

Brussels - 11 July 2024

Re: An urgent call to build a healthier Europe

Dear Honourable Member of the European Parliament,

Congratulations on your election to the European Parliament.

As the President and Director of EuroHealthNet, we are aware of your crucial role to advance the health and wellbeing of European citizens.

EuroHealthNet is a not-for-profit European Partnership, and our core mission is to reduce health inequalities across Europe. We represent 75 public health agencies and organisations working on public health, health promotion, and disease prevention.

The need to act now

Life expectancy is stalling. Chronic and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cancer, diabetes and mental health problems, are rising. On top of this, our health services are stretched to their limits.

We must take action to reduce the demand for care so that our health services remain sustainable, and to compensate for our shrinking health workforce. With growing ageing populations in poor health and people living in unhealthy conditions, the need for prevention is clear: the costs of not acting now will be too high.

Our vision for a Healthier Europe

Our vision is to work towards creating a Europe where all citizens enjoy their fundamental rights to health and are free from discrimination. We also envision a Wellbeing Economy - an economy that works for the benefit of people and the planet, rather than the other way around.

To make this vision a reality, we must take bold actions at the EU level and prioritise investments in public health to:

- Narrow the gap in life expectancy and in healthy life years.
- Improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce childhood obesity.
- Reduce the consumption of health-harmful products, such as tobacco, alcohol, and ultra-processed foods that are high in fat, salt and sugar.
- Promote healthy living environments by reducing air pollution, providing better access to more green and blue spaces, as well as improving working conditions.
- Adapt health systems to climate change and curb emissions to net zero.

What does this mean for you?

As a Member of the European Parliament, you will take vital decisions on strategic dossiers such as the European Health Union and the EU budget.

This is why we call on you to:

- Prioritise health and wellbeing in all EU policies, from environment to the economy, including social, education, and agriculture.
- Keep a strong focus on prevention, health inequalities, and the sustainability of health services in all dossiers.
- Establish a European Parliament Intergroup on the Wellbeing Economy.
- Ensure EU funds are promoting a healthier Europe.

How can the EuroHealthNet Partnership help you?

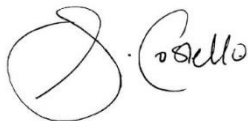
At [EuroHealthNet](#), we have the technical expertise to create a healthier and more resilient Europe, and we can provide you with the evidence to address the challenges we are now facing. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss how we can work with you to achieve this.

To arrange a meeting, please contact our Policy Manager, Silvia Ganzerla, at: s.ganzerla@eurohealthnet.eu.

For more information on us, see our website <https://eurohealthnet.eu>.

On behalf of EuroHealthNet, we congratulate you once again on your election and we look forward to cooperating with you!

Warm regards,



Suzanne Costello
President



Caroline Costongs
Director

EuroHealthNet is registered at the EU Transparency Register with REG Number 48562122691-12