Eure-et-Loir
Hanne Fugl Eskjær, Danish Ambassador to France

PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY "THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC DISEASES"

Nicolas Bouzou, Economist, Cabinet Asterès

KEYNOTE TOWARDS A "FUTURE-PROOF" HEALTHCARE MODEL?

Charlotte Hosbond, Director, Centre for Health, Region of Eastern Denmark

ROUNDTABLES PROVIDING CARE EVERYWHERE, PRODUCING LOCALLY: PREVENTION, CONTINUITY OF CARE AND LOCAL PRODUCTION

Moderator: Didier Bazzocchi, President of the Think Tank CRAPS

1. PREVENTION, CARE PATHWAYS AND ACCESS TO TREATMENTS

2. FRENCH AND EUROPEAN HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY

CLOSING REMARKS

Cynthia Fleury, Philosopher



PREFACE

France and Denmark are facing profound transformations in their healthcare systems, driven by population aging and the rise in chronic diseases. This evolution is testing the organization of care and questioning the sustainability of existing models.

The French-Danish conference on chronic diseases, held at the Senate on March 30, 2026, under the patronage of Senator Chantal Deseyne, brought together key stakeholders from both countries to foster dialogue on these issues. The discussions allowed for a comparison of perspectives and highlighted the main challenges related to prevention, the organization of care, and the integration of innovation, as well as the conditions necessary to ensure sustainable access to innovations, particularly through secure supply chains and strengthened production capacity in Europe. The conference drew in particular on the findings of a study, which focused on the medical and socio-economic costs of seven chronic diseases in France. This study was conducted by the consultancy Asterès, commissioned by the French-Danish Health Alliance, a think tank established under the auspices of the Danish Embassy in France in 2019.

These discussions are taking place within a broader context of transformation, marked by increasing pressures on healthcare systems and a demanding geopolitical environment. They underscore the need to rethink existing models in order to reconcile health sovereignty, competitiveness, and sustainability, while guaranteeing equitable access to quality care. They also build upon the close dialogue established over several years between France and Denmark, as evidenced by the cooperation agreements signed by the Ministers of Health in 2019, 2023, and renewed in April 2025. This cooperation framework reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the resilience of healthcare systems and advancing common approaches to prevention, innovation, and addressing major public health challenges, in a spirit of solidarity and equity.





OPENING REMARKS

Senator Chantal Deseyne opened the conference with a clear observation: the challenges related to chronic diseases are both significant and shared by France and Denmark. Faced with increasing pressure on healthcare systems – whether medical, financial, or human – she emphasized the need for a paradigm shift, placing prevention more firmly at the heart of health policies.



Chantal Deseyne
SENATOR FOR EURE-ET-LOIR

“Investing in prevention is choosing sustainability.”

Denmark is cited as an example of system transformation, illustrating how structural reforms can strengthen the role of general practitioners, bring care closer to patients, and better integrate digital solutions into care pathways. In conclusion, the senator calls for strengthened cooperation between countries to share experiences, foster joint thinking, and build more efficient and resilient healthcare systems.



H.E. Hanne Fugl Eskjær

DANISH AMBASSADOR
TO FRANCE

Her Excellency Hanne Fugl Eskjær, Ambassador of Denmark to France, places health issues within a changing geopolitical context, marked by tensions that could affect access to treatment and health sovereignty in Europe. In this context, she emphasizes the need to strengthen a European approach based on innovation, strategic autonomy, and production capacity.

“The situation is urgent; we must act.”

She points out that these challenges are part of a growing pressure on health systems in France and Denmark, linked to the aging population and the rise in chronic diseases.

In this context, she emphasizes the importance of better understanding the health and socio-economic impact of these developments in order to guide public policy, for example through the work carried out within the framework of the French-Danish Health Alliance. She also underlines the need for collective action and for strengthening dialogue between countries facing similar challenges. Finally, she calls for continued strengthening of the French-Danish partnership, building on the Declaration of Intent renewed during the State Visit in 2025, in order to promote the sharing of experiences and the development of joint responses to these challenges.



THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC DISEASES



Nicolas Bouzou
ECONOMIST,
PRESIDENT OF ASTERÈS

The study of the medical and socio-economic costs of seven chronic diseases in France, presented by Nicolas Bouzou, highlights that the burden of chronic diseases extends beyond the healthcare system alone, affecting the economy and society more broadly. It is based on an approach focused on the most robust tangible costs, including medical expenses, absenteeism, deaths among working-age individuals, and exclusion from employment.

This dynamic poses a major challenge to long-term sustainability, particularly in a model based on solidarity. In this context, Asterès identifies prevention not as an option, but as a central and essential lever of public policy.

He finally emphasizes the need for a systemic response, combining prevention, organizational reforms, use of technologies and targeted innovations, in order to improve health outcomes while ensuring control of spending.

**CHRONIC DISEASES
ACCOUNT FOR 60% OF
MEDICAL COSTS AND 40% OF
SOCIO-ECONOMIC COSTS.**

**25 MILLION CASES FOR A
MEDICAL AND SOCIO-
ECONOMIC COST OF €52
BILLION PER YEAR.**

The French-Danish Health Alliance

The study was commissioned by the French-Danish Health Alliance, a think tank created in 2019 under the auspices of the Danish Embassy in France. It brings together five Danish health companies operating in France (ALK, Coloplast, LEO Pharma, Lundbeck, Novo Nordisk).

Committed to the challenges of chronic diseases, innovation and health sovereignty, they contribute, in light of the Danish experience and in a logic of dialogue with public and institutional actors, to the strengthening of public health and a long-term commitment to patients.





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ROYAUME DU DANEMARK
Paris



QUESTIONS
CHARLOTTE HOSBOND
DE LA SANTÉ, RÉGION

KEYNOTE: TOWARDS A "FUTURE-PROOF" HEALTHCARE MODEL?

Charlotte Hosbond

DIRECTOR, HEALTH CENTRE, EASTERN DENMARK REGION

Charlotte Hosbond presented the Danish healthcare reform of 2024, undertaken in response to challenges that have become structural – staff shortages, an aging population and the rise of chronic diseases – which make the current model unsustainable, constituting a veritable “burning platform”.

The reform provides for a concrete strengthening of primary care, with an increase in the number of general practitioners, supported by incentives, regulation of their practice locations, and more active planning of their geographical distribution, particularly in rural areas. It also introduces an evolution in the role of general practitioners—a “reform within a reform”—with new responsibilities and an adaptation of the remuneration model.

"The primary goal is to bring the healthcare system closer to patients – both physically and digitally."

It also aims to further structure care pathways, particularly for chronically ill patients, through the implementation of coordinated and personalized care pathways ("kronikerpakker"), integrating medical monitoring, prevention, and social dimensions. The objective is to better distribute care between community and hospital settings, strengthening coordination and trust among professionals, as well as increasing patient involvement in their own care.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE DANISH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM REFORM



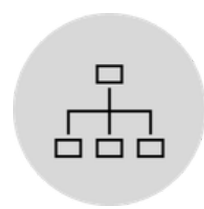
**GENERAL
PRACTITIONER
REFORM**



**DEVELOPMENT OF THE
LOCAL HEALTHCARE
SYSTEM**



MORE PATIENT RIGHTS



**NEW ORGANIZATION OF
THE HEALTHCARE
SYSTEM**



ROUNDTABLES

Didier Bazzocchi

PRESIDENT OF THE THINK TANK CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION (CRAPS)

The two roundtables, moderated by Didier Bazzocchi, reflect a shared ambition between Denmark and France to guarantee access to healthcare as close as possible to patients while ensuring treatment. Under the theme "Treat everywhere, produce here," he facilitated two structured debates focusing on prevention, continuity of care pathways, access to innovation, and strengthening production capacity in Europe.



PROVIDING CARE EVERYWHERE, PRODUCING LOCALLY Prevention, continuity of care and local production

Round Table 1

PREVENTION, CARE PATHWAYS AND ACCESS TO TREATMENTS

How to ensure patients a rapid access to innovative ways of prevention of chronic diseases and treatments, and create coherent care pathways in a context of demographic change and budgetary constraints.

Round Table 2

FRENCH AND EUROPEAN HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY

How to secure access to innovative healthcare through industrialization, local production, and strengthened European capacity; breaking down silos between industrial, innovation, and healthcare policies

ROUND TABLE 1

PREVENTION, CARE PATHWAYS AND ACCESS TO TREATMENT

THE SPEAKERS

Charlotte Hosbond, Director, Health Centre, Eastern Denmark Region • Didier Lepelletier, Director General of Health, Ministry of Health • Guillaume Couillard, Deputy Director, CNAM • Jean Lessi, Director General of the HAS



KEY POINTS OF THE DEBATE

Charlotte Hosbond opened the discussion by highlighting the transformation of the Danish healthcare system, based on a profound and gradual structural change. She emphasized the need for close dialogue between all stakeholders – hospitals, general practitioners, municipalities, and patients – to ensure the effective implementation of the reform, while acknowledging that care pathways for chronically ill patients are still under development.



Didier Lepelletier extends this reflection by asserting that prevention must now be fully integrated into healthcare pathways, and not considered as a separate process from treatment. He emphasizes the determinants of health and the need for upstream action through cross-cutting policies, while also highlighting the importance of coordinated and multidisciplinary pathways that are more transparent and accessible for patients.

Jean Lessi broadens the perspective by emphasizing the need to reconcile access to innovation, the requirement for evidence, and sustainability. He highlights the role of evaluation, particularly health economics, in informing decisions, while calling for trust in local stakeholders for implementation. Finally, he stresses the complementarity of the levers, prevention, care pathways, and innovation, by promoting multidisciplinary approaches tailored to local areas.



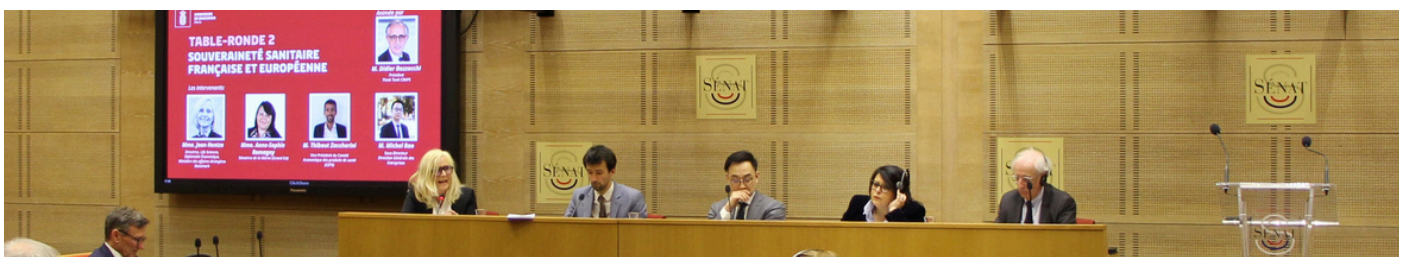
Guillaume Couillard then clarified the practical details of this coordination, emphasizing the pivotal role of the primary care physician. He expanded on previous remarks by introducing the use of digital tools, particularly through "Mon espace santé" (My Health Space) to enhance the personalization and monitoring of care pathways, while also highlighting the importance of local teams.

ROUND TABLE 2

FRENCH AND EUROPEAN HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY

THE SPEAKERS

Joan Hentze, Director, Life Science, Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark • Anne-Sophie Romagny, Senator • Thibaut Zaccherini, Vice-President of the Economic Committee for Health Products • Michel Rao, Deputy Director, Directorate General for Enterprises, Ministry of the Economy



KEY POINTS OF THE DEBATE

Joan Hentze opened the discussion by highlighting Denmark's strategic approach to life sciences, based on close cooperation between public and private actors. She emphasized the need to strengthen innovation, attract investment, and develop production capacities, while stressing that these challenges must be addressed at the European level within an increasingly uncertain geopolitical context.



Senator Anne-Sophie Romagny extends this analysis by highlighting the challenges related to the attractiveness and speed of access to innovations. She emphasizes the need for a more ambitious European response, but adds a nuance: businesses must be fully integrated into the discussions and solutions, particularly to accelerate innovation, secure supply chains, and strengthen local production.

Thibault Zaccherini then provides an operational perspective on these challenges, highlighting the difficulty of reconciling access to innovation, financial sustainability, and industrial policy. He explains how these tensions translate concretely into pricing, which is now based both on therapeutic value and on criteria related to production and security of supply.



Michel Rao broadened the perspective by emphasizing the need for a more structured European industrial approach. Continuing the discussion, he highlighted the importance of reshoring and European preference, while stressing a key point: these efforts will only be sustainable if markets are guaranteed for companies investing in Europe.

CLOSING REMARKS

Cynthia Fleury concludes by placing the debate in a philosophical and societal perspective, emphasizing the need to articulate the issues of proximity to the patient and those of health sovereignty at the national and European levels.

It highlights that the progression of chronic diseases implies a paradigm shift, with a move from a treatment-based approach to one based on prevention, monitoring and long-term support.



Cynthia Fleury
PHILOSOPHER

"The 21st century will lead to degraded operating modes due to uncertainty; it is imperative to invent new resilience protocols."

She insists that the effectiveness of care largely depends on relational dimensions - trust, dialogue and patient involvement - and argues for better integration of the human and social sciences into health policies, in order to better understand behaviors, inequalities and living conditions.

CONCLUSION

The conference held at the Senate highlights that chronic diseases constitute a systemic challenge, extending beyond the purely health-related sphere to encompass economic, industrial, and geopolitical issues. Discussions underscore the need for a paradigm shift, based on strengthened prevention, improved coordination of care pathways, and more patient-centered care.

The Danish experiences illustrate the value of a structured and integrated approach, while the French perspectives highlight the challenges of implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of the system. Together, they underscore the importance of more strategic governance, linking health, innovation, and production, within a framework of European sovereignty and sustainability.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Embassy of Denmark wishes to thank

- Senator Chantal Deseyne and her colleague for their welcome and their commitment to the organization of this conference.
- Nicolas Bouzou and the Asterès firm for their contribution to the preparation of the study and to the discussions.
- Members of the French-Danish Health Alliance
- The moderator, Didier Bazzocchi, for the quality of the facilitation and the conduct of the discussions.
- The speakers for sharing their expertise, experiences and commitment to health.
- The keynote speaker, Charlotte Hosbond, for her inspiring presentation on Denmark and her insightful perspectives.
- All participants in the conference for having contributed to making this event a moment of exchange and reflection in service of the future of health systems.

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