

**JOINT STATEMENT on agenda item 12: Engagement with Non-State actors: accreditation and renewal of accreditation of regional Non-State actors not in official relations with WHO to attend meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (EUR/RC71/CONF./10 and EUR/RC71/15)**

Dear Chair, President, Regional Director, honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

On behalf of all 25 non-state actors, we thank the Regional Committee for approving our (renewal of) accreditation, in line with the Framework of Engagement with non-state actors (FENSA). It is with great honour that we will continue to work side-by-side with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and we would like to reaffirm our commitment to working with all stakeholders towards our shared goals.

The commitment to engage with non-state actors demonstrates the importance that is given by WHO to collaboration with civil society. As representatives of citizens, patients, healthcare and public health professionals, we work for the common good, and we can and will play a vital role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, European Programme of Work 2020-2025 and WHO's general programme of work.

Over the years, evidence—such as the WHO/European Health Observatory 'Civil Society and Health' book<sup>1</sup>—has shown that non-state actors such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are an effective partner. NGOs bring value through sharing best practice and exchanging knowledge across Europe, making collaboration with civil society an established mechanism of health governance and governance for health.<sup>2</sup> These non-state actors typically directly add value by connecting and building bridges: by listening and amplifying the voices in their communities, incorporating them into the policy discussion, and by partnering in policy implementation and running initiatives on the ground on national and regional level.<sup>2</sup> Attending key high-level meetings such as the WHO Regional Committee for Europe allows NSAs to represent these other voices from the community and simultaneously the WHO Europe and its Geographically Dispersed Offices to better reflect the people's voices in their work.

We look forward to our continued collaboration and participation in the WHO Regional Committee for Europe.

Thank you,

On behalf of the 6 accredited non-state actors & renewed 19 non-state actors:

Alzheimer Europe • Association for Medical Education in Europe • Center for Health Policies and Studies (PAS Center) • Centre for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation "Studiorum" • Eurocare (European Alcohol Policy Alliance) • EuroHealthNet • European Association for the Study of the Liver • European Cancer Organisation • European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations • European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians • European Forum for Primary Care • European Forum of Medical Associations • European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations • European Medical Students' Association • European Public Health Alliance • European Public Health Association • Health Care Without Harm Europe • Standing Committee of European Doctors • Wemos • European Association for Palliative Care • European Disability Forum • European Heart Network • European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention • European Society of Cardiology • Mental Health Europe

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1241085/retrieve> (5 July 2021, date last accessed).

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/advance-article/doi/10.1093/eurpub/ckab121/6350069>.