



### **Call for urgent action on malnutrition**

#### Draft Report on the White Paper 'Together for Health: A strategic approach for the EU 2008-2013'

The White Paper recognises that there are several growing challenges to the health of the population which require a new strategic approach and identifies three objectives as key areas for the coming years. Objective 1: 'Fostering Good Health in an Ageing Europe' recognises, amongst other things, that '*healthy ageing must be supported by actions to promote health and prevent disease throughout the lifespan by tackling key issues including **poor nutrition**...*'.

The European Nutrition for Health Alliance (ENHA) and its partners urge MEPs in the ENVI Committee – following their calls for the EU to **make malnutrition 'a key priority in the field of nutrition and health'** in the context of the White Paper on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity - to again underline the importance of this issue in the Parliament's Resolution on the White Paper 'Together for Health' by supporting the following amendments to Mr Alojz Peterle's draft report:

#### Recital B

Whereas increasing rates of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, mental illness, overweight and obesity problems, **along with malnutrition and inadequate nutrition**, and HIV/AIDS as well as new challenges are increasingly threatening health in the European Union and beyond,

#### Recital K a (new)

**Whereas malnutrition, which affects a significant amount of EU citizens, including an estimated 40% of patients in hospitals and between 40% and 80% of older people in care homes, costs European health care systems similar amounts as obesity and overweight,**

#### Paragraph 11

Welcomes the intention, in the spirit of 'health for all', to promote health and disease prevention among all age groups; stresses the need to highlight key health-related issues, such as nutrition, obesity, **malnutrition**, physical activity, consumption of alcohol, drugs and tobacco and environmental risks, while taking into account the role of gender, providing support for healthy ageing and reducing the burden of chronic illnesses;

#### Paragraph 11 a (new)

**Urges the Commission to take a more holistic approach to nutrition and make malnutrition, alongside obesity, a key priority in the field of health, incorporating it wherever possible into EU-funded research, education and health promotion initiatives and EU-level partnerships;**

#### Paragraph 12

Believes that the promotion of healthy lifestyle in families, schools, **hospitals, care homes**, workplaces and places of leisure is essential to successful disease prevention;

#### Paragraph 16 a (new)

**Calls on Member States, along with regional and local authorities, to use the cooperation mechanism to improve the exchange of best practices; calls on the Commission to be proactive in producing guidelines and recommendations based on such good practices;**

For further information, please contact: ENHA Secretary General, Frank de Man: [frankdeman@newyield.nl](mailto:frankdeman@newyield.nl)



# The European Nutrition for Health Alliance

## The European Nutrition for Health Alliance members



THE EUROPEAN  
SOCIETY FOR  
CLINICAL  
NUTRITION AND  
METABOLISM



nutritionDay  
IN EUROPEAN HOSPITALS

# MNI



Association Internationale de la Mutualité

Brussels  
1997-2007



---

## European Union Geriatric Medicine Society