

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAKING ACTION: EPF'S ROADMAP TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL BY 2030

BRUSSELS, 6 December 2017 – EPF's Campaign on Access to Healthcare for All calling for Universal Health Coverage by 2030 is coming to an end. During its closing Conference held today at the European Parliament, EPF presented its Roadmap and called for political change to ensure the rights of all patients are respected, to fight the health inequalities that persist across the EU, and to make health a priority in all policies at national and EU levels.

A tool for political guidance and a call for a long-term vision

Patients and citizens still face many unmet needs and unequal access to healthcare in all EU Member States. The output of EPF's one-year campaign, EPF's Roadmap to achieving universal health coverage for all by 2030 aims to tackle these in two main ways: *"With this Roadmap we want to provide political guidance and recommendations to policy makers and politicians and to encourage them to have a longer-term vision and to reflect on what kind of society we want for the patient community and the wider public by 2030."* said Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General.

What is EPF advocating for?

This Roadmap is intended mainly for EU and Member State decision and policy-makers and urges them to:

- Provide **equitable access to high-quality care** to all patients, regardless of which country they live in or their country of origin;
- Commit to **invest sustainably in healthcare** based on outcomes and added value;
- Ensure the delivery of healthcare products and services that are **affordable for all**;
- Promote **better coordination of care** and implement access to a **holistic range of health and related services**, ensuring that the package of services covered by the healthcare system is tailored to the needs of patients;
- End the discrimination and stigma that patients face and make sure that no population is excluded.

UN SDGs as a compass, European health collaboration as a means

The Roadmap emphasises the importance and need to establish a **transparent, inclusive and collaborative working process** for the **implementation of UHC and the UN SDGs**.

"If we don't get it right on the SDG on Health, then there is a risk that the other SDGs will fail. By the same token, if we don't get it right in health collaboration post 2020, then some other big aspirations for the EU in terms of economics and growth will also fail," added Nicola Bedlington.

This Roadmap echoes numerous initiatives taken by EPF to increase access for patients and citizens across Europe. On Monday 4th December, the EPF roundtable on cross-border healthcare provided an updated assessment of the current state of implementation of the directive from the perspective of patients, pointing out the gaps in access but also in the quality and safety of the care received across Europe.

Please find [here](#) EPF's Roadmap entitled 'Taking Action – A Roadmap to Achieving Universal Health Coverage for All by 2030'.

A [factsheet](#) giving a snapshot of this Roadmap has also been developed.

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EPF currently represents 74 members, which are national coalitions of patient' organisations and disease-specific patient organisations working at European level. EPF reflects the voice of an estimated 150 million patients affected by various chronic diseases throughout Europe.

EPF's vision is that all patients with chronic and/or lifelong conditions in the EU have access to high quality, patient-centred equitable health and social care.

The EPF strategic goals focus on areas such as health literacy, healthcare design and delivery, patient involvement, patient empowerment, sustainable patients' organisations and non-discrimination.

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