The Mission Board on Vaccination in Europe

CALL TO ACTION

Immunisation for a Resilient Europe: From EU Commitment to National Action

The Mission Board on Vaccination in Europe (MBVE) is a multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to provide thought-leadership on, and recommendations to, strengthening immunisation systems in Europe, with a specific focus on decision-making related to vaccination policies and programmes. MBVE brings together immunologists, public health experts, health economists, health care professionals, academics, civil society organisations, patient representatives, and industry.

5M

lives saved globally every year by vaccines

Vaccines are among the most powerful and cost-effective public health tools ever developed.

< 0.5%

of EU Member State health budgets spent on immunisation

Most EU Member States fall below this threshold - far short of what is needed to realise the full benefits vaccines can deliver.

WHERE EUROPE MUST ACT

Data & Evidence
You can't fix what you don't measure. Europe lacks the common framework to evaluate what vaccines are truly worth.

Vaccine Confidence
Misinformation doesn't respect borders. Neither should Europe's response.

Citizens' Access
Too many Europeans - particularly older adults and disadvantaged groups - are still not reached by vaccination programmes.

Investment
Less than 0.5% of EU Member State health budgets go to immunisation. Vaccines deliver some of the highest returns in investment.

WE CALL ON EU INSTITUTIONS AND MEMBER STATES TO ACT

1. **Count prevention properly – then fund what counts.** National budget processes systematically undervalue immunisation. However, the fix is not solely more money; it is better accounting. Member States should adopt multi-annual prevention investment plans that quantify the savings they generate over time, and the EU should use the flexibility within the New Economic Governance Framework to allow that investment to happen. Italy has shown what this looks like in practice: its Senate has formally recognised immunisation as a priority for social and economic resilience. Other Member States should do the same – treating prevention as a strategic investment, not a cost – and the EU should actively encourage them to do so.

2. **Translate vaccination commitments into measurable national action.** Article 35 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantees everyone the right of access to *preventive* health care. That right places a duty on Member States to set measurable targets, report on progress, and be accountable to their citizens for the success of immunisation programmes. The EU's recent commitments show what this looks like. For example, the EU's Cancer Plan has set a target of a 90% HPV coverage rate of girls which Member States must now deliver, while the proposed Council Recommendation on respiratory vaccination should set the same clear targets for cardiovascular health. These are examples of that responsibility, not the limit.

3. **Make Europe the standard-bearer for evidence-based health information.** In an era of geopolitical instability and retreating international institutions, strong immunisation systems are a matter of health security and resilience; and Europe has the responsibility to lead on scientific, evidence-based public health. Vaccine misinformation spreads without borders, and so too must Europe's response. The Global Health Resilience Initiative already recognises this. The EU should use this initiative to position Europe as a global leader that strengthens international collaboration and best practices on evidence-based public health.

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