

THE PARLIAMENT

POLITICS, POLICY AND PEOPLE **MAGAZINE**

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THE GREEN WEEK ISSUE

*The big interview:
Janez Potočnik tells The
Parliament Magazine
about 'cleaner air for all'*



Green Week 2013

Paul Hogan, Hans Bruyninckx, Zsuzsanna Jakab, Keith Taylor, Matthew Pencharz and a full green week programme

European week against cancer

Paola Testori Coggi, Alojz Peterle and Linda McAvan



Cyber security

Cecilia Malmström and Andreas Schwab

Plus: Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Dinkar Khullar and Wu Hailong on EU-BRICS relations
Anna Rosbach and Willy Fautré on human rights in North Korea



COME AND VISIT
THE PARLIAMENT
MAGAZINE'S GREEN
WEEK STAND





*anthropogenic factors,
climate changes,
invasive allergenic plants:*

*the complex interplay across
these multiple stressors might
exacerbate the overall effect of
environmental change on
pollen allergy*

pollen is in the air

Predicting future risk of pollen allergy in Europe



atopica[®]

atopic diseases in changing
climate, land use & air quality

Climate change foreseen for the next several decades of the 21st century over the European region is expected to alter air pollution and the efficiency of subsequent abatement measures, and may lead to migration of new invasive allergenic plant species. The complex interplay across these multiple stressors might exacerbate the overall effect of environmental change on allergies in synergistic ways that are difficult to assess from a single discipline perspective. It is therefore necessary to develop an integrated and cross-disciplinary approach to assess health risks arising from environmental change and to design suitable adaptation policies.

Understanding & quantifying the effects of environmental changes on Ambrosia allergy

The main aim of ATOPICA is to establish quantitative models of allergic disease to environmental stressors to be used for projections of future disease risk. The focus is on *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L. (Asteraceae), commonly called Ragweed, which is a highly invasive plant with pollen that causes allergic disease, increases allergenic sensitization and has significant negative impacts on health and quality of life. Since the development of allergies in Europe is currently undergoing rapid growth, there is an urgent need for awareness of invasive plants along with early detection and preventive management initiatives and sustainable strategies to control and reduce this invasive plant. By gathering an interdisciplinary team of climate and air quality scientists together with clinicians and biologists, ATOPICA aims to quantify and project the effects of environmental changes on *Ambrosia* pollen-induced allergic disease in Europe, using a highly interdisciplinary and integrated approach.

Our objectives are to:

- explore the pan-European impact** of changes in climate, land use and air pollution on allergen pollen-induced diseases through a chain of quantitative models
- study vulnerable groups of patients** and search for relevant indicators to assess the risk
- establish statistical models of disease** response to pollen concentrations for assessing future trends
- examine the effects of environmental change**, including exposure to air pollution on pollen allergy in laboratory experiments
- communicate with relevant stakeholders** and provide recommendations useful to policy makers dealing with air quality, public health, land use and climate change issues

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