

Key demands from European NGOs to the next Health Commissioner (2014-2019)

The fundamental goal of healthcare is to support every person in achieving the best possible health outcome and quality of life and to enable them to contribute to society.

The European Patients Forum, the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, the European Public Health Alliance, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, the European Network Against Racism, AGE Platform Europe, the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network, Transgender Europe, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Youth & Student Organisation, European AIDS Treatment Group

are calling on the Members of the **Environment, Public Health and Food Safety** Committee to take the opportunity of the upcoming public hearing (September 2014) to ensure that the candidate for the position of **Health Commissioner commits to the following:**

1. To affirm leadership in fostering a **fundamental rights culture of respect, equality, inclusion and diversity in the area of health** and to ensure that everyone has access to high quality patient-centered health services without discrimination on any ground such as sex, age, disability, ethnic origin, religion or belief, health status, chronic diseases, socioeconomic, migration or residence status, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc.
2. To encourage during his / her mandate exchange of good practices between Member States on measures to tackle **discrimination and inequalities** in healthcare services, and that promote access to quality healthcare and information for groups of patients that are vulnerable to discrimination.
3. To encourage Member States to ensure universal health coverage that includes all those residing in the EU.
4. To implement a series of **measures that are key to make health fairer** including:
 - To propose ambitious, integrated testing, treatment, care and prevention strategies on HIV-AIDS, STI and co-infections such as hepatitis and tuberculosis, which address the impact of stigma and marginalisation on those epidemics.
 - To advocate for the depathologisation of transgender identities in international and national health classification systems, while ensuring that non-stigmatising, specific health care is available and accessible for those transgender persons who wish and need it.
 - To ensure that the EU non-discrimination legislation protects people that are discriminated on grounds of their health status (mental and physical) or chronic condition, as this is not the case currently.
 - To encourage the exchange of good practices on access to sexual and reproductive health services and information.
 - To support access to affordable new life-saving medicines.

5. To advance **EU policy coherence** between the right to health and EU policy outcomes potentially hindering access quality and affordable healthcare in third countries.

