

Parliamentary hearing of Stella Kyriakides Health Commissioner-designate

5 Questions from EU4Health

QUESTION 1 - Mainstreaming health - Health In All Policies (question to the Commissioner-Designate for health and consumer protection):

Civil society organisations as well as political parties have called for a prominent role of the Health Commissioner and even asked for a Vice-President ensuring that health and other public interest aspects are respected horizontally within the Commission. **Given that the treaty obliges the EU to include health in all EU policies (TFEU 168), how will you make sure that the cross cutting health aspects will be mainstreamed in the work of other Commissioners, your future colleagues in the college?**

QUESTION 2 - Health Impact Assessment:

There is significant evidence showing that health is an area that delivers major returns on investments. At the same time, the continuing prevalence of certain communicable diseases and high and increasing prevalence of chronic, non-communicable – and largely preventable – conditions, along with demographic changes, put the sustainability of our healthcare systems at risk. Many of the decisions that can change those issues do not fall under the competence of the Health Commissioner, but have to be taken by your colleagues leading on other portfolios. **How will you ensure by improving the Better regulation toolbox that a meaningful health impact assessment with relevant indicators is compulsory for all Commission proposals?**

QUESTION 3 - European strategy to fight cross-border health conditions at EU level:

Over the last years, many of the working groups or similar structures of the Commission in the area of health have been dismantled despite the existing health inequalities, unacceptable health differences across Europe. Currently, there is no European vision on health prevention, although significant expertise exists in all Member States around conditions affecting all countries which cannot be tackled at member state level only: costly Chronic Diseases, the obesity epidemic, vaccination, communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, health threats such as antimicrobial resistance, mental ill-health etc. **How will you ensure a strategic approach to ensure collaboration and the sharing of this expertise, to the benefit of all Member States in order to fight cross-border health conditions more efficiently?**

QUESTION 4 - European framework for patient empowerment, community and civil society engagement:

For now, the different dimensions of patient empowerment (health literacy, self-management, shared decision-making between patients and health professionals) are addressed through stand-alone projects and initiatives. Evidence is growing that empowered patients and users are good for the health system. Empowerment strategies aim to realize the concept of patients, communities and citizens as co-producers of their health. **Are you planning to propose during your mandate a framework to advance on the strategic issue of citizen and patient empowerment in a coherent, meaningful way, with a mechanism to ensure meaningful engagement of civil society in the implementation of health in all policies?**

QUESTION 5 - on a Global Health Strategy:

Even if the EU has made international commitments to help improve health in third countries, there is no coherent Global Health Strategy to coordinate the DGs working on global health such as DG Santé, DG Devco, DG NEAR and DG Research, despite the Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG) and the WHO Global Action plan for healthy lives and well-being for all. **How will you ensure such a strategy is adopted during your mandate to strengthen the European engagement on Global Health?**

ABOUT EU4HEALTH

EU4Health is a pan-European alliance of European, national and grassroots level health organisations, coordinated by a group of 21 European level health umbrella NGOs. The group shares a vision of a Europe where all people are as healthy as they can be throughout their lives. The campaign aims to ensure that EU action on health remains strong after 2020.