

PRESS RELEASE – INTERNATIONAL DIABETES FEDERATION EUROPE

EPP ELECTORAL MANIFESTO: A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE!

- **The International Diabetes Federation Europe (IDF Europe) welcomes the European People's Party (EPP)'s initiative to include diabetes in its electoral manifesto, presented at their Congress in Bucharest on March 6-7, 2024. This marks a crucial step forward, yet it also represents a critical opportunity to amplify our efforts. IDF Europe calls for the adoption of bold and unified policies to effectively tackle the silent pandemic of diabetes.**

The manifesto, as endorsed in Bucharest, proposes the development of a European Cardiovascular Plan alongside a combined health screening initiative for cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and diabetes. While adopting preventative and synergistic actions on CVD and diabetes around common risk factors is critical, the stark reality is that without targeted and comprehensive action on diabetes itself, the 32 million Europeans currently living with diabetes will go on developing CVD and the many other complications directly resulting from diabetes.

A CVD plan can only be transformative if associated with a comprehensive diabetes plan. Acknowledging the interrelation between these two diseases, an integrated plan could offer a cost-effective, holistic solution to managing two of Europe's most pressing health challenges, allowing either for synergies to be exploited when they offer a real benefit or for adapted, targeted, single-disease approaches to be developed when more effective. This would result in improved patient care, aligning with current health needs and shoring up the resilience of the European Union.

Elisabeth Dupont, Regional Director of IDF Europe, said: *"IDF Europe welcomes the EPP's acknowledgment of the need to act on diabetes in its manifesto and urges the European Commission and all political factions to go further and consider diabetes as an equal priority in a joint Cardiovascular-Diabetes Plan. This is required to ensure a holistic approach to people living with NCDs and improve health outcomes for all citizens in Europe. We also call on all EU policymakers to back the launch of a Joint Cardiovascular-Diabetes Plan by the forthcoming European Commission. The time for action is now, to protect the health of millions today and ensure a healthier future for all"*.

Reflecting on the progress achieved through proactive EU health initiatives, and notably the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, which has significantly enhanced the quality of, and equal access to, cancer care in the European Union, we are inspired to pursue similar success in the realm of cardiovascular and diabetes health.

This is more than a call for policy action; it's a call on all policymakers for a movement that rallies the entire European community. We can turn the tide on these health challenges and make significant strides toward safeguarding the well-being of millions of Europeans. A concrete and ambitious CVD-Diabetes Plan would also lay the foundation for more resilient healthcare systems. We call on all health stakeholders and policymakers to embrace this opportunity to effect meaningful change, demonstrating that **when it comes to public health, we are able to abandon silo working to ensure a brighter future for all, and to leave no-one behind. Action speaks louder than words. Let us all commit to this now!**

About IDF Europe

IDF Europe is the European chapter of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF). We are an umbrella organisation representing 73 national diabetes organisations in 46 countries across Europe. We are a diverse and inclusive multicultural network of national diabetes associations, representing both people living with diabetes and healthcare professionals.

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