

ECDA supportive statement of NCD Alliance Global Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs

European Chronic Disease Alliance (ECDA) encourages EU and national policy-makers to hear the calls of people living with NCDs, ahead of the UN High-Level Summit on NCDs

The ECDA expresses its full support to the [Global Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs](#), launched in December 2017 by the Non Communicable Diseases Alliance (NCD Alliance) and fully backs efforts of key stakeholders to improve NCD prevention and control worldwide.

Developed through a wide consultation organised by the NCD Alliance, this Agenda articulates the collective recommendations for action of people living with NCDs from regions across the world on human rights and social justice; prevention; treatment, care and support; as well as meaningful involvement of patients. The patients' voice is key ahead of the Third UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs taking place in September 2018. The ECDA, therefore, invites the European Commission and EU Member States to take it into consideration when assessing progress and preparing their plans for achieving the global targets.

In particular, the ECDA would like to emphasise the importance of primary prevention of NCDs. Effective prevention measures are essential to halt and reverse the rise in chronic diseases in Europe. We must succeed for people's sake but also to ensure a healthy and fit workforce needed to achieve the Juncker Commission's economic agenda. "Public awareness campaigns on NCDs and their risk factors; workplaces that promote and protect health of employees; front-of-pack labelling of food and drink products that allow consumers to easily understand their nutritional contents; restricted marketing of alcohol, unhealthy foods and beverages to children and adolescents; or taxing tobacco, alcohol, and unhealthy food and beverages" are all part of the package to meet this objective. EU and national policy-makers should opt for regulatory, binding measures where they have been proven to be the most effective.

Further, "addressing discrimination in the workplace against those with NCDs" and ensuring "workplace family leave and job security for those caring for family members living with NCDs" should be key socio-economic priorities. The prevalence of chronic diseases is growing in Europe¹ often affecting people of working-age, yet it has been extensively observed that employees living with chronic diseases, and their carers, have reduced employment prospects. The employment rate of people who have one or more chronic condition, and particularly people aged 50-59, is much lower than for those who do not suffer from any disease, as indicated in the "Health at a Glance: Europe 2016 report"². Health and social stakeholders recognise that action is needed to address the situation. The wide endorsement of a [call to action to improve the employment of people with chronic diseases in Europe](#), supported by over 40 national and European organisations, testifies to this.

Comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and integrated care must become a reality for all people with chronic diseases to allow continuity of care, improved health outcomes and support for (re)integration into social life and employment.

The ECDA invites governments and EU political leaders to acknowledge the central role that health and well-being play in building strong and socially sustainable economies. Measures to achieve this should include a patient-centric approach that involves patients, their organisations and carers.

By acting in accordance with the recommendations of this Agenda, the EU will make a step forward in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and particularly goal n°3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

For more information, please contact the ECDA Secretariat: info@alliancechronicdiseases.org

¹ Eurostat, 2010; Busse et al., 2010

² OECD/EU (2016), Health at a Glance: Europe 2016 - State of Health in the EU Cycle, OECD Publishing, Paris. DOI:10.1787/9789264265592-en