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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of EPSCO (Health) of 2 December 2025:
European Health Union as a core pillar in enhancing competitiveness and security of the Union
- Information from Slovenia and Spain, supported by Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia

Member States value the Commission's efforts to strengthen policy coherence and streamline funding instruments.

Health, grounded in the principles of public interest, equity and universal access, differs from market-oriented sectors, as public health objectives cannot be subordinated to market-driven considerations. Such an approach would undermine the resilience of health systems, public trust and the safety of citizens.

The lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, which enabled the development of a significant legislative package, including the creation of DG HERA, the Regulation on Serious Cross-Border Health Threats and the strengthened mandates of EMA and ECDC must guide future actions to consolidate and reinforce the overarching objectives of the European Health Union.

The vision of the **European Health Union** must continue to be pursued and the established synergies and tools be preserved, as the health of all people is both a societal responsibility and a foundation of shared prosperity. We believe that, there is a risk that resources and content dedicated to health will be dispersed across broader thematic objectives, where the health component could lose both visibility and impact.

We wish to recall the **Council Conclusions on the Future of the European Health Union (2024)** which stress the need for a visible and integrated approach to health. These conclusions reaffirm the shared ambition to ensure that health remains high on the EU political agenda.

The health of the population constitutes a fundamental value and a strategic interest of the European Union. Only a healthy and resilient population can underpin sustainable economic development, social stability and Europe's long-term competitiveness in the global environment as well as enhance the security of the Union.

Ensuring accessible, high-quality and sustainable healthcare therefore remains a key condition for maintaining the competitiveness and security of the European economy and for strengthening social cohesion and citizens' trust in the EU institutions.

We consider it essential to remain firmly committed to safeguarding health as a core European value, which must continue to feature among the top priorities of the European Union.
