

## EPHA welcomes President Juncker's stance for equality of opportunity in 2017 State Of The European Union

Brussels, 13 September 2017.

Commenting on today's State of the European Union speech by European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker, **European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) President Archie Turnbull** said:

"The Commission President has at long last showed his appreciation for Europe's role in protecting health. We welcome his recognition that recent measles cases were avoidable and that European action is needed to stop such preventable tragedies. There are many more avoidable tragedies where more EU action is urgently needed during this President's watch: he must act now on antibiotic resistant 'superbugs' and the epidemic levels of other preventable diseases, especially those caused by smoking, bad air quality, unhealthy food and drink. In line with President Juncker's stand on equality of opportunity, if health inequalities are not properly addressed, it could fundamentally undermine the European project."

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**ABOUT EPHA.** The **European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)** is a change agent – Europe's leading NGO advocating for better health. We are a dynamic member-led organisation, made up of public health NGOs, patient groups, health professionals, and disease groups working together to improve health and strengthen the voice of public health in Europe. EPHA is a member of, among others, the Social Platform, the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), and the Better Regulation Watchdog. <http://www.eph.org/>

### Notes:

MEPs call for continued EU engagement in healthcare. *More than 70 Members of the European Parliament from all major political groups signed a statement calling for continued EU action in the field of health and enhanced cooperation between EU Member States.*

[http://www.eupatientaccess.eu/page.php?i\\_id=134](http://www.eupatientaccess.eu/page.php?i_id=134)

Over 200 organisations are asking the European Commission to step up coordinated EU action to tackle cross-border health challenges. Read more about the EU: DO MORE FOR HEALTH campaign at <https://epha.org/eu-do-more-for-health-campaign/>