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DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(**Employment, Social Policy, Health** and Consumer Affairs)
20 and 21 June 2024

In ST 11469/24 INIT, page 12, the statement to “B” item 17 should read as follows:

Ad "B" item 17: **Conclusions on the Future of the European Health Union**
Approval

STATEMENT BY PORTUGAL AND SPAIN

“Portugal and Spain praise the efforts by the Belgian EU Council Presidency to create an ambitious and indispensable vision for the future of the European Health Union with the shared goal of caring for and protecting European citizens. Coordinated actions are key for national health systems’ preparedness to address both existing and future health challenges. In this context, we have been committed to efforts to mitigate medicines shortages and their impacts on patients. We support the shared call on the European Commission to consider proposing a Critical Medicines Act. However, Portugal and Spain interpret the corresponding measures described in paragraph 74 in a non-restrictive manner. We believe that the Critical Medicines Act should be based on a thorough impact assessment that considers all relevant measures, including EU-level support instruments, that can help to strengthen EU production of critical medicinal products, while ensuring a level playing field among Member States. In this way, we can safeguard an equitable access to critical medicines and to Health for all citizens across all Member States.”