

THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV AND HEPATITIS: OUR VISION OF A EUROPE FOR HEALTH

Coalition PLUS Platform Europe¹ is contacting you to ask you to join a pan-European action at local level for a progressive EU policy agenda that effectively addresses the drivers of the HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and tuberculosis epidemics. The action aims to mobilise political parties and candidates for the European Parliament elections in May. Please **respond by 5 pm Friday 15th March** by sending your logo to peurope@coalitionplus.org.

Members of European Parliament (MEPs) play an important role within the European Union. They can amend and reject EU legislative proposals. They hold the European Commission to account and can apply effective political pressure to act. They also influence the way EU funds are used. Thus, MEPs are important in shaping priorities for EU action, including the pursuit of policies that advance the health and well-being of its populations and beyond. Their mobilisation and engagement is crucial because the EU health and rights agenda (englobing access to and prices of medicines, discrimination and inequalities) is competing with other, sometimes conflicting, policy directions, e.g. drug policy, social and economic policy. We will **need to build to a critical mass of engaged parliamentarians to ensure that EU engages with health as a political project in the next 5 years.**

Coalition PLUS Platform Europe initiated a pre-election **outreach action directed to party leads and top candidates of parties to foster their engagement in 2019-2024.** It has produced a brief on priorities for EU action for a union that delivers **health and well-being for all with a focus on key communicable diseases.** A collective statement supported by many organisations across Europe will carry more weight politically with future members of the European Parliament (MEPs).

If you agree with the message and demands, your organisation can sign on and use the brief in your country to engage with candidates from different parties, in particular those leading the lists. The document is based on **a set of values that cover a wide political spectrum,** meaning the document can be used to reach out towards and foster engagement of parties that share common basic values. It is **not intended for parties on the extreme right wing** that have repeatedly shown opposition to what is proposed in the statement (e.g. migration, drug policy funding and more generally towards people living with HIV and Key populations as well as civil society).

By signing up to the document before the 15th march 2019:

- Your organisation will **appear on the cover of the briefing.** (send your logo to peurope@coalitionplus.org)
- Your organisation will be able to **use the document in your own campaigns** regarding the European Parliament Elections (e.g. Contacting parties for an appointment to present the briefing, asking if they support all of part of the briefing, etc)
- Your organisation will be provided with a digital version of the document in English, and/or a modifiable cover page, should your organisation wish to translate the document in your own language.

¹ Four community-based and led European members of Coalition PLUS: AIDES (France), ARAS (Romania) GAT (Portugal) & Groupe Sida Genève (Switzerland)

- Your organisation agrees to **contribute to the follow up of this action** : who was it sent to, how many responses and positive responses were received and from whom, etc.
- Your organisation agrees **to not to use this document to reach out to extreme right wing lists**.

For more information please contact

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