

Brussels, 16 September 2024

Dear President von der Leyen,

With high interest and great appreciation, we listened to your speech in the EU Parliament on 18 July in which you mentioned the upcoming work on cardiovascular diseases (“building on the successful model of the Beating Cancer Plan”) as one of the priorities for the new Commission. Now, only 2 months later, we are writing with some concern that your political guidelines as well as the clear directions given in the EPP’s manifesto might not be pulled through in the Mission Letters as well as in the working plan of the incoming Commission.

The Healthier Together initiative is a good basis for action on NCDs, but in order to achieve comprehensive and meaningful action on CVD, Europe’s #1 killer, a specific plan is needed. The 60 million cardiovascular patients and their families in Europe deserve better, and this is why so many politicians have supported the call for dedicated action on CVD during their campaigns for the June elections. This is not only about combating cardiovascular disease as such, but also its main causative disorders, hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and overweight/obesity.

The current Trio Presidency of the Council of the EU has made clear its intention to have Council Conclusions on improving cardiovascular health and support is strong from Member States for action that would deliver real benefits for patients.

Similarly in the European Parliament, the intention is clear that cardiovascular health must become a priority during this term. This was evident in the EPP Group manifesto and in the recent support shown in the SANT committee by other political groups.

Again, we note with appreciation your support in the past for dedicated action on CVD and the same by the outgoing Commissioner for Health, Ms. Kyriakides. We ask that this expression of support manifests in the Mission Letter to your Commissioner-Designate and that you acknowledge the clear desires of the European Council and Parliament for a dedicated EU Cardiovascular Health Plan to combat the EU’s and the world’s biggest killer.

Thank you for your commitment to make a dedicated plan for Cardiovascular Health a priority for the incoming Commission.

Kind regards,

Members of the European Alliance for Cardiovascular Health

