



## Editorial

### The European Parliament's Shift to the Right: What Are the Implications for EU Health Policy?

The recent EU elections, which took place on 6-9 June, represent a pivotal moment for Europe. Citizens were called to the ballot box to uphold European democracy and express what matters to them. Ahead of the elections, EPHA and its members, along with a multitude of different actors from civil society, partnered with the European Parliament in an election campaign to promote the importance of voting.

Now Europe has spoken. With the EU elections behind us, we can reflect on the results and the impact they may have on people's health. The European Parliament has shifted to the right, with the far right also gaining seats. This shift was less prominent than expected, but still has significant consequences. A more right-leaning European Parliament might mean more watered-down EU health policy, with the pretext of upholding Member States' national competence on health. Some policy files might be dropped, and priorities might change, but to what extent? Much will depend on what will happen in the coming weeks, from political groups and coalition formation to the distribution of key positions within the European Commission and the European Parliament.

As highlighted in EPHA's [opinion piece](#) on the European Commission's recent Communication on the European Health Union, significant steps for EU health policy were made in the last mandate. However, many challenges persist. Ahead of the EU elections, we published an [analysis of the European political parties' manifestos](#), in which we assessed the main parties' health plans and ambitions. Some pressing topics were overall found to be lacking, notably non-communicable diseases, the health and care workforce issue and lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance. Health might be at risk of losing its importance on the political agenda, with some significant files facing the possibility of being dropped between the two mandates. Following the elections, this analysis represents a solid tool that can be used by civil society to hold MEPs accountable for the promises made.

It is therefore critical that civil society organisations come together and strongly advocate for upholding the EU's momentum on health, and to further improve the health and well-being of millions of people across Europe. It is now the time to identify the health champions for this new mandate and start building relations with them to guarantee a strong collaboration, holding them accountable when necessary. As the new European Parliament and Commission are slowly starting to take form, the united voice of health civil society organisations must be ready to speak up.

In this newsletter, we have the pleasure to present guest article from the [European Liver Patients' Association \(ELPA\)](#), the [European Parliament](#) and the [EU Food Policy Coalition](#). These give insights on the role of civil society organisations in promoting democracy and people's health, as well as on the impact that the results of the European elections might have on food systems.



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## This Month's Top Stories



Another milestone towards the end of the Commercial Determinants of Health

*By Alba Gill, EPHA*

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Assessing MEPs' commitment to sustainable food systems: EU Food Policy Coalition's scorecards unveiled

*By EU Food Policy Coalition*

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Keeping the #UseYourVote momentum: The Path Forward After the European Elections

*By Giulia Busolin, European Parliament (EP)*

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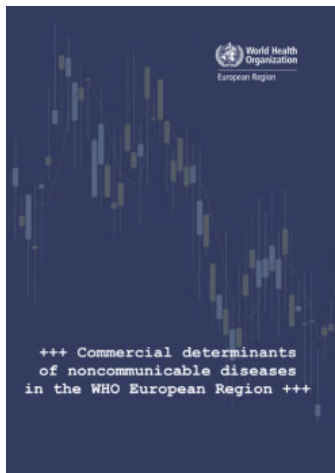


Advocating for Liver Health: The Role of ELPA and the Impact of the Recent EU Elections

*By European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA)*

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# EPHA Updates



## EPHA's contributes to WHO Europe's Report on the Commercial Determinants of Non-Communicable Diseases

On June 12th, the WHO Regional Office for Europe released a report on the commercial determinants of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), linking them to nearly 7,500 daily deaths across the region. The report highlights the impact of industries like tobacco, alcohol, processed food, and fossil fuels on public health, advocating for financial reforms and stricter regulations. It also empowers citizens and civil society organisations (CSOs) to push for systemic changes, emphasising their role in policy influence and public health advocacy for equitable health policies across Europe.

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## EPHA's manifestos analysis: assessing the public health measures in the parties' manifestos

EPHA identify the plans and ambitions related to (public) health, especially in relation to the growing environmental challenges. The conclusions of this work will help inform the voters on how their voice matters, especially over decisions that will actually impact their lives, when it comes to equity, health, climate, and environment.

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## Aligning Visions for Public Health: EPHA's Review of the European Commission's Health Union Communication

It is crucial to analyse and review how well our mission and advocacy align with the [Commission's Communication](#). Our aim is to identify synergies and gaps in our shared vision, laid out in our manifesto, assessing what has been achieved so far and how we can further advance public health in Europe.

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## Giving Health a Voice: Putting Health on the EU Election Agenda

The latest episode of "Giving Health a Voice" underscores the importance of the European Parliament elections for the future of EU health policy. It details EPHA's election campaign efforts, highlighting our priorities for candidates and pre-vote actions. The episode concludes by showing how EPHA provides information to help voters identify which political groups support health in their manifestos and encourages everyone to #UseYourVote.



[LISTEN HERE](#)

## EPHA Events



**Starting Tomorrow! 26 & 27 June 2024 | 09:30 - 17:00 CEST | Hybrid Event**

Join us at our two-day DisQo Stakeholder Network conference to address the profound impacts of racism and discrimination on health, particularly for People of African Descent. This event features **leading experts and stakeholders, offering case studies, panel discussions, and interactive sessions to develop actionable strategies for promoting health equity.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The poster has a teal and white color scheme. On the left, the text reads: 'ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCACY FOR CLEAN COOKING', 'Capacity Building Webinar', '12 June 2024', '10:30 - 12:00 CEST', and 'ONLINE'. At the bottom left is the logo for 'Clean Cooking for Public Health'. On the right, there is a photograph of a person's hand using a wooden spatula to stir vegetables in a black frying pan on a stove.

**ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCACY FOR CLEAN COOKING**

Capacity Building Webinar

12 June 2024  
10:30 - 12:00 CEST  
ONLINE

 Clean Cooking for Public Health



**Boost your public health advocacy techniques!** Watch our webinar recording to learn effective strategies for advocating clean cooking. Discover how to communicate the health impacts of gas cooking and tackle indoor air quality issues with policymakers and media.

[WATCH HERE](#)

## News From Members

### Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

ECL has released a manifesto for the 2024-2029 legislative cycle, urging policymakers to focus on innovative cancer research, improve National Cancer Control Programmes, and promote policies for healthier choices and planetary protection

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### European Patients' Forum (EPF)

EPF's "Vote4Patients" campaign advocates for patients at the core of EU healthcare policy. It emphasises the crucial role of patient organisations in shaping national and regional healthcare policies. EPF's manifesto calls for inclusive policy development, stable funding, and patient involvement in health technology assessments and decision-making.

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### Safe Food Advocacy Europe (SAFE)

SAFE is launching a campaign to raise awareness about acrylamide, a potentially harmful substance formed during high-temperature cooking of starchy foods like potatoes, bread, and coffee. The campaign will inform consumers about the risks of overcooked foods and provide tips on safer cooking practices. Additionally, SAFE has published a position paper urging mandatory limits on acrylamide in industrial foods, especially those for children.

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## Other News

### Medics 4 Clean Air

#### Voices on Healthcare Decarbonisation!

All five videos from the interview series with healthcare champions have been released. The videos are designed to inspire action, provide practical insights and resources into implementing sustainable practices at a local level and national level.



[WATCH THE VIDEOS](#)

EPHA (AISBL) is the European Platform bringing together public health organisations representing health professionals, patients groups, health promotion and disease specific NGOs, academic groupings and other health associations. The European Public Health Alliance has received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's EU4Health Programme (2021-2027). The content of this email represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains. Transparency Register Number: 18941013532-08

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