ENOUGH
NOW IS THE TIME
FOR EU ACTION ON NCDs

In light of the third United Nations High-level Meeting (HLM) on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), taking place on 27 September 2018, the European Chronic Disease Alliance (ECDA) and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) urge the European Union Institutions to:

1. **Show political leadership at the Meeting**, through:
   - a leading contribution of the EU delegation to the discussions;
   - a high-level EU participation, with the active presence of EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Dr Andriukaitis

2. **Encourage EU Member States’ Heads of State/Government to attend the meeting and to work towards a meaningful Outcome Document which commits to the following six key priorities:**

   1. **PUT PEOPLE FIRST**
   2. **BOOST NCD INVESTMENT**
   3. **STEP UP ACTION ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY**
   4. **ADOPT SMART FISCAL POLICIES THAT PROMOTE HEALTH**
   5. **SAVE LIVES THROUGH EQUITABLE ACCESS TO NCD TREATMENT AND UHC**
   6. **IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PROGRESS, RESULTS AND RESOURCES**

3. Support EU Member States to fulfil their commitments, by initiating a series of achievable steps to advance action on the prevention and control of NCDs, through:

Pursuing a positive contribution to the global NCD reduction agenda
By including public health protection and promotion in EU trade and investment agreements; dropping tobacco as an offensive interest in trade treaties and policy; phasing-out EU support for the promotion of alcoholic drinks in third countries

Leveraging national NCD prevention efforts and supporting the implementation of the “WHO Best Buys”
By focusing the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of NCDs on systematically supporting the national implementation of the WHO ‘Best Buys’, including through funding; helping Member States to put in place effective health systems to address NCDs via the Country Specific Recommendations in the EU Semester Process, with a special focus on ensuring health for all

Providing EU-level leadership in the response to NCDs
By proposing an EU-wide legislative limit to industrially produced trans-fats in food; ensuring renewal of the EU Action Plan on Childhood Obesity post-2020; phasing-in Health Impact Assessment (HIA) with a special focus on policies’ impacts on NCDs

Creating an enabling institutional environment
By dedicating the necessary human and financial resources at European Commission level to achieve the health objectives of Article 168 TFEU; including a Vice-President for Health in the next Commission and ensuring an effective Directorates General structure to address public health issues, while putting health promotion and NCD prevention high on the agenda of relevant other Commission services (including agriculture, trade, environment, employment, social affairs and research)

Strengthening the social dimension of Europe with people-centred policies
By pursuing a rights-based approach to people’s health throughout the life course; enhancing labour opportunities and ensuring the sustainable employability of people with chronic diseases in the EU

We call on the Austrian Government, who will coordinate the EU position on the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs as part of the Austrian EU Council Presidency (July-December 2018), and the Italian Government, acting as co-facilitator of the High Level Meeting, to commit to these recommendations and work with the European Commission and other EU Member States towards the above-mentioned goals.

The European Chronic Disease Alliance (ECDA) is a coalition of European health organisations sharing the same interests in combating preventable chronic diseases through European policies that impact health. ECDA represents millions of chronic disease patients and over 200 000 health professionals in Europe. | www.alliancechronicdiseases.org

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) is a change agent – Europe’s leading NGO alliance advocating for better health. We are a dynamic member-led organisation, made up of around 90 public health NGOs, patient groups, health professionals, and disease groups working together to improve health and strengthen the voice of public health in Europe. | www.epha.org

The European Public Health Alliance has received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020). The content of this document represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility.