



# E.P.H.A. European Parliament Elections

## MANIFESTO

The last five years have been difficult for many people living in Europe. Unemployment, cuts to social support, lack of access to finance and the impacts of austerity have taken their toll on people, their health and their faith in the political processes and even democracy. The 2014-2019 legislative term presents the opportunity for the European Parliament to continue its leadership to ensure that the priorities, well-being and health of people living in Europe are pushed to the top of the political agenda. As we see the European project under threat, bringing the activities of the European Union in line with the priorities of its people is essential for both a democratic accountable Europe, as well as one genuinely building an economy which serves its people and the environment they live in.

The European Public Health Alliance calls on political parties and individual Members of the European Parliament (MEP) candidates to ensure health and wellbeing in Europe are ranked as high as they are valued. We need strong leadership and a strong vision to reconnect European citizens to decision-making processes in the EU. Health, including mental health, is consistently identified among top areas of concern for European populations: to demonstrate the relevance of the EU to its citizens, Europe must deliver on the issues that matter to citizens, and not just to markets.

### 1. Refocus Europe's Business Plan onto the wellbeing of people

#### EPHA Priority for MEP candidates

EPHA calls on MEP candidates to ensure peoples' health and well-being are properly incorporated in a strong vision for Europe. MEP candidates are asked to commit to ensure the Europe 2020 strategy prioritises and delivers for people's health and well-being. 'Business as usual' is not delivering for Europe, nor for people living in Europe. To reach the goal of smart, sustainable, inclusive growth and fulfill targets such as lifting 20 million Europeans out of poverty, employing 75% of the active population, and reducing school drop-out rates below 10%, we need to ensure we are using tools that achieve these objectives and targets and not undermine them.

#### Supporting Actions when elected

1. Call for the Europe 2020 strategy to include a health indicator (such as healthy life years).
2. Call on the European Commission and Council to ensure a strong social dimension to the European Monetary Union (EMU).
3. Call for new ways of measuring progress including targets on reducing chronic and communicable diseases as well as health inequalities.
4. Call for the inclusion of health in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
5. Revise EU rules on economic governance, in particular the "Six-Pack", in the interests of public health and ensuring sustainable social protection systems.

## 2. Create a people-centric economy: quality for all

### EPHA Priority for MEP candidates

EPHA calls for MEP candidates to support a shift in the design and governance of the European economy. Health is not only a by-product of economic development, but one of its key components. Good health contributes to better overall outcomes in productivity; investment in health promotion, disease/injury prevention and high quality health services act as a driver for sustainable development. At the same time, quality employment is vital for health. In order to achieve this objective, fair employment and good working conditions for all are necessary. All segments of the economy, should be supported as well including to informal carers, flexible arrangements for people who have caring duties outside of work. We need to ensure that we shape our economy to deliver the society we want, and not shape society in pursuit of economic objectives.

### Supporting Actions when elected

1. Call for the relaunch of the European Social Market Economy.
2. Call for an EU Action Plan for the implementation of the Social Business Initiative.
3. Call on the Commission to enforce the Social Pillar of the Single Market and call on Member States to ensuring decent wages or adequate and sustainable income support.
4. Call on Member States to implement on national, regional and local level integrated active inclusion measures, as called for by the Commission in its Recommendation of 2008.
5. Ensure that Free trade agreements negotiated by the Commission with Third Countries to not hinder effective public health measures or access to affordable quality medicines.

## 3. Create an inclusive, sustainable society

### EPHA Priority for MEP candidates

EPHA calls on MEP candidates to support the achievement of an inclusive economy that delivers better health. Cohesive and sustainable communities that enable and promote healthy behaviours are key: accessible and affordable public transport; universal access to healthcare; quality, affordable and safe housing and sustainable and environmental energy and healthy food supply sources provide vast social benefits and go some way to protecting health.

### Supporting Actions when elected

1. Encourage the Commission to take up the invitation of the Council of Ministers to explore alternative growth models that reverse negative environmental trends while driving future development and job creation in a sustainable manner.
2. Call for a Council recommendation to reduce health inequalities.
3. Commit to the adoption of Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.
4. Monitor the use of European financial mechanisms, in particular structural funds, for social protection, healthy urban design, adequate housing and improved public transport.
5. Monitor internal market rules to ensuring that EU rules do not hinder Member States to take public health measures or hinder access to affordable quality and innovative medicines and diagnostic tools.

## 4. Strong public-interest based health policy

### EPHA Priority for MEP candidates

Healthy individuals are better equipped to smoothly transition into the job market and remain cognizant of relevant skills. Economic activity should promote wellbeing, social inclusion and better health for the public and healthcare professionals alike and EPHA calls on MEP candidates to prioritise health and social outcomes rather than sacrifice these in pursuit of narrow economic interests. The economy is there to serve the well-being of people and society; people and society are not merely products of our economy. Europe's 500 million population are more than consumers, workers and drivers of growth and ensuring a health population is an essential part of both economic and social success.

### Supporting Actions when elected

1. Support for a strong health chapter in the next European Treaty
2. Call on Member States and the European Commission to revise the Health Strategy, the Strategy on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity, and the Alcohol Strategy, and the HIV/AIDS Strategy
3. Call on the Commission to follow up its work on Chronic Disease via an Action Plan or Strategy
4. Call for a Commission to propose Council recommendations on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, Tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections in the EU and neighbouring countries
5. Call on the Commission to propose and the Council to adopt an Action Plan on Children's Health
6. To commit to undergo a health impact assessment of the Common Agriculture Policy