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Foreword
2019 has been an important year for the European Union and for Health First Europe. 2019 saw the European Parliament’s elections and the nomination of our new Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. We were glad to see that health is still going strong in the EU agenda and in policymakers’ political programs, giving us the chance to continuing to work together with them for improving health care through innovation.

We are very proud to share with you the many accomplishments of this year, that set the foundation for our future advocacy work. Over the past 12 months, Health First Europe has continued to advocate to foster patient safety and innovation in health care systems across Europe, in collaboration with our members, health care stakeholders and policymakers.

The following Annual Report recaps Health First Europe activities during the year 2019 (Jan-Dec), covering 5 focus areas:

1. The health care workforce of the future
2. Digital technologies to innovate healthcare systems
3. Patient safety
4. Power of knowledge
5. Integrated care

Our 2019 achievements reflect the commitment of our members and trusted network of MEP supporters. We are ready for another exciting year in 2020, looking forward to keeping on working together for a safer and smarter care!
Our 2019 achievements
We expanded our network

During 2019, HFE expanded its network and welcomed 2 associations and 8 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) as supporters.

27 Members - 2 New in 2019

19 MEP Supporters - 8 New in 2019

We consolidated our vision on important health topics

In 2019, HFE launched several publications related to relevant health issues and trends, from digital health to workforce planning and sepsis prevention and control.

Our Publications

Open letter addressed to the Members of the European Parliament to raise awareness on sepsis.

Joint call to promote Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) prevention and control.

A compendium to showcase the value of innovative solutions in boosting efficiency in health care.

Policy paper on the core competences on the health care workforce of the future, identifying policy changes to support workforce in the transformation of care.

Policy paper on digital health, reflecting the vision of HFE members on the opportunities existing technologies can offer and the barriers to overcome for their implementation.
We grew our social media community

Health First Europe’s Twitter account has now over 3,200 followers (66.72% more than the previous year) – including the official accounts of the European Commission, Directorates-Generals and policymakers. Our twitter impressions* increased by 100.8%, our retweets increased by 94.7% and the link clicks by 57.1%

*Twitter impressions are one of the main indicators of online presence. Impressions are the total number of times a Tweet has been seen

Amongst our new followers:

- Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales
- Official account of the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)

Did you know?

HFE Secretariat was mentioned by Politico amongst the few all-female teams in EU affairs

We proudly hosted workshops at the European Health Forum in Gastein & at EHMA Annual Conference

- Click here for more information

We built up the first cross-generation and multi-stakeholder working group on health care workforce

In February 2019, HFE brought together a broad range of health stakeholders, from health care managers to medical students, to launch an inclusive debate to shape the profile of the health worker of the future. The results of this exercise was the publication of our policy paper “Profiling the European Health Workforce of Tomorrow”, issued in December 2019.
We worked with a great group of health champions on Twitter

**HFE Top influencers**

The influential accounts (e.g. policymakers, key organisations) that have engaged with HFE Twitter accounts and posts (liking, retweeting and commenting), are made of relevant European policymakers and international health associations such as:

- **Tomislav Sokol**
  Member of European Parliament
  @HZE_HR
  Se unió en abril de 2019

- **Sara Cerda**
  Eurodeputada 2019-2024
  @SaraCerda
  @TheProgressives
  @OpenSocietyEurope
  Se unió en septiembre de 2018

- **Veronique Trillet-Lenoir**
  Eurodeputada
  @VTL_Cancer
  Se unió en septiembre de 2018

- **Sirpa Pietikäinen**
  @SirpaPietikainen
  European Parliament, Member of the European Parliament (EPP), Finland, Member of the Committee on Environment and Public Health
  Se unió en octubre de 2016

- **José Inácio Faría**
  Eurodeputada MEP Portugal
  @EPPGroup
  Se unió en abril de 2019

- **Vytėnas Andriukaitis**
  EU Health
  @VytisAndrus
  Se unió en noviembre de 2015

- **Paul Nemitz**
  @PaulNemitz
  EU Health
  Se unió en octubre de 2015

- **ECDC**
  @ECDC
  Se unió en julio de 2015

- **WHO Europe**
  @WHO_Europe
  Se unió en octubre de 2015

- **WHO at the EU**
  @WHO_EU
  Se unió en octubre de 2015

**Health First Europe**

*Improved healthcare through innovative solutions*
We shared our policy messages during the 2019 European Parliament’s Elections

Our Wish Campaign

In the occasion of the first plenary meeting of the new European Parliament, which took place on 2 July 2019, we launched a communication campaign to introduce our members to the new and re-elected parliamentarians, to share their wishes and calls to action for the next EU Health Policy Agenda.

The social media cards were used to engage with the new European Parliamentarians and to share our key messages for the future of care. All wish cards are available here.

Additionally, HFE President Roberto Bertollini sent a video message to the newly-elected parliamentarians, calling to prioritise health in their political agenda.

“Please consider health as wealth. Put health at the top of your priorities in order for Europeans to see through health the value of the European Union.”

HFE President, Roberto Bertollini
The focus areas of our work
Overview
Health care systems across Europe are facing major challenges and health demands and needs are evolving. The capacity of health systems to address the changing needs for care strongly depends on their workforce.

Goal
To profile the health care worker of the future, identifying core competences and challenges in training.

Key message
In order to build a resilient workforce and meet the challenges of Health 2.0, a paradigm shift in health care systems is required. This shift should start from the workforce’s core competences.

Outcome
Identify the core competences of the health care worker of the future and called for a European strategy for effective and sustainable health care workforce planning.

HFE Actions

1. Creation of the first cross-generation and multi-stakeholder working group dedicated to profile the health care workforce of the future February – December 2019
HFE brought together a broad range of health stakeholders, from health care managers to medical students, to launch an inclusive debate to shape the profile of the health worker of the future. The discussion aimed at outlining the core competences required in the emerging models of care, gaps in the current workforce educational and profession pathways, and highlighted the policy changes necessary to support health workers in the transformation of care. 
Members of the working group: HFE, EUROFEDOP, EHMA, UEHP, EAMBES, EPSA, ENOTHE, SPOT-Europe, ESNO, COTEC and MedTech Europe.

2. Engagement with the European Commission’s Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health and its Chair, Prof. Jan De Maeseneer June 2019
Thanks to the inputs of the European Commission’s Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health and its Chair, Prof. Jan De Maeseneer, we gathered useful insights to start shaping the policy recommendations in our paper “Profiling the European Health Workforce of Tomorrow”.

3. Roberto Bertollini’s video message July 2019
The video message was launched after the European Parliament elections and called on new elected MEPs, as well as other relevant policymakers, to invest in the health workers of the future in order to ensure quality of care (video available here).

4. Policy paper “Profiling the European Health Workforce of Tomorrow” December 2019
As a result of the abovementioned working group and engagement with the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health, HFE launched its policy paper “Profiling and training the health care workers of the future”. The paper serves as a starting point for future discussions and actions covering: (1) the current challenges faced by health systems; (2) the core competences required for the health care workforce of the future and (3) the policy changes needed to reform health care workforce planning and education (publication available here).
Focus area N.2
Digital technologies to innovate health care systems

Overview
Digital solutions enable a real transformation of our health care systems, supporting a shift from a curative-oriented approach to more prevention, prediction and better care for the population.

Key message
Existing digital solutions can support health care delivery across all stages of the patient pathway. Political commitment and EU leadership are essential to guide Member States in building effective and trusted digital health eco-systems.

Goal
To encourage the identification and uptake of digital solutions to innovate health care systems towards preventive and integrated patient-centric care.

Outcome
Build synergies and understanding amongst health care stakeholders on the importance to promote the uptake of existing digital solution for safer and smarter care.

HFE Actions

1. Survey and video campaign on digital health January-March 2019
To map HFE members’ positioning on digital health, the HFE Secretariat has run a survey and conducted interviews amongst its network. The survey and the interviews (resulted in a video campaign) focused on 3 areas: (1) key priorities with regard to existing digital technologies; (2) opportunities and barriers for their uptake; and (3) policy recommendations to overcome these barriers addressed to national and EU policymakers (video campaign available [here](#)).

2. HFE position paper on digital health June 2019
The paper collects HFE members’ reflections on the digitalisation of care, the opportunities offered by existing technologies and the barriers to overcome for its implementation (publication available [here](#)).

The roundtable focused on the role of workforce to encourage the uptake of digital solutions to innovate health care systems and it gathered relevant health stakeholders and policymakers, e.g. MEP Sara Cerda (S&D, Portugal) and MEP Tomislav Sokol (EPP, Croatia). Event summary available [here](#).
Focus area N.3
Patient Safety
The European Network for Safer Healthcare (ENSH)

Overview
The ENSH is an informal group of health stakeholders working together to ensure patient and health care workforce safety is in the limelight of the EU policy agenda.

Goal
To support EU and national initiatives aimed at enshrining best practices in patient safety across Europe.

Key message
Safety is a paramount concern for patients and health care workers in Europe. Ensuring the highest standards of safety for patients and the health workforce is the cornerstone of an effective health system and an indicator of quality of care.

Outcome
Bring together European health care key actors to agree on a common message and strategy about safety in health care settings.

ENSH Network, topics and introduction video

The European Network for Safer Healthcare is an informal group of health stakeholders working together to ensure patient and health care workforce safety is in the limelight of the EU policy agenda. The network is firmly resolved to represent a constructive, vigilant and responsive 3rd party body to support European and national initiatives aimed at enshrining best practice in patient safety in the EU.

ENSH members

In March 2019, the European Network for Safer Health Care launched a series of videos to present the network and enhance media literacy on healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and sepsis.

Topics covered by the ENSH
The activities of the network covers a wide range of topics related to patient and workforce safety, from antibiotic resistance, healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and exposure to hazardous drugs; in 2019 mainly two macro-topics:

- SEPSIS
- HAIs and AMR
Focus area N.3

Patient Safety
The European Network for Safer Healthcare (ENSH)

Topics covered by the ENSH
The activities of the network covers a wide range of topics related to patient and workforce safety, from antibiotic resistance, healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and exposure to hazardous drugs; in 2019 mainly two macro-topics:

SEPSIS
HAIs and AMR

Patient Safety – Sepsis
The European Network for Safer Healthcare (ENSH)

HFE Actions

1. #StopSepsisEU Twitter awareness campaign June-December 2019
A series of tweets were published to foster awareness on the burden on sepsis in the EU with the collaboration of the Global Sepsis Alliance. The campaign was a success and obtained more 150 K impressions and over 600 likes.

2. Roundtable debate #StopSepsisEU 25 September 2019
HFE, as coordinator of the ENSH, organised a roundtable meeting at the European Parliament to raise awareness on sepsis and to discuss successful initiatives at country level on sepsis prevention, management and control. Kindly hosted by MEP Simona Bonafè (S&D, Italy), the debate brought together health stakeholders, national representatives and the European Commission. Event summary available here.

3. Open letter: Time to act to stop sepsis in the EU September 2019
HFE, jointly with the Global Sepsis Alliance, ENSH members and other relevant associations, drafted and co-signed an open letter to call MEPs to act urgently to stop sepsis in Europe. The letter gave an overview of the burden of sepsis as well as a list of recommendations to shape a pan-European action plan on sepsis. The letter is available here.
Focus area N.3

Patient Safety – HAIs & AMR
The European Network for Safer Healthcare (ENSH)

HFE Actions

1. ENSH Roundtable debate on AMR and HAI prevention 29 January 2019
   HFE, as coordinator of the ENSH, organised a debate on “Patterns to tackle AMR: Designing effective HAI prevention and control programmes in Europe”. With the support of MEP José Inácio Faria (EPP, Portugal) and MEP Lieve Wierinck (ALDE, Belgium), health stakeholders, national representatives and the European Commission met to discuss the implementation of effective infection prevention and control programmes to reduce HAIs and tackle AMR (the event summary is available here).

2. ENSH Workshop at the European Health Forum in Gastein 2019 2 October 2019
   HFE, as coordinator of the ENSH, organised a workshop on “Data for safer care: Digital solutions & surveillance systems for patient safety” to discuss the role the EU can play in supporting its Member States to share relevant data on patient safety and surveillance networks. (Event summary here). The workshop gained media attention with thanks to social media cards and the participation of relevant policymakers. The Parliament Magazine wrote an editorial piece on the workshop.

3. Participation to the Antibiotic Awareness Week 18 November 2019
   During the Antibiotic Awareness Week, HFE carried a social media Twitter campaign and attended the ECDC Conference in Stockholm on the Antibiotic Awareness Day on 18 November 2019. On this occasion, the ECDC releases its annual updates on antibiotic resistance and antibiotic consumption (More info here).

4. Joint Call on Patient Safety and HAI Prevention and Control November 2019
   The document calls on the European Commission to adopt a pan-European Infection Management Strategy addressing the health, social, economic and environment determinants, which influences infection diseases and considers the intrinsic links between antimicrobial resistance, prevention of HAIs and sepsis (the joint call is available here).

5. Health First Europe joint and actively engaged with the following networks

   **AMR Stakeholder Network** brings together 80 organisations and individuals committed to tackling AMR at national, regional and European level. Together we call for immediate action & commitment from policymakers to tackle the AMR public health crisis. More information here.

   **EU Joint Action on AMR and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI)** brings together 44 partners from 28 countries. Its mission is fostering synergies among EU member States developing effective One Health policies to fight the rising threat of AMR and reduce HAIs. More information here.
Focus area N.3
Patient Safety – Declaration

Overview
The Declaration for Patient Safety calls upon health authorities, policymakers, healthcare professionals, providers and patients to join hands to prevent unnecessary harm in healthcare by promoting safer health systems and higher quality standards for patient safety.

Goal
To build synergies amongst regional authorities and national associations in order to discuss policy actions to foster patient safety at EU and national level.

Key message
The safety of patients receiving health care is a serious concern for the European Union. It is estimated that 8-12% of patients admitted to hospitals in the EU suffer from adverse events. Most of the adverse events that occur in healthcare settings (hospitals and community) are preventable.

Outcome
Gain support from targeted regional authorities and national associations to our calls for action to foster patient safety and boost the uptake of innovative technologies to deliver high-quality care.

HFE Actions

1. Bilateral meetings with national associations and regions to expand national endorsement and map best practices July–December
In the frame of the campaign for the Declaration for Patient Safety, Health First Europe met with several national authorities from Spain, Italy, France and Germany in order to share best practices and highlight current challenges on patient safety.

2. Participation to the World Patient Safety Day (17 September 2019) and the Patient Solidarity Day (6 December 2019)
In the occasion of the first World Patient Safety Day, HFE contributed to a Twitter Awareness Campaign calling on EU policymakers to shape cross-national patient safety strategies.

3. Joint advocacy materials (articles and letters) presented with the support and endorsement of regional authorities September – December 2019
On the World Patient Safety Day, Health First Europe and the Spanish Patients’ Forum joint hands to call the Spanish Minister to act to foster patient safety (Letter here). Moreover, HFE collaborated with the Centre for Clinical Risk Management and Patient Safety of the Tuscany Region and Navarre Region to publish an advocacy article on best practices on safety and quality of care at regional level (Publication here).
Focus area N.4
Power of knowledge

Overview
Screening and early diagnosis play a key role in helping patients to live healthier lives. Regular exams and screening tests can detect disease in its earliest stages increasing the chance of curing it. On this topic, HFE is one of the partners of the project My City-Lab, a project financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) which aims to showcase the value of innovative and integrated forms of delivery health & social care.

Goal
To raise awareness on the importance of screening programmes and facilitate access to laboratory tests, contributing to the dynamic monitoring of patients with chronic diseases thought-out digital solutions.

Key message
Knowledge is power; early detection is essential to act promptly to reduce harm. Screening and early diagnosis play a key role in helping patients to live healthier and longer lives.

Outcome
Raise awareness on secondary prevention and screening as well as explored the importance of screening with respect to different conditions: from heart failure thrombosis.

Our members’ editorials

Knowledge is power (to the patients): new collection explains heart failure clinical guidelines
Heart Failure Policy Network
December 2019

Europe should lead in understanding & prevention of blood clots
By European Thrombosis and Haemostasis Alliance
July 2019

What can we do to improve SCID?
A rare disease affecting many babies around the world
By IPOPI
March 2019

My City-Lab Project

1. City-Labs Talk Series meeting on greener health 14 May 2019
My City-Lab organised an informal meeting entitled “A greener health: how to foster environmental sustainability in healthcare” (Event summary available here).

2. Workshop at the 2019 EHMA Annual Conference 18 June 2019
My City-Lab project took part in the EHMA Annual Conference in Espoo (Finland) hosting the workshop "Profiling the health worker of the future: digital skills, innovation and collaboration to meet the new demands of care” (Event summary available here).

3. City-Labs Talk Series meeting on hearth failure 11 September 2019
My City-Lab organised an informal meeting entitled “Tackling Heart Failure in Europe: Accessing Innovation & Fostering Integrated Care” (Event summary here).
Focus area N.5
Integrated and innovative care

Overview
An ageing society, a rise in chronic diseases, increased demand for primary care and personalised life-long care as well as resource limitations are challenging the sustainability and effectiveness of EU health systems. Integrated care, as an innovative approach to reform health care systems on more coordinated and integrated forms of care provision, is a solution to those challenges in delivering care.

Goal
To prioritise in the discussion about health care system sustainability and efficiency the development of new models of care, such as community care (integrated health and social care at primary level).

Key message
Integrated care is about integrating patient care across the continuum of life. It is the missing gap between acute, treatment-driven demand, and normal, healthy living.

Outcome
Generate debate and awareness around the importance to boost integrated care in health systems.

HFE Actions

1. Launch of the compendium on Innovative Solutions to Boost Efficiency in Health Care
June 2019
HFE launched a compendium of innovative solutions in order to boost efficiency in health care. The Compendium offers a series of innovative solutions to address current gaps, improve health outcomes and make health care more efficient, inclusive and sustainable across European countries. (Publication here)

2. HFE President editorial “Scaling up innovations to improve health care quality across Europe” June 2019
HFE President Roberto Bertollini’s wrote an editorial on ‘Scaling up innovations to improve health care quality”. Throughout the editorial, HFE President calls on new policymakers to renew their commitment to make Europe the best region when it comes to public health, safety, integration of care and wellness. Innovation and integrated care delivery are key to improve access and quality across the health care ecosystem.

3. Speaking engagement at the 45° ANMDO National Congress 3 June 2019
HFE Executive Director, Melina Raso participated as keynote speaker at the 45° ANMDO National Congress in Turin (Italy). She presented HFE Community Care Model, about integrating patient care across the continuum of life
Annex 1
List of HFE events
Events organised by HFE Secretariat

29 January 2019

European Network for Safer Health Care (ENSH) meeting at the European Parliament

“Patterns to tackle AMR, Designing effective HAI prevention and control programmes in Europe”

Participants: 40

Speakers: Mep Lieve Wierinck – European Parliament; Amalia Serban – Ministry Of Health Of Romania; Mep José Inácio Faria – European Parliament; Benedetta Allegranzi – World Health Organisation; José Maria Balibrea – Hospital Clinic De Barcelona; Birgitta Lytsy – Representative Of JAMRAI Wp 6.2; Andrea Ammon – European Centre For Disease Prevention And Control; Jesús Rodríguez Baño – European Society Of Clinical Microbiology And Infectious Diseases; Herman Goossens – University Of Antwerp Netherlands; Edwin Oberjé – University Of Amsterdam; Karen Shaw – Public Health England; John Bowis – HFE Co-Patron; Arjon Van Hengel – Dg RTD, European Commission; Willfried Von Eiff – Center For Hospital Management”; Patriq Fagerstedt – Joint Programming Initiative On Antimicrobial Resistance

Event summary

14 May 2019

My City-Lab Talk Series meeting

“A Greener Health: How to foster environmental sustainability in healthcare”

Participants: 20

Speakers: Bernard Gouget – The International Federation Of Clinical Chemistry And Laboratory Medicine; Arianna Gamba – Health Care Without Harm; Michele Calabrò – European Health Management Association; Damien Gruson – City-Labs Project; Maguelone Vignes – Metrolab

Event summary

18 June 2019

Health First Europe and My City-Lab project workshop at EHMA conference 2019

“Profiling the health worker of the future: digital skills, innovation and collaboration to meet the new demands of care”.

Participants: 35

Speakers: Federico Lega, EHMA President; Melina Raso, Health First Europe; Loukianos Gatzioulias, Dg Sante, European Commission; Walter Sermeus, Full Professor Leuven Institute For Healthcare Policy; Anu Söderström, Council Of Occupational Therapists For The European Countries – COTEC; Bert Van Caelenbergh, European Federation Of Employees In Public Services – Eurofoped; Tanja Valentin, Medtech Europe; Marta Simoes, European Pharmaceutical Students’ Associations – EPSA; Outi Ahonen, Senior Lecturer In Nursing At Laurea University Of Applied Science Digital; Prof Lasse Lehtonen, University Of Helsinki

Event summary
Events organised by HFE Secretariat

11 September 2019
My City-Lab Talk Series meeting
Debate: “Tackling Heart Failure in Europe: Accessing Innovation & Fostering Integrated Care”
Participants: 20
Speakers: Brandon Mitchener – Instinctif Partners; Ed Harding – Heart Failure Policy Network; Alex Lefevre – Roche; Damien Gruson – City-Labs Project
Event summary

25 September 2019
European Network for Safer Health Care (ENSH) meeting at the European Parliament
Roundtable “Time to act: #STOPSEPSISEU”
Participants: 40
Speakers: MEP Simona Bonafé – European Parliament; Brian Maguire – EURACTIV; Dennis Kredler – Global Sepsis Alliance; Charles Price – European Commission DG Sante; Giulio Toccafondi – Tuscany Region (Italy); Juan Carlos Yebenes – Catalunya (Spain); Mercedes Bonet Semenas – World Health Organisation; Maurizio Sanguinetti – ESCMID; Maria Martinez – Vall d’Hebron Hospital (Barcelona); Robert Leach – EUSEM
Event summary

02 October 2019
European Network for Safer Health Care (ENSH) meeting at the European Health Forum Gastein
Roundtable “Digital solutions & surveillance systems for patient safety”.
Participants: 50
Speakers: Andrea Ammon Director, European Centre For Disease Prevention And Control (ECDC); Paul Garassus President, European Union Of Private Hospitals (UEHP); Federico Lega President, European Health Management Association (EHMA); Germán Peñalva Eu-Jamrai Joint Action And Institute Of Biomedicine Of Seville (Ibis) ; Neda Milevska Board Member, International Alliance Of Patients’ Organizations (IAPO); Fiona Garín Mc Donagh Senior Director, Marketing Europe, Becton, Dickinson & Company; Fernando Simón Director, Centro Coordinador De Alertas Y Emergencias Sanitarias (Ccaes); Sinikka Salo Change Leader, Secretary’s Cabinet, Finnish Ministry Of Social Affairs & Health
Event Summary
Annex 2
List of HFE Members
List of HFE Members

Over the years, HFE has rapidly grown and welcomed new members on board to advocate for patient safety and access to health care innovations across the European Union and its member states. On December 2019, HFE counted a total of 27 members, having three new ones: EAASM, ETHA and ISTH.
List of HFE Members

Aktion Meditech
Organisations

MTG
Organisations

EAMBES
Organisations

Pelvic Pain
Organisations

EFAPH
Organisations

E.C.H.O.
Organisations

IPOPI
Organisations

ACN
Organisations

European Health Chamber
Organisations

MedTech Europe
Organisations

HFPN
Organisations

ISNS
Organisations
Meet the new HFE Members

ETHA - The European Thrombosis and Haemostasis Alliance

The Alliance is comprised of eminent clinicians and researchers from European national and international societies representing those working in the field of thrombotic and bleeding disorders. ETHA has come together to give the European thrombosis and haemostasis community an allied voice and provide input to EU health and patient safety strategies; make recommendations on EU research programme funding and encourage sharing and adoption of best practices in the treatment and prevention of thrombotic and bleeding disorders across Member States.

EAASM – European Alliance for Access to Safe Medicines

The Alliance is an independent, pan-European initiative dedicated to protecting patient safety by ensuring access to safe and legitimate medicines. The Alliance was formed by a cross-section of European stake-holders from a variety of backgrounds. Its key activities include campaigning for the safer use of unlicensed or off-label medicines and also the exclusion of counterfeit and substandard medicines from the supply chain, raising public awareness around such issues, and promoting effective legislation and enforcement in relation to falsified medicines.
Annex 3
List of HFE MEP Supporters
We kept strong ties with our MEP Supporters re-elected in May 2019

Following the 2019 European Parliament Elections held in May, 11 out of our 33 MEPs got re-elected, who consist of the following:
We expanded our network of MEPs and members

After the European Parliament elections, HFE was in contact with different MEPs and obtained in just a few months 8 new MEP Supporters:

![MEP images](image)

**About the new MEPs**

They are from 6 different nationalities

- CRO
- ROM
- POL
- SPA
- ITA
- LIT

Representing three of the biggest political parties in the European parliament

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**Health First Europe:**

*Improved healthcare through innovative solutions*
Meet the new MEP supporters of HFE

**MEP María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos**  
Spain, Renew Europe  
Ms María Soraya Rodríguez is a Spanish lawyer and politician. She graduated in Law from the University of Valladolid in 1987. Between 1988 and 1990 she worked as a lawyer in the Center for the reception of abused women in Valladolid. In 1991, she was a professor at the University School of Labour Relations of Valladolid.

**MEP Pierfrancesco Majorino**  
Italy, S&D  
Mr Pierfrancesco Majorino began his political career at a very young age. In 1998, enrolled in the Democrats of the Left, he joined the Council of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, at the time chaired by the party colleague Livia Turco. Mr. Majorino worked on youth policies and the fight against addictions.

**MEP Bartosz Arłukowicz**  
Poland, EPP  
Mr Bartosz Arłukowicz is a Polish paediatrician, who served as Minister of Health in the governments of Donald Tusk and Ewa Kopacz in Poland. Mr Arłukowicz holds a special interest in haematology and paediatric oncology.

**MEP Juozas Olekas**  
Lithuania, S&D  
Mr Juozas Olekas is a Lithuanian surgeon and politician and a former Minister of National Defence from 2006 to 2008. In 1990 and from 2003 to 2004, he also served as the Health Minister of Lithuania. In 2019, he was elected at the European Parliament.
Meet the new MEP supporters of HFE

MEP Biljana Borzan
Croatia, S&D
Ms Biljana Borzan is a Croatian medical doctor and politician. Ms Borzan specialized in occupational and sport medicine and worked from 1997 to 2007 at the Osijek Health Centre. She holds a special interest in nutrition and embracing healthy habits and prevention.

MEP Tomislav Sokol
Croatia, EPP
Mr Tomislav Sokol is a Croatian lawyer, holding a magna cum laude law degree. Mr Sokol also defended his Ph.D. on patient mobility and its impact on national health insurance systems in the EU and taught Health Law from 2016 to 2017.

MEP Dolors Montserrat
Spain, EPP
Ms Dolors Montserrat is a Spanish lawyer and politician. Previously, she served as Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality of Spain from 2016 to 2018. Ms Montserrat holds a special interest on cancer and other health issues.

MEP Tudor Ciuhodaru
Romania, S&D
Mr Tudor Ciuhodaru is a Romanian medical doctor and politician. Mr Ciuhodaru holds a special interest in advocating for different health issues, ranging from mental health to general access to health care facilities.