



Executive Vice-President Roxana Mînzatu  
European Commission  
Berlaymont  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1040 Brussels

Brussels, 20 February 2025

Dear Executive Vice-President Mînzatu,

We would like to express our congratulations on your appointment as Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness.

Your commitment and leadership will be crucial to advance the European social model and to build a fully inclusive Europe where nobody is left behind.

EuroHealthNet is a partnership of over 80 public health agencies and organisations with the core mission of reducing health inequalities by addressing socio-economic determinants. We work on health promotion, disease prevention and the Wellbeing Economy.

### **A healthy population is key for a competitive and inclusive Europe**

There is no competitive Europe without strong policies promoting social inclusion and addressing poverty and health inequalities. The new European Competitiveness Compass stresses the relevance of our European social model for a prosperous Europe. Social investment is a smart way to boost our welfare systems, improve health and wellbeing for all, and enable citizens to actively contribute to a thriving Europe.

Together with you, we want to continue working for a cohesive and inclusive Europe. We are ready to offer our expertise and technical knowledge to improve the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, strengthen the European Child Guarantee, improve skills, and ensure a strong social and health dimension in the European Semester.

During your confirmation hearing in the European Parliament, you set out your vision for the first EU Anti-Poverty Strategy. Poverty and people's health are strongly interrelated: poor health pushes people out of active life and the labour market, while living in poverty and experiencing social exclusion leads to poor health. The EU Anti-Poverty Strategy needs to support better integration between social and health policies, take a strong prevention approach and address health inequalities.

### **To achieve a healthy, inclusive and prosperous Europe, we specifically suggest to:**

- Embed the **Wellbeing Economy** in the European Semester process. The Wellbeing Economy is an economy designed to serve people and the planet, and not the other way around. In a Wellbeing Economy, policies are delivered to improve the quality of

life in harmony with the environment. This approach is a prerequisite for a truly prosperous Europe.

- Focus on wellbeing and health equity in the revision of the EPSR Action Plan, including prioritising **Principle 16** and its right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality
- Strengthen the **European Child Guarantee** and reduce child poverty by focusing more on health promotion, including mental health, healthy nutrition, physical activity and access to green areas.
- Ensure a health focus in the upcoming **European Affordable Housing Plan**. Access to affordable and good-quality housing is crucial for people's wellbeing, particularly for the vulnerable groups of the population.
- Prioritise **active and healthy ageing** within the European Long-Term Care strategy. Longevity is a great societal achievement that needs to be supported by effective policies to help people age in good health. This needs a life-cycle preventive approach, which also leads to economic benefits in terms of longer active lives and reduced expenditure for health and long-term care.
- Improve **mental health and wellbeing** for all, including for health and social care workforce, and prevent employees' long-term sickness and burnout by ensuring adequate working conditions.
- Focus on **health literacy**, empowering people to maintain and improve their health and wellbeing, as part of the new Union of Skills agenda.

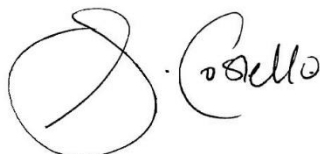
**We also take this opportunity to invite you to two crucial events for 2025:**

- **The Wellbeing Economy Forum, taking place on 8 and 9 May in Reykjavik in Iceland;** on this topic, we kindly invite you to look at EuroHealthNet's work on the economic and social value of a [Wellbeing Economy and the contribution of the European Semester](#).
- **EuroHealthNet high-level conference on health inequalities on 18 September 2025 in Brussels**, where we will present our latest report on social inequalities in health in the EU.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these events and policy dossiers with you and how we can strategically work together for a healthy, inclusive, and prosperous Europe.

We will follow up with your cabinet with the official invitation for the two events, as well as to arrange a meeting.

Kindest regards,



Suzanne Costello  
President



Caroline Costongs  
Director

*EuroHealthNet is registered in the EU Transparency Register: Number 48562122691-12.*