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THE EPSCO COUNCIL FOLLOWS EFN AGENDA SETTING FOR STRUCTURAL FUNDS FOR HEALTH



Yesterday, chaired by Mr Miklos Rethelyi and Mr Micklos Szocska, the Council in charge of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer affairs (EPSCO) adopted the Council conclusions “[Towards modern, responsive and sustainable health systems](#)”.

These conclusions are based on the previous work done during the [Hungarian Presidency in the Informal meeting of ministers of health \(4–5 April 2011\)](#) and the working party on public health at senior level, with the aim to identify effective ways of investing in health so as to pursue modern, sustainable and effective health systems. The common challenges Member States are facing linked with the economic climate have progressively limited the resources available to Member States’ health systems. In order to create modern, responsive, efficient, effective and financially sustainable health systems, Member States are invited to use the EU financial programmes, highlighting the European Structural Funds to boost health system innovation and to contribute to reducing health inequalities.

These Council conclusions invite to use the Structural Funds to achieve social cohesion and to reduce health disparities while developing new approaches based on sustainable care models and facilities, and are concluding on an approach that is fully in line with EFN Agenda shared in the framework of the [Active and Healthy Ageing Partnership](#), where the EFN pointed out as crucial aspect that EU Member States, mainly the Eastern countries, use Structural Funds to support the implementation of innovative care models, with special emphasis on effective investments in the health sector and human resources with the aim of moving away from hospital-centred systems towards integrated care systems and community care.

The EFN welcomes these conclusions as concrete investments on health systems have been pointed out and considers that the support from the European Commission will come also along other initiatives as the European Innovation Partnerships to facilitate and promote an increased use of Structural Funds for health.

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