



# MANIFESTO

Universal access to preventive and curative health care is one of the fundamental principles of the European Union<sup>1</sup>. However, economic considerations and the defence of private interests all too often take precedence over public health objectives and patients' interests.

France Assos Santé's proposals seek to ensure that health promotion and protection are a priority on the European agenda for the next five years. It is time to bring the European Union back into line with the expectations of its citizens, 70% of whom say they want greater EU involvement in the area of health<sup>2</sup>.

## 1. The European Union's organisation and operation must reflect the key role that health plays

- ▶ Appoint a European Commission Vice-President responsible for health.
- ▶ Strengthen the role of the Directorate-General for Health, which must be responsible for all policies affecting health.
- ▶ Ensure the independence of the health-related decisions taken by European Union institutions and agencies by increasing the transparency of their relations and links with private sector interests.
- ▶ Increase the financial resources of the programme aimed at supporting and developing the European Union's actions in the field of health.

## 2. The European Union must protect public health and promote health

- ▶ Make the protection of public health a cross-cutting priority in all European policies, in particular by strengthening the focus on environmental health.
- ▶ Prioritise the objective of patient safety in the development and implementation of all public policies that have an impact on health, including strengthening research and vigilance on the iatrogenic effects of health products.
- ▶ Encourage Member States to invest in disease prevention and health promotion to ensure longer and healthier lives.
- ▶ Promote cooperation between Member States to improve vaccination coverage against those infectious diseases whose incidence is rising in Europe.

<sup>1</sup> Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Principle 16 of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

<sup>2</sup> 2017 Eurobarometer survey : <https://bit.ly/2TOWSld>

### 3. The European Union must champion the rights of patients and health systems users

- ▶ Make the right of access to healthcare enforceable for all residents of the European Union, including irregular migrants.
- ▶ Introduce a common assessment for health technologies that is high-quality, independent, transparent and involves patients and citizens.
- ▶ Ensure the effective implementation of supply obligations and shortage reporting imposed on pharmaceutical manufacturers by European rules.
- ▶ Guarantee the right to effective compensation for patients in the event of damage caused by health products.

### 4. The European Union must encourage the sustainability of EU health systems

- ▶ Promote European cooperation on medicines prices and the transparency of real prices.
- ▶ Ensure that the objective of sustainability of health expenditure is taken into account when assessing European intellectual property rules which apply to health-related products.
- ▶ Combat anti-competitive practices in the health technology sector, particularly where they result in excessive prices and/or a delay in the entry to the market of generics or biosimilars.

### 5. The European Union must invest in research and encourage investment in health

- ▶ Define research priorities based on public health needs and on unmet patient needs, independently, transparently and in consultation with civil society.
- ▶ Make research funding conditional on the accessibility of results and the fair price of the health technologies that may result from them.
- ▶ Encourage and support Member States' investments to improve the equity, efficiency, quality and safety of health care.
- ▶ Encourage producers of active substances in medicines to relocate to Europe, in order to limit the risks of shortages and strengthen health security.

### 6. The European Union must promote the development of digital health for the benefit of patients

- ▶ Promote the principle of equal access for patients to digital health.
- ▶ Define a mandatory European framework for the interoperability of health information systems.
- ▶ Involve patient and user associations in defining the objectives and methods of using health data.
- ▶ Develop, together with patient and user associations, a strong ethical framework for the algorithmic models that underpin medical decision-making.

France Assos Santé is the name chosen by the Union nationale des associations agréées d'usagers du système de santé to publicise its activities as the organisation of reference representing and defending the interests of patients and users of the health care system. Its mission is enshrined in the Public Health Code via the law of 26 January 2016. On the initiative of 72 founding national associations and building on more than 20 years of advocacy, France Assos Santé was set up in March 2017. It seeks to promote and pursue the recognition of strong inter-association user representation. Its purpose is to provide users with a clear and powerful voice to express their views on the health issues that concern them first and foremost, incorporating their different points of view, always with the aim of promoting the common interest.



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