

**Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being – EFA comments on Accelerator Discussion Paper 4  
'Determinants of Health'**

**Environmental determinants (p. 2)**

- **Generate more knowledge on the impact air pollution has on human health** (including in-vitro health), to put public health in the driving seat of sustainable development in Europe. While the 1<sup>st</sup> WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health has been an important milestone, UN agencies should be vocal in streamlining urgent action towards the national air pollution levels. EFA suggests:
  - **accelerate the ongoing WHO Air Quality Guidelines revision**, to set irrefutable science-based air quality levels beyond industry and traffic emissions, and to guide policy-makers and the public on actions to prevent, reduce and tackle air pollution
  - **reinforce the European Environment and Health process**, by monitoring the progress on the Parma and Ostrava declarations to improve indoor and outdoor air quality at national level
- In its considerations on healthy food and environment-friendly diets, EFA recommends to make an **explicit reference to the reduction of unhealthy food production technologies**, because of its suspicion of harmful effects on health. Pesticide and biocide use, highly processed food, chemical based packaging and the sudden introduction of (natural or created) novel foods, seem to be at the origin of an alarming increase in the prevalence of **food allergies** in Europe.

**Commercial determinants (p. 3)**

- EFA calls WHO and other agencies to underpin and strengthen the **human rights approach on health-harming products such as tobacco** to facilitate the protection of the most vulnerable (e.g. children) from accessing tobacco and from exposure to second-hand smoke. Whether patients or consumers there should be a specific **access to justice for people victims of the industry whitewashing of tobacco and its derivatives**. This could be realized in partnership with UNICEF, OHCHR and in line with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

**Structural determinants (p. 4)**

- Foster the discussion for the definition of a long-term strategy on chronic diseases, especially those that are non-communicable. Such a strategy should be underpinned by **ambitious national percentage targets for the reduction of deaths from chronic diseases**, especially those developing due to preventable risk factors.
- Target actions towards vulnerable societal groups, as being a patient translates into stigmatisation, discrimination, and social isolation. Concerted **action towards disease management based on a multi-disciplinary care approach** can offer better health outcomes and the collateral benefit of better social inclusion for the people living with the disease.

**Annex 1**

- Promote the reporting on human rights related to health **within the Universal Periodic Review process**.

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