# **Manifesto Analysis**



Party of European Socialists (PES)



# 1. Summary

## Lacking

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The manifesto does not address the biggest health burden in the EU: **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**. Although there are elements targeting the protection of people's health, particularly with an environmental lens, there is a lack of emphasis on **prevention**. While recognising the key role of the **health and care workforce** during the Covid-19 crisis, no mention is made of the current shortages. Similarly, other **key current files** from this mandate are not mentioned or addressed: Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the Fit for 55 dimension of the Green Deal, Global Health Strategy, European Health Data Space nor the Pharma Package.

### Insufficient to meet EU goals and commitments

The manifesto refers to the COVID-19 context, and the need to collaborate to face **cross-border health threats**. The context of **permacrisis** is hinted at, but not sufficiently addressed. Similarly, supporting **health systems** and their resilience through funding is not clearly stated as such. The question of the **health and care workforce** is insufficiently addressed. The document however provides many proposals to support workers, in terms of working conditions, skills and rights. **Digital transformation** is also tackled in general, by hinting at AI and inclusivity of digital tools. In terms of environmental policy, the question of **air pollution** is not sufficiently addressed. **One Health** is not mentioned, but elements hint to it, with mentions of the planet being "all we have" or securing the environment "and people's health". While the question of **food systems** is well-developed, it does not relate to Farm to Fork or the Sustainable Food Systems Framework.

## Addressed

The manifesto hints at providing importance to **public health**, with a call for a stronger Health Union. In terms of **access to care**, the manifesto commits to quality healthcare and public services accessible by all. It also calls for security of supply in medicines, and fair pricing to prevent shortages. The manifesto refers to **research**, regarding **anti-microbial resistance (AMR)**, vaccines and rare medicines.

#### Addressed (cont.)

**Health and equity** are significantly addressed in the document, particularly the issue of energy poverty. Ending **poverty** in all its forms is quite addressed, with mentions of mobility poverty, or child poverty. The document focuses quite extensively on gender **equity** and putting an end to gender-based violence, on measures against **discrimination** in all its forms, and supporting vulnerable and marginalised groups and their inclusion.

The manifesto also hints at **just transition**, with "a Green Deal with a red heart, allying social and ecological policies". On **climate change**, elements regarding sustainable public transport are developed, and there is a strong focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy mix. There is a strong focus on **pollution**, with the polluter pay principle, plastic and chemical pollution, and water protection. The manifesto addresses the question of **food systems**, healthy and affordable food, and food security, with a focus on farming. It also tackles the use of pesticides. Finally, the question of **mental health** is addressed, calling for a dedicated strategy.

<u>Key proposals</u>: European Mental Health Strategy; EU Strategy on Age Equality; European Anti-Discrimination Directive; European Plan for Affordable Housing; EU Strategy for Combatting Homelessness; fully implement the European Child Guarantee; Implementation of the EU Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Reinforce the EU's strategies for Gender Equality and for LGBTIQ Equality; push for the adoption of Directive on gender-based violence.

#### Additional relevant elements to public health

The manifesto clearly mentions **treaty changes** that would "empower the European Parliament and the European Commission with tools to safeguard our democracy, strengthen our economy, protect our environment and our social model".

# **2.** Focus<sup>1</sup>

#### Assessing content related to health Non-communicable diseases by number of topics Additional Lacking 5.9% 5.9% Public health as a priority Insufficient Sustainable food systems 23.5% Antimicrobial resistance Mental health **Health equity** Access to care **Research** in health **Environment and health Climate change adaptation/mitigation** Global and multilateral initiatives Institutional elements Treaty changes and institutional tools Addressed 64.7%

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

READ THE FULL ANALYSIS HERE

