



Addressed

The manifesto provides several insights targeting **public health**, including a mention of an EU Health Union, and several mentions of **wellbeing**. The document also addresses **food security**, from a farming perspective. The question of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** is also quite well developed, with several proposals, but lacks a prevention aspect. **Equity** is developed in several aspects, in terms of health, gender, age, but also territorial equity. Particularly, funding for **health research** is extensively covered. The manifesto provides several elements relevant to **pandemic and crisis preparedness**. It also addresses **mental health**. As for **environmental elements**, the manifesto touches upon the issues of circular economy, phasing out of fossil fuels, emissions and the electrification of the transport fleet. It also hints on several occasion to a just transition, by mentioning “leaving no one behind”. Finally, **institutional elements** are significantly addressed, with the EU Health Union mention, and a call for a Vice President tackling the demographic issues in an overarching way.

Key proposals: European plan to address Alzheimer’s disease, dementia and Parkinson’s disease; European Cardiovascular Health Plan; New Pact for intergenerational fairness; European Guarantee for older citizens; EU Action Plan for Mental Health; European Workers’ Guarantee for the Digital Market; implementation of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan; strengthen the EU strategy for Outermost Regions; strengthen the European Care Strategy: implementation of the Net-Zero Industry Act and the Critical Raw Materials Act.

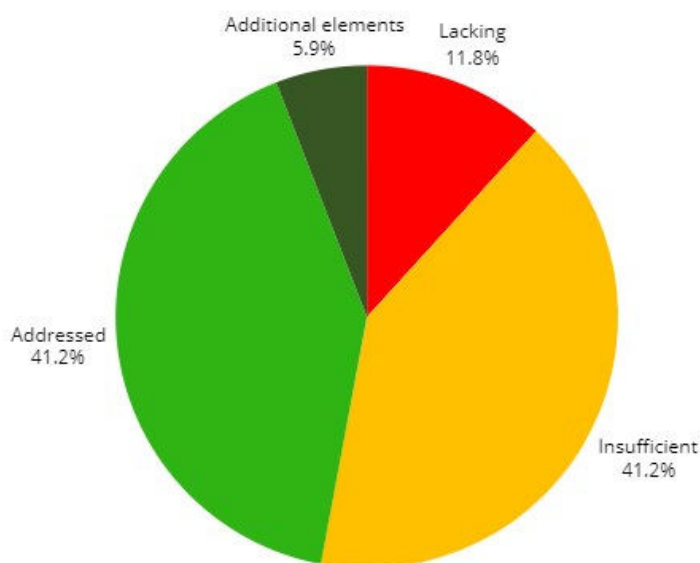


Additional relevant elements to public health

The manifesto provides a proposal in terms of **health equity and inclusion**, that would be relevant to public health, supporting the establishment of a European Guarantee for older citizens. Regarding **crisis preparedness**, the manifesto proposes the creation of a Civil Protection Union force, targeting “strategic reserves of food, water, medicines and medical equipment”. The manifesto mentions EU **enlargement and treaties change** to strengthen the EU, calling for a European Convention.

2. Focus¹

Assessing content related to health by number of topics



Global and multilateral initiatives
Antimicrobial resistance

Sustainable food systems
Environment and health
Climate change adaptation/mitigation
Health workforce
Resilience of health systems
Access to care
Digital transformation

Public health as a priority
Non-communicable diseases
Mental health
Health equity
Health crisis preparedness
Research in health
Institutional elements

Treaty changes and institutional tools

¹ Disclaimer: this visual reflects the coverage of the 16 topics listed in the analyses. Some of the topics comprise more elements than others.

3. Analysis

Public health as a priority

Health is mentioned several times in the EPP manifesto, with references to the achievements of the past mandate, and commitment to building a “true **European Health Union** to be prepared and equipped to deal with cross-border threats, improve the resilience of our health systems (...)”. While not mentioning specific measures on how to achieve it, the document shares a vision of a Europe that “leaves no one behind”, that “includes everyone” and “ensures that older people can enjoy longevity with dignity”. Indeed, the document includes several mentions of healthy ageing. This is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3, with the goal of ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing at all ages.² However, this is also focused with an economic dimension, stressing that “investment in healthy longevity is the best way to alleviate the burden of ageing on budgets and to make our longer lives also healthier”.

However, there is no vision nor even hints of **health in all policies**, nor of an approach to environment and health together. **Prevention** is also lacking, with only references to “fight[ing] diseases”. **Health promotion** is also limited to a Europe that “guarantees high health and care standards”, and only a few references to wellbeing. Finally, aside from investments in health research and innovation, there are no specific measures related to the **budget for health policies**.

There are common elements with the **EPHA manifesto**, especially regarding the call for a stronger Health Union and stronger health systems. However, EPHA calls further for health to remain a priority, and for public health policy to be provided with an ambitious EU budget. It also has a core health in all policies vision, and a stronger prevention focus.

Institutional elements

The manifesto highlights an extensive call for a **stronger Health Union**, with several elements ranging from stronger health systems to addressing the medicines shortages and more innovation. However, this lacks details of concrete measures so as to be realised. The manifesto also suggests a **Vice-President of the European Commission** that would focus on addressing, in an overarching approach, “demographic change” and its related challenges, including in healthcare. The manifesto also includes several references to the **EU’s role in the world**, affirming EPP’s belief in “European leadership in climate and environmental protection”, including through an aspect of economic prosperity. EPP calls for the “EU to become responsible for concluding international environmental agreements for the entire EU”. The document also stresses “trade agreements with like-minded partners”, mentioning as well that “no room should be left to dumping practices of third countries that undermine our efforts to reach strategic autonomy and higher social, environmental, safety or health standards.”

The manifesto also mentions the potential need to change the **treaties** to prepare for an enlargement and to tackle current challenges. The document highlights the need to “improve its institutions”, with an EU that would be “more efficient, stronger and more democratic”. The EPP calls for “a European Convention” to discuss the treaties.

However, the changes foreseen in the treaty are not necessarily meant for health, nor is the **SANT committee** referred to. Finally, there are hints towards support to “a thriving **civil society**”, with a call to “speed up funding procedures”. Again, no clear measures are enunciated in that respect. While these elements are not necessarily related to health, it could be expected that the Convention brings discussions regarding health, as the manifesto seeks to further the Health Union.

The **EPHA manifesto** also calls for a Health Vice President of the Commission, however, that would focus on public health, social rights and wellbeing. EPHA also called for further involvement of civil society, particularly through more sustainable financial support.

² Goals - SDGs - 3: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Sustainable food systems

The question of **sustainable food systems** is insufficiently addressed in the EPP manifesto. The issues of **dietary patterns** and **food and alcohol labelling** are essentially missing from the text, as well as the **Farm to Fork Strategy**. However, the latter's targets are to some extent hinted at. The manifesto calls for "integrated pest management" and "innovation to develop alternatives to plant protection products". However, this does not fully align with the target of reducing the use of chemical pesticides by 50%, and of fertilizers by 20% by 2030.³

The document stresses on several occasions the need to innovate rather than using "bans" of regulatory frameworks. This could to some extent be **detrimental** to the protection of public health, particularly the fostering of sustainable food systems and the protection of environments in a harmonised manner across the EU. This approach can also be seen in the elements from the food and agriculture perspective related to the Green Deal. Here the manifesto calls for further development through better consideration of consumers' and farmers' interests, but calls for both new rules on plant protection products and "less bureaucracy". This could also hint at less action at the EU level on key food systems questions.

Hinting at the development of sustainable food systems, while not mentioning a dedicated framework, the manifesto focuses on using the **CAP**, ensuring that the "funding is distributed fairly", supporting the production of "the highest standards". This additional funding is also foreseen regarding "farmers' environmental efforts, incentivise them to operate more sustainable and help them face the consequences of climate change". The manifesto then mentions support to farmers and fishers "to ensure the production of **healthy and affordable food for all**", however this is not accompanied by clear measures to deliver this. It also stresses that the CAP currently "meet the high expectations of society, in particular with regard to food supply, high food quality and safety, protection of natural resources, animal welfare and, last but not least, fair product prices for consumers". The link with **agriculture** is also particularly developed regarding the question of **food security**, deemed a "fundamental necessity", which can relate to SDG 2.⁴ Calling for a dialogue-focused approach with the farming sector, the document stresses that "this is the only way to secure (...) our food supply in the long term".

The **EPHA manifesto** places a strong emphasis on healthy and sustainable food systems and food environments, beyond farming. The document stresses the need to strengthen the EU's common food policy with dedicated regulations and budget, also highlighting the need for resilient and sustainable food production at all levels of governance. On the other hand, the EPP manifesto focuses mainly on food security and agriculture and seems to call for less regulation through its Green Deal approach and vision.

Non-Communicable Diseases

The EPP manifesto includes several proposals regarding **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**. It seeks to ensure "the full implementation of the **Beating Cancer Plan**", including its foreseen "funding of 4 billion euros". However, the Plan's targets are not discussed. These targets include the development of an **Alcohol Strategy**, or pushing for a **Tobacco Free Generation**, for instance. The document then commits to developing a "European plan to address **Alzheimer's** disease, dementia, and **Parkinson's** disease", as well as a "**European Cardiovascular Health Plan**", stressing the burden of cardiovascular diseases. It is further specified that this Plan would include a European Knowledge Centre and "promote a Joint cardiovascular and diabetes health check", highlighting the high burden of cardiovascular diseases in people living with diabetes.

While developing these elements and key proposals, the manifesto fails to address the causes of NCDs. The document does not clearly address the question of **prevention**, neither in the approach nor in the aforementioned proposals, and focuses on promoting research and innovation, especially for (rare child)

³ Farm to Fork targets "reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% and the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50% by 2030" and "reduce the use of fertilizers by 20% by 2030".

⁴ SDG 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

cancer. Similarly, there are no elements regarding addressing **risk factors**, or promoting **smoke free environments**. However, focusing on prevention would help alleviate the high burden of NCDs on public health and health systems.

Addressing NCDs and their burden through prevention and tackling all risk factors is a core message that can be read throughout the **EPHA manifesto**. An emphasis is placed particularly on the need to provide the conditions for healthier environments, sustainable food systems, with a strong call for prevention addressing all risk factors. Both manifestos have a common element in calling for a Cardiovascular Health Plan, with EPHA however placing it within an overall NCD Strategy.

Mental health

The topic of **mental health** is quite well addressed in the EPP manifesto, stating that “physical well-being is not all there is to health”, and giving an equal importance to mental health. The document also mentions the increasing demand for mental health support in the EU and announces a commitment to launch an **EU Action Plan for Mental Health**. The plan would contain measures addressing **stigma**. The EPP manifesto does not provide information on specific target or priority groups.

The **EPHA manifesto** overall has a similar view, but calls for a Mental Health Strategy to be developed, rather than a Communication (launched in 2023), with a comprehensive and sustainable approach and the goals of strengthening mental health services, developing better mental health indicators and launching awareness-raising campaigns and fighting stigmatisation. EPHA also adds a specific focus on access to mental health support for children, adolescents and marginalised groups.

Health Equity

Elements of **health equity** are mentioned in the EPP manifesto. It mentions the need to guarantee that people are equal before the law and are not left behind, and makes a reference to the implementation of the **European Pillar of Social Rights**. The document clearly states that “reducing **health inequalities** should be the core mission of the EU”. Human dignity, fundamental rights (“including the rights of minorities and the most vulnerable”), equality, equal rights for women and men, solidarity are mentioned as principles “at the core of European civilisation”. While not mentioning it, this can relate to several elements of SDG 5.⁵ This can relate to **anti-discrimination** and **anti-racism measures**, however, not sufficiently developed as there are no concrete measures. It also commits to “continue the fight against all forms of discrimination and, while fighting racism, intolerance, violence, hate crime, and anti-Semitism, as well as protecting LGBTQ+ rights and those of minorities”.

The manifesto has several elements on **gender equality**, stating that “enabling and empowering women is crucial”, with a key role of education. It also mentions the need for **equal pay**.⁶ The manifesto focuses mainly on tackling **violence against women**: “forced marriage, female genital mutilation and any other form of violence against women under religious or cultural pretext must not be tolerated”. It also calls for the Istanbul Convention to be “fully implemented throughout the EU”. These elements, alongside tackling **child abuse**, relate to SDG 5.⁷

There is a focus on **poverty**, particularly fighting child poverty, therefore relating to SDG 1.⁸ The manifesto also makes references to a Europe-wide parental leave, and supporting families on several accounts, in relation to access to **housing** as well.⁹ Then, some elements relate to the **inclusion of vulnerable and**

⁵ Targets - SDG5 - 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere; Targets - SDG5 - 5.5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

⁶ This can relate to Targets - SDG10 - 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

⁷ Targets - SDG5 - 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; Targets - SDG5 - 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

⁸ Goals - SDGs - 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Targets - SDG1 - 1.1.: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere

⁹ This can hint at SDG 11: Targets - SDG11 - 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

marginalized groups, with a statement that “we need increased burden sharing in time of crisis, better-shared responsibilities as well as strong protection of human rights, with special attention to vulnerable people.” However, no clear measure is proposed in that regard. They also call for “lower- and middle-class households” to be taken into account, especially in the cost-of-living crisis. An emphasis is also given to territorial cohesion, tackling **geographical inequalities**, calling for a “European plan for rural areas, including vulnerable areas near the EU external border that have suffered from the consequences of Russian aggressions and to strengthen the EU strategy for Outermost Regions”.

There is a strong focus on **intergenerational solidarity**, and equity for the elderly. Aside from calling for age-friendly cities, and a longevity society, the EPP promises “a New Pact for intergenerational fairness, making sure our choices today do not burden the generations of tomorrow, including a youth and elderly proof check of all EU legislation”. This can refer to SDG 10.¹⁰ A significant measure in that regard would be the establishment of “a European Guarantee for older citizens, to ensure social inclusion and their full participation in society and the economy”.

The manifesto, however, lacks a focus on a **just transition**, as well as on the **social and economic determinants of health**. Furthermore, while elaborating a position on energy, **energy poverty** is not addressed. It could also be argued that some elements from the proposed asylum and illegal migration policy do not support the development of anti-discrimination measures, and as such they could lead to a mismatch with EU values and fundamental human rights.

While the EPP manifesto gathers several relevant elements for health equity, **EPHA’s manifesto** has a stronger focus on anti-discrimination, anti-racism, and the need to improve equality data. The manifesto calls for measures combatting intersectional health inequities, poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and racism to ensure equitable health outcomes.

Access to care

The manifesto mentions the question of **access to care**, mainly through a call to guarantee “high health and care standards” and “accessible quality healthcare for all citizens, irrespective of socio-economic status or where they come from”. However, concrete measures to deliver this are missing. The issue of care itself is further developed, with an aim to “strengthen the European Care Strategy and to implement solutions for affordable long-term care for the elderly and other vulnerable individuals in all communities”. The manifesto also commits to implementing a European Disability Card. These elements can hint at the Global Health Strategy priority aiming at advancing **universal health coverage**, without fully addressing the question.¹¹

However, some aspects of access to care are insufficiently developed. The manifesto fails to mention the **Pharma Package** but calls for research and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector. It also hints at **medicines shortages** by stressing the need to “diversify our supply chains and create strategic inventories to prevent medicine and medical devices shortages”, without concrete measures.

While the EPP manifesto does not specify how these will be implemented, aside from the elements on the Care Strategy, it is somewhat supportive of the vision in the **EPHA manifesto**. The EPHA manifesto underlines the need for equal access to care and medicines across the EU and globally, with a strong focus on vulnerable and marginalised groups.

¹⁰ Targets - SD10 - 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

¹¹ Global Health Strategy priority - Strengthen health systems and advance universal health coverage

Digital transformation

The **digital transformation** of societies and of health systems is insufficiently mentioned in the manifesto. Specifically, the document calls for **inclusion**, with the need to ensure that “technological innovation puts people first”, and that “non-digital services should remain accessible for people without easy digital access, especially for the elderly”. There are notions of the **digital divide** as well, with calls for modern infrastructure, data and products “to be accessible everywhere in Europe”, with a focus on “rural and remote areas, taking into special consideration the challenges faced by outermost regions”. This remains, however, insufficient to address the issue fully. **Health literacy** is not essentially covered, but there is a mention of “digital literacy”.

There are also elements regarding protection against online threats, misinformation and cybercrime, and calls for readjustments to “our **data protection** to the requirements of the digital world”. It also calls for the respect of fundamental rights in the digital world. However, these do not specify any concrete measures to be implemented, aside from a “European Cyber brigade”, and an update to the EU charter of fundamental rights “in light of the digital revolution”.

Specifically on health systems, the manifesto mentions using innovations to “find the best solutions for everyone”, mentioning briefly **AI**, biomedicine, robotics and visualisation. These are to be balanced by “the right human know-how and sensible regulation”. The document stresses the need for ethical standards in the use of AI. The manifesto is calling for research to “discover novel prevention strategies and treatment in health”. However, the manifesto does not refer to the **European Health Data Space** and its mechanisms, nor to the coverage of **digital health tools** in medicine or **e-Health**. It also lacks the specific measures to implement these calls.

While the EPP manifesto has a strong focus on the digital transition and on innovation, it remains superficial in terms of health-related measures and implications of the digitalisation of health systems. It refers to several issues but does not provide elements on how these issues should be tackled. On the other hand, the **EPHA manifesto** provides several recommendations, with calls for the promotion of digital health literacy and digital skills, including of the health and care workforce. The two manifestos are however providing elements on digital inclusion, and on the ethical use of digital tools including AI.

Environment and health

Overall, the question of **environment and health** is insufficiently addressed in the EPP manifesto. The document has a strong emphasis on **emissions** and **electrifying the transport fleet**, calling for a “technology-neutral approach to developing alternative fuels, hydrogen technologies” and supporting “new sustainable liquid fuels”. The manifesto also commits to “streamlining the completion and development of the new Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) infrastructures”. These elements can relate to SDG 11.¹² However, this emphasis also highlights the strong lithium requirements linked to electric vehicles (“Europe will need 60 times more lithium for a sustainable battery supply in 2050 than it does today”) which, in turn, is not sustainable. There are no measures proposed on how to manage this, other than a call to advance “battery technology and battery recycling”. An element that could be concerning on that topic is a call for “more technology – not bans!”, in terms of making mobility smarter, which does not hint at regulatory measures pushed from the EU level. The EPP still mentions the promotion of a **circular economy**, and the establishment of a “CO2 circular economy”. While no clear measure in that regard is mentioned, this merely hints at SDG 12 and at the 8th Environmental Action Plan’s objectives (EAP).¹³

¹² Targets - SDG11 - 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

¹³ SDG12 – target 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; Objective - 8th EAP - Art 2.2.c - Advancing towards a well-being economy that gives back to the planet more than it takes and accelerating the transition to a non-toxic circular economy, where growth is regenerative, resources are used efficiently and sustainably, and the waste hierarchy is applied.

In terms of **pollution**, the manifesto commits to tackling the issue of PFAS pollutants, which can contribute to the 8th EAP's objectives.¹⁴ It also commits to “strengthen the European waste reduction strategy and the European plastics strategy”, which relates to SDG 12 and the 8th EAP as well.¹⁵ The manifesto also mentions the phasing out of **fossil fuels**, which could support the Green Deal's objectives.¹⁶ It highlights briefly the question of **air quality**, promising “a strategy for water and air quality”. However, the **Ambient Air Quality Directive** is not mentioned. Finally, the manifesto contains elements on **biodiversity**, forest protection, and tackling desertification with no specific measures.¹⁷ It suggests a “European Resilience Scoreboard to better prevent natural disasters”, also targeting the issue of **droughts**¹⁸, and a review of Natura 2000.

Some crucial elements are lacking or insufficiently addressed. While the document states that the EPP believes “in European leadership in climate and environmental protection not only to safeguard our planet, but also to promote economic prosperity and food security with less bureaucracy”, it does not present a **One Health** or **Planetary Health** approach. In terms of taxation, the measures could even be deemed detrimental to environmental protection, with elements opposite to the **polluter pays principle**. Indeed, the document talks of a “tax friendly” Europe, with the aim of implementing a “policy of positive incentives” as “much more effective”. It also stresses that “engineers, not politicians, together with the market, should be deciding on the best technology in order to achieve carbon neutrality”, which also does not support the polluter pays principle from the 8th EAP, nor its indicator on the share of **environmental taxes**.¹⁹

On the other hand, the **EPHA manifesto** has a strong emphasis on the One Health approach, on breaking policy silos, and on implementing the Green Deal in fostering healthier environments. Air pollution, emissions-reduction and the phasing out of fossil fuels are also core measures of the EPHA manifestos, which are common points with the EPP.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

The EPP manifesto insufficiently addresses the question of **climate change adaptation and mitigation**. The approach towards the **Green Deal** can even be seen as unfavorable to the level of ambition needed from the EU for its full implementation, and therefore, to the protection of public health and the fostering of healthier environments in a context of permacrisis. The document repeatedly mentions a position against “bans”, and provides a vision focused on the role of industry, innovation and the market rather of the regulators in pushing further climate neutrality. This could bring either a lack of implementation of the Green Deal, a decreased ambition from the EU level in steering climate action, and mostly, a lack of harmonisation. This would not fully support SDG 13, calling for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. For instance, the manifesto states, without mentioning concrete measures “we will only achieve the best solutions if we use all technological possibilities without any prejudice or ideology. We defend the principle of technological neutrality, as well as a policy built on creating incentives for businesses and industry. The EU can set targets for reducing CO2 emissions, but it must leave room for private, local and industrial players to find appropriate technological solutions”. It also stresses that “we rely on innovative concepts and market-based instruments for climate protection such as emissions trading, expansion of renewable and other low-carbon energies and a circular economy, including circular bio-economy”.

¹⁴ Objective - 8th EAP - 2.2.e - Protecting, preserving and restoring marine and terrestrial biodiversity and the biodiversity of inland waters inside and outside protected areas by, inter alia, halting and reversing biodiversity loss and improving the state of ecosystems and their functions and the services they provide, and by improving the state of the environment, in particular air, water and soil, as well as by combating desertification and soil degradation

¹⁵ SDG12 – target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse; 8th EAP Art 2.2.d - Pursuing zero pollution, including in relation to harmful chemicals, in order to achieve a toxic-free environment, including for air, water and soil, as well as in relation to light and noise pollution, and protecting the health and wellbeing of people, animals and ecosystems from environment-related risks and negative impacts.

¹⁶ Targets - Green Deal - reduction of emissions from cars by 55% by 2030

¹⁷ Objective - 8th EAP - 2.2.e - Protecting, preserving and restoring marine and terrestrial biodiversity and the biodiversity of inland waters inside and outside protected areas by, inter alia, halting and reversing biodiversity loss and improving the state of ecosystems and their functions and the services they provide, and by improving the state of the environment, in particular air, water and soil, as well as by combating desertification and soil degradation

¹⁸ Target - 8th EAP - 2.1 - Reduce water scarcity

¹⁹ Target - 8th EAP - Art 3 - Making polluters pay: increase the share of environmental taxes in total revenues from taxes and social contributions, Indicator - 8th EAP - Art 3 - Share of environmental taxes in total tax revenues (in %)

The document fails to mention the **Paris Agreement** or the **Fit for 55** dimension of the Green Deal. It also does not include the **impact of climate change on vulnerable groups**, even though there are hints of a **just transition**, with a call to ensure that “this economic transformation leaves no one behind”. In that regard, the document seeks lower energy prices through **investments** that would further integrate the electricity and gas market. There are mentions supporting the industry in the transition, with the Industry Strategy, “from the Net-Zero Industry Act to the Critical Raw Materials Act”.

On **adaptation to weather-related events**, the EPP manifesto mentions a key measure in terms of civil protection mechanisms, of creating “a Civil Protection Union force strategic reserves of food, water, medicines and medical equipment, in a spirit of solidarity, to support our Member States in time of crisis.” It also mentions the creation of a European Firefighters’ force.

The document has a strong focus on clean and cleaner **energy**, particularly due to the geopolitical context and its impact on the energy market, mentioning the phasing out of **fossil fuels** and reducing **greenhouse gas emissions**, and that “clean energy is not only good for the planet but also for our security”. The manifesto calls for “a European Energy Union that will lead us into a carbon-neutral and environmentally-friendly future”, stating their commitment to the “55% CO₂ reduction target and the goal of climate neutrality by 2050”.²⁰ The EPP also stresses achievements in giving priority to **renewables**. It also adds that “low-carbon energy has an important role in the transition to clean energy”. While it does not mention it, it could relate to the renewable energy target of the Green Deal, and objectives of the 8th EAP, Fit for 55, and SDG 7²¹. The EPP commits to invest in “the development of electricity and gas networks” pushing for “a more united and efficient energy Union”, also hinting at the Green Deal.²²

The **EPHA manifesto** puts a strong emphasis on the Green Deal’s implementation, with a particular focus on the just transition. Focusing on air quality and energy poverty, EPHA also advocates for a fair energy transition. It also promotes a One Health approach and breaking policy silos to approach climate, environment and health together. It also adds more on the impact of climate change on health, and the need for health systems to adapt.

Commitment to global and multilateral initiatives

While the manifesto provides elements regarding the **EU’s global role**, references and **commitments to global and multilateral initiatives** related to global public health are lacking. The manifesto makes no explicit reference to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, even though several mentions of “leaving no one behind” are made. The document does not refer to the **Paris Agreement**, or to a **pandemic treaty**. However, the manifesto references cross-border health threats, stressing that “health issues transcend national borders”. Similarly, the **Global Health Strategy** and the **One Health** concept are not mentioned, although one of the priorities of the strategy seeks to “Prevent and Combat health threats, including pandemics, applying a One Health approach”.

On the other hand, **EPHA’s manifesto** takes SDGs, Paris Agreement, and the One Health approach at its core in addressing the current permacrisis context. It puts an emphasis on the interlinkages between environmental protection, equity, particularly with leaving no one behind. EPHA also stresses the need for cross-sectoral policy development, and the need to address cross-border health threats.

²⁰ Green Deal’s target of no net emission of greenhouse gases by 2050; Targets - Fit for 55 - reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030

²¹ Targets - Green Deal - 42.5% renewable energy target for 2030; 8th EAP - Art 2.2.f - Promoting environmental aspects of sustainability and significantly reducing key environmental and climate pressures related to the Union’s production and consumption, in particular in the areas of energy, industry, buildings and infrastructure, mobility, tourism, international trade and the food system; Target - 8th EAP - 2.2.f - Reduce by 2030 the primary and the final energy consumption levels to respectively 992.5 and 763 million tonnes of oil equivalent; Indicator - 8th EAP - 2.2.f - Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (in %); Target - 8th EAP - 2.2.f - At least 42.5% of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption by 2030; Targets - Fit for 55 - reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030; Goals - SDG - 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

²² Targets - Green Deal - 11.7% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030

Health crisis preparedness

The question of **preparedness** regarding a (health) crisis is well developed in the EPP manifesto. In addition to preparedness to weather-related events, as mentioned in the climate adaptation section, the manifesto also highlights the **learnings of the COVID-19 pandemic**. Specifically, it mentions “Europe’s ability to manage unexpected crises” and the need for “a comprehensive EU-level approach to preparedness and crisis response”. In its call for a “true European Health Union”, the EPP mentions the need to be “prepared and equipped to deal with cross-border threats”. However, aside from the Civil Protection Union force, there are no clear measures on strengthening preparedness. The manifesto also provides several elements on defence and managing the “new geopolitical environment”, calling for unity in reacting to events.

The **Preparedness Union** should ensure that the EU and the Member States “will be better prepared for increasingly complex, cross-border and multi-faceted crises that often occur simultaneously”. This shows an understanding of the **permacrisis context**, without clearly naming it. Indeed, several crises are mentioned, mainly geopolitical, in particular “Russia’s illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, the weaponisation of energy and food, irresponsible nuclear threats combined with growing tensions in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait”. The document also stresses issues and crises for fishers, with the impact of Brexit and COVID-19, and “challenges such as climate change”. Finally, it mentions “times of digital, climate-neutral and demographic transformation” putting stress on “our social systems”.

To approach preparedness of health systems, the **EPHA manifesto** puts an emphasis on the permacrisis context. It calls for stronger cross-border cooperation and the fostering of healthy, health systems strengthened particularly through investments, learning the lessons from COVID-19. It also stresses that inequities should be considered in developing this approach, as crises tend to further impact vulnerable and marginalised groups. While the EPP mentions the crisis element, more measures could have been mentioned to support the implementation of the manifesto’s calls.

Resilience of health systems

The question of **health systems’ resilience** is insufficiently addressed in the EPP manifesto. While there are a lot of elements regarding funding and **investments**, they are mainly targeted at research and innovation. The notion of **Wellbeing Economy** can be linked to the resilience of health systems, in a vision that ensures that people are placed at the centre of care, while health systems are strengthened. It is also supported by the fact that investing in health has a high return on investment²³. While the EPP calls for our economy to be made “fit for new challenges”, and “building a good economic future for everyone”, there are no concrete measures related to such investments that would support health systems. Similarly, the document states that “we must balance different interests in our economy, society and environment, recognising the challenges of the global economy, climate change and the changing demographic realities on our continent”, but without ways of implementing it.

The **EPHA manifesto** puts an emphasis on the strengthening of health systems and of the EU health budget. The manifesto stresses that health is an investment, not a cost. Regarding wellbeing economy, the document highlights that preventing ill health through health protection, health-enabling environments, and stronger primary care, will lead healthier and more resilient societies and economies. Furthermore, the health and care workforce situation should also be addressed.

²³ EUPHA (2019). https://eupha.org/repository/advocacy/EUPHA_statement_What_are_the_European_Union_political_parties_planning_for_your_health.pdf

Health workforce

The question of the **health and care workforce** is mentioned in the EPP manifesto, but not sufficiently addressed. There is no mention of the current significant **shortages** of workers, but there is a reference to **medical deserts**. Indeed, the manifesto states that “it is crucial to eliminate the pay gap to stop the drain of health professionals from some European regions, especially in rural areas”. However, no clear measure is proposed to tackle these issues. A statement is also made regarding the **training** of “the best doctors and nurses”, without mentioning a measure. In addition to the pay gaps, more general elements are mentioned regarding workers’ (from all sectors) **working conditions**. EPP stands for “a competitive Europe that [...] creates quality jobs”, and wants to ensure “fair wages”, and fight “against precarious working conditions”.

While these general points would also support them, the crisis that the health and care workforce is currently facing needs to be urgently addressed in the next mandate of the EU institutions. However, no concrete measures are mentioned in the manifesto to address it.

The **EPHA manifesto** calls for the EU to address the shortages as a priority, by developing tools for long-term planning, improving the working conditions, supporting workers in terms of mental health and providing guidelines on mobility. EPHA also addresses skills needs, with calls for investments in education and continuous professional development.

Antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is not addressed by the EPP manifesto. The document also fails to mention a **One Health** approach, or the **Farm to Fork** agenda, as previously highlighted. However, the document does state that “health issues transcend national borders”.

AMR is an urgent global and cross-border issue to be tackled, both for environmental and health protection reasons. For instance, Farm to Fork contains a target to “reduce overall EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50% by 2030”. AMR is addressed in the **EPHA manifesto**, calling on the EU to take a global leading role in addressing the issue, through the promotion of a One Health approach. This role should be carried out through the involvement of all relevant sectors, including agriculture. As previously discussed, agriculture is extensively mentioned in the EPP manifesto, but not with regards to AMR.

Research in health

The EPP manifesto puts a significant emphasis on **research**, including research for health, and on funding for such research and innovation. Several calls are made to “boost [...] innovation”, and “accelerate investments in R&D and digital infrastructure”. The manifesto plans to “intensify research in the fields of energy, climate and materials, and promote Europe as a research centre for innovative energy technologies, with a special focus on nuclear fusion”. Regarding digital technologies, it foresees exploiting them to advance research. This includes discovering “novel prevention strategies and treatments in health, to better counter climate change and avoid environmental disasters, improve mobility and make construction works more efficient and safer”. Furthermore, the manifesto also calls to “establish a real innovation union for future technologies”. This would be done “by backing European pilot line infrastructure for semiconductor innovations better connecting scientific expertise and creating, for example, scientific centres of excellence such as a CERN for AI and an EU research-computing centre to simplify the exchange and data across Europe”.

Regarding **research in health**, as part of the call on the European Health Union, the EPP wants the EU “to become the world leader in medical research and pharmaceutical innovation while increasing access to clinical trials, especially to fight rare child diseases, such as cancer, that do not get enough funding for research”. It also stresses the need for Europe to be “the innovation hub of the world in the

health sector”, and “once again become the laboratory of the world where evidence-based politics and regulations enables the development of the best innovations and medicine”. However, there are no clear and concrete measures related specifically to these points.

Regarding **funding**, the manifesto sets the goal to “double the EU’s research and budget” for 2024-2027, and a target of 4% of the EU’s GDP dedicated to research and innovation by 2030. It also calls for “a Europe that invests in health research”. The leading role of the EU in “shap[ing] [...] the future” through these investments is also highlighted. Aside from public resources, the EPP also intends on “mobilising more private savings”. Finally, the manifesto places a focus on investing in AI. However, the manifesto does not mention the **Horizon Europe** programme, that could be used to support research and innovation needs.

In its manifesto, **EPHA** has called for stronger support to research as well, mentioning funding. The manifesto calls for a comprehensive European Health Strategy with a focus on research and innovation elements. The document pushes for the promotion of health-focused research and innovation to secure capacity for resilience and creating healthier environments. More specifically, the manifesto stresses the need for research funding regarding AMR, and for the development of medicines, linking to the Pharma Package. The latter is not mentioned in the EPP manifesto.

4. Conclusions

The EPP manifesto refers to many health-related topics, and to most of the topics that are part of this analysis. However, several of these issues are addressed with no, or few, concrete measures to implement them. The elements developed in the manifesto do not necessarily ensure the fast and full implementation of the Green Deal, therefore risking an implementation gap, particularly on the sustainability of food systems. The manifesto overall lacks an approach to health that considers prevention. However, the manifesto is strong in its measures for NCDs, although these also lack prevention. There is also a conscience of the need to prepare for future crises.



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