



Statement

EUROPEAN HEALTH CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS UPON MEMBER STATES TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S STRONG STAND ON HEALTH WITHIN THE EU BUDGET 2021-2027

We, as a group of patient and public health civil society organisations and advocates, representing many diverse networks of European citizens concerned with health and wellbeing¹, come united in welcoming the [position](#)² of the European Parliament on the European Commission proposal on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) to improve and strengthen its health angle. **We urge the Council and its Working Party on Structural Measures, responsible for the ESF+ file, to uphold the improvements to the Health Strand suggested by the European Parliament.**

We are pleased to see that elected representatives of EU citizens decided not only to increase the amount dedicated to the Health Strand to 0,036% of the 2021-2027 EU budget³, but also voted in favour of a stronger EU role in health. Health civil society groups had expressed their strong concerns over the Commission's original proposal to cut health funding by 8% compared

¹ Public interest NGOs campaigning together for more European action on health - [EU4Health](#), the [EU Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis \(TB\) and viral hepatitis](#) and the Civil Society Forum on Drugs, expert groups to the European Commission which are comprised of leading civil society organisations at the national and regional level in the EU and neighbouring countries

² [Amendments adopted by the European Parliament](#) on 16 January 2019 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (COM(2018)0382 – C8-0232/2018 – 2018/0206(COD)) (1) (Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

³ Amendment 90. The [EC's proposal](#) for the Health Strand is €413 million, 8% less than in the current Health Programme (€449.4 million). The [EP has proposed](#) to increase it to €420 million in 2018 prices (€473 million in current prices; or 0,036 % of the MFF 2021-2027)

to the 2014-2020 period in the new merged ESF+, while at the same time expanding the scope of the programme. Concerned by these developments, **we stress that, as never before, a more ambitious funding for the Health Strand is needed if we want to seriously tackle the increase in chronic and non-communicable diseases and widening health inequalities in Europe today and in the coming period.**

The Parliament's proposed amendments reflect important health priorities highlighted by health civil society, such as:

1. Establishing a Steering Board on Health⁴;
2. Mainstreaming health in all EU policies⁵ and calling for systematic health impact assessment of EU policies⁶;
3. Calling for a Public Health Strategy⁷;
4. Ensuring coherence and synergies between the Health Strand and other relevant elements of the next EU budget, including Horizon Europe, InvestEU and European Structural Investment Funds⁸
5. Strengthening public health civil society, including European umbrella organisations⁹;
6. Calling for systematic health impact assessment of EU policies¹⁰.

We encourage Member States to swiftly support the health-friendly amendments introduced by the Parliament during the inter-institutional negotiations on the ESF+ in order to prioritise health, equity and wellbeing in the next EU budget.

Alzheimer Europe

EUPHA

EUROCAM

European AIDS Treatment Group

European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Association

European Public Health Alliance

EURORDIS-Rare Disease Europe

Global Health Advocates

Health Action International

HOPS - Healthy Options Project Skopje

International Federation of Anthroposophical Medical Associations

Smoke Free Partnership

⁴ Amendment 144 - in line with [EU4Health Key ask 1](#) - Establish Strong Leadership on health

⁵ Amendment 80 - in line with [EU4Health Key ask 2](#) - Adopt EU level legislation to prevent diseases

⁶ Amendment 129 - in line with [EU4Health Key ask 6](#) - Assess the impact on health of EU policies

⁷ Amendment 114 - in line with [EU4Health Key ask 3](#) - Develop a framework for tackling non-communicable diseases

⁸ Amendments 27 and 45 - in line with [EU4Health Key ask 4](#) - Support National health systems with expertise and evidence

⁹ Amendments 76, 133 and 141 - in line with [EU4Health Key ask 5](#) - Empower citizens and patients

¹⁰ Amendment 129 - in line with [EU4Health Key ask 6](#) - Assess the impact on health of EU policies

ANNEX

Identified health related amendments to be upheld

Topic	Recitals, Articles	Amendment
Synergies with Horizon Europe and other programmes	(17) (24)	AM 27 AM 45
Health Promotion and Prevention in primary healthcare	(8) (37)	AM 30 AM 66
Building on the positive assessment of the previous Health Programme	New (37a) New (37b)	AM 67 AM 68
Steering Board on Health (15-20 individual health experts to give advise)	New (38a) 26.2.d. new iiic. New 29a.	AM 70 AM 134 AM 144
Strengthening NGOs, including European umbrellas	New (42b) 26.2. new d) iiib. 27.2.c.ii.	AM 76 AM 133 AM 141
Health leadership by mainstreaming health, Hiap	New (44b)	AM 80
SDGs and Hiap (among many other things)	4.3.	AM 89
Increase from EUR 413 000 000 to EUR 420 000 000 in 2018 prices (EUR 473 000 000 in current prices; or 0,036 % of the MFF 2021-2027)	5. 4.b	AM 90
Hiap Impact assessment	26.2.c.vi	AM 129
Public Health Strategy	26.2 new a) i) ii)	AM 114
Collaboration with WHO and OECD	New 29b)	AM 145
Improving the management (Member States will have more influence, implementation not left to the Commission alone)	32	AM 147
More ambitious political leadership for the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and hepatitis	New Recital 39 a	AM 72