

EU4Health Programme Report - 2020/0102 (COD) EPF Voting Recommendation

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

In the European Patients' Forum view, and as outlined in our recent [statement](#), the new **EU4Health programme** represents an opportunity to build stronger, patient-centred, health systems that can provide care to all, under all circumstances and beyond the COVID-19 crisis.

Once again, EPF welcomes and supports the work of the Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs work on the European Parliament Draft report, including the recently agreed **Compromise Amendments**. In our view, **the agreed Compromise Amendments overall further improve the Report and therefore the Commission's proposal**, in particular by putting more attention on the importance of adequate resources for the Programme, enabling more accessible and affordable person-centred care, better integration between health systems (HTA, ERNs) and a stronger role for patient organisations and civil society.

Bearing in mind the above and in view of the upcoming vote, **EPF would like to further stress the importance of the following elements included in the Compromise Amendments (C.As):**

- **A well-resourced EU4Health Programme:** Ensuring adequate resources for the Programme is fundamental to ensure long-term impact on health systems, addressing the COVID-19 recovery while preparing the EU for future health challenges. EPF therefore welcomes the European Parliament's effort towards reinstating the original budget allocated to the EU4Health Programme, as included in **(C.A.) 4**.
- **Solid and inclusive governance:** To achieve its objectives and to ensure efficient use of resources, the EU4Health Programme should foresee a clear solid and inclusive governance framework with strong involvement of patients' and civil society organization. EPF therefore welcomes the **C.A. 5 on Article 16 (EU4Health Steering Group)** and **C.A. 10 on Recital 34a**.
- **Stronger role for patient organisations:** in addition to the abovementioned inclusive governance mechanisms (EU4Health Steering Group), EPF also welcomes the emphasis on the importance of patients and patient organisations in the design and implementation of the EU4Health Programme featured in several Amendments, and the clear identification of patient organisations as a potential recipient of EU4Health funding in **C.A. 8 (Art.14.1.b)**.
- **Accessible and affordable care for all:** Access to care, from medicines to health services, medical devices and digital health solutions, is fundamental to ensure person-centred care and reduce inequalities and inequities in health. EPF welcomes

the strong focus on affordability, availability and accessibility to quality care stressed in several Compromise Amendments, including for example **C.A. 2 (Art. 3.1.2); C.A. 3 (Art. 4.1.3,4); C.A. 10 (Rec. 15,43).**

- **Enhancing the European Reference Networks:** The European Reference Networks proved to be valuable and impactful tools to facilitate integration and exchange of information between EU Member States. EPF welcomes the EP focus on scaling up their scope to more chronic conditions, resources and enhancing their integration with health systems, in particular as mentioned in **C.A. 3 (Art. 4.1.9); C.A. 7 (Annex I.g.xi (a, b)); C.A. 10 (Rec. 26).**
- **Towards an European Health Technology Assessment (HTA):** In the context of better integration and cooperation at European level on health, EPF welcomes the importance given to advancing HTA collaboration within the Compromise Amendments text, in particular in **C.A. 7 (Ann. I.g.viii a); C.A. 10 (Rec. 11, 26).**
- **Improving health literacy at EU level:** Investing in health literacy, digital health literacy, skills and education is fundamental to enable better and more efficient engagement of European citizens with transforming health systems. EPF welcomes the focus of the Compromise Amendments on this matter, in particular as included in **C.A. 2 (Art. 3.1.3); C.A. 3 (Art. 4.1.5); C.A. 7 (Ann. I.g.ix – Ann. I.j.ii); C.A. 10 (Rec. 15, 16).**
- **Strengthening mandate and resources for ECDC and EMA:** EU health agencies can play a fundamental role in boosting efficiency, sustainability, preparedness and resilience of our health systems. EPF welcomes the clear mentions on the importance of strengthening ECDC and EMA featured in the text, in particular in **C.A. 7 (Ann. I.f.i a) and C.A. 10 (Rec. 31a).**
- **Inclusive and safe digital transformation of health and care:** the digital transformation, from data to telemedicine to Artificial Intelligence, has the potential to improve quality and efficiency of health and care. However, said transformation should be sustainable, accessible, inclusive of patients-views and adequately resourced. EPF welcomes the attention to these elements included in the Compromise Amendments, in particular **C.A. 2 (Art. 3.1.3); C.A.4 (Art. 4.4.4); C.A. 7 (Ann. I.j.i, ii, iii, iv); C.A. 10 (Rec. 15).**

The European Patients' Forum (EPF) is an independent non-profit organisation. Founded in 2003, EPF represents the interests of patients with chronic conditions on public health issues and in European health and related policy discussions with the European institutions. EPF currently represents 75 umbrella patient organisations and, through our members, an estimated 150 million patients across the European Union.

EPF Voting Recommendations – Summary Table

A well-resourced EU4Health Programme	Compromise Amendment (C.A.) 4 on Articles 5 and 6
Solid and inclusive governance	C.A. 5 on Article 16 C.A. 10 on Recital 34a
Stronger role for patient organisations	C.A. 8 on Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point b
Accessible and affordable care for all	C.A. 2 on Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 2 C.A. 3 on Article 4 – paragraph 1 – points 3 and 4 C.A. 10 on Recital 15 and 43
Enhancing the European Reference Networks	C.A. 3 on Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point 9 C.A. 7 on Annex I – point g – point xi a,b,c C.A. 10 on Recital 26
Towards an European Health Technology Assessment (HTA)	C.A. 7 on Annex I – point g point viii a C.A. 10 on Recital 11 and 26
Improving health literacy at EU level	C.A. 2 on Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 3 C.A. 3 on Art. 4 – paragraph 1 – point 5 C.A. 7 on Annex. I – point g – point ix C.A. 7 on Annex. I – point j – point ii C.A. 10 on Recital 15 and 16
Strengthening mandate and resources for ECDC and EMA	C.A. 7 on Annex I – point f point - i a C.A. 10 on Recital 31a
Inclusive and safe digital transformation of health and care	C.A. 2 on Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point 3 C.A.4 on Article 4 – paragraph 4 – point 4 C.A. 7 on Annex I – point j – point i, ii, iii, iv C.A. 10 on Recital 15