Dear colleagues,

The publication of the "White Paper on the Future of Europe" earlier this year marked the starting point of a wide-ranging and undoubtedly long delayed debate on the future direction of the EU. We are deeply concerned about the prospect of reducing EU engagement in the area of healthcare as suggested in some of the scenarios in the White Paper.

As directly elected representatives of the European citizens, it is our duty to ensure that their voice is heard in shaping the Europe of tomorrow. Recent Eurobarometer surveys have consistently shown that around 70% of Europeans want the EU to do more in the area of health. We all live healthier lives thanks to cross-border cooperation and collaboration in healthcare. There are many areas like HTA, ERNs and eHealth where EU actions have a clear added value and promise to bring tangible benefits to patients across the EU.

Knowing your strong involvement in healthcare and patient-related issues, we would be delighted if you support us in sending a strong political message that EU action in the field of health is indispensable for the future of Europe!

We invite you to co-sign a statement asking for a strong future engagement of the EU in healthcare.

Please, let us know if you are willing to support this statement, in replying to this e-mail <u>by</u> 14.00 on Tuesday, 12 September.

Yours sincerely,

Andrey KOVATCHEV, Co-Chair of the MEP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare Biljana BORZAN, Co-Chair of the MEP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare Karin KADENBACH, Co-Chair of the MEP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare Kateřina KONEČNA, Co-Chair of the MEP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare Cristian-Silviu BUŞOI, Co-Chair of the MEP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare Lieve WIERINCK, Co-Chair of the MEP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare