



**JOINT STATEMENT BY EPSU, CPME and EFN**

## **Protect EU4Health: Europe needs dedicated and adequate funding for health**

Brussels, 19 November 2025

The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) and the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) express serious concern over the European Commission's proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034), which removes the dedicated EU4Health programme and places health under a broader European Competitiveness Fund.

We urge EU leaders to maintain a ring-fenced EU4Health programme with adequate and predictable funding. Health cannot be treated as just another dimension of competitiveness. It is a public investment that strengthens Europe's social and economic foundations — improving productivity, supporting employment, driving innovation and contributing to long-term stability.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the value of a strong and independent EU health programme. EU4Health has funded crisis response, supported digital tools, improved cancer prevention and launched projects to address workforce shortages. Removing or downsizing this programme would reverse progress and weaken Europe's preparedness for future crises.

Across Europe, health and care services face staff shortages, rising costs, and growing demand. Reducing EU investment now would deepen these problems, jeopardising access to care and public trust in European institutions.

We therefore call on the European Parliament and the Council to:

- Reject any cuts to EU4Health,
- Keep it as a standalone, ring-fenced programme, and
- Prioritise long-term investment in Europe's health and care workforce.

A healthy Europe is the basis for a competitive and sustainable future. The EU's budget must recognise and reflect that.