



4th ESIP Annual Forum

Brussels, 15 October 2025

*"The contribution of social security to
Europe's competitiveness and growth"*

Conference report



On 15 October 2025, ESIP organised the 4th Annual Forum titled 'The contribution of social security to Europe's competitiveness and growth'. The annual Forum is ESIP's flagship public event. It was an all-day conference which gathered more than 140 in-person participants and covered both social protection issues as well as health policies.

Please visit the [Forum event page](#) on the [ESIP website](#) for all relevant information, including [pictures](#) from the event.

Programme

Moderated by Yannis Natsis, Director, European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)

Welcome by Anne-Claire Le Bodic, President, ESIP (09:00 – 09:15)

Panel I - Health as a pillar of European security and preparedness: A robust social health insurance for a resilient future (09:15-10:30)

- Pedro Facon, Deputy Administrator General, National Health and Disability Insurance (RIZIV-INAMI), Belgium
- Iphigenia Kammitisi, Director-General, Health Insurance Organization (HIO), Cyprus
- Lasse Lehtonen, Director-General, The Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela)
- Robert Ljoljo, Director-General, Health Insurance Institute (ZZZS), Slovenia

Keynote address by Francesco Corti, member of the Cabinet of Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness (10:30-11:00)

Panel II - AI for social protection: How do we get the balance right? (11:30-12:30)

- Zbigniew Derdziuk, President, Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), Poland
- Alexander Burz, Deputy Managing Director, Federation of Social Insurances (DVSF), Austria
- Katarina Ivanković Knežević, Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- Raphaëla Hye, Economist, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Social Policy Division, OECD

Panel III - Securing Europe's welfare future: Strategies for financing in a changing landscape (13:45-15:00)

- Anne Vanderstappen, General Administrator, Social Security for the self-employed (INASTI-RSVZ), Belgium
- Mikko Kautto, Managing Director, Finnish Centre for Pensions (ETK)
- Valeria Vittimberga, Director-General, National Institute for Social Security (INPS), Italy

- Tamas David, Deputy Director-General, National Health Insurance Fund (NEAK), Hungary
- Severine Salgado, Director-General, Federation of French Mutuels (FNMF), France
- Peter Hartmann, Managing Director, Umbrella organisation of the pension schemes of German liberal professions (ABV)

Keynote address by Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner responsible for Health and Animal Welfare Health (15:00-15:30)

About the European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)

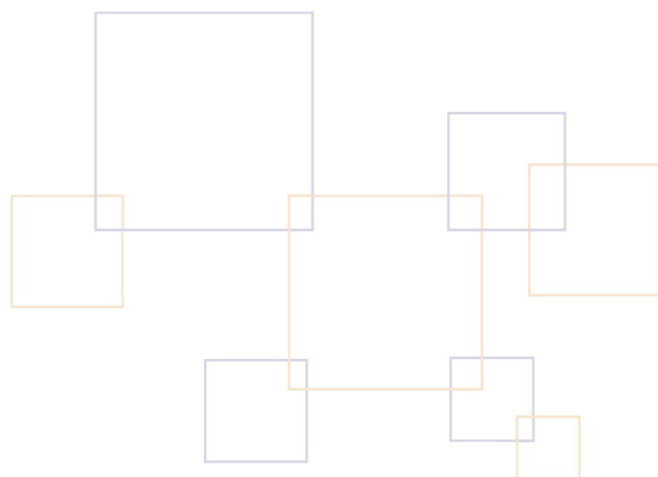
The European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP) represents 46 national statutory social insurance organisations in 19 EU Member States and Switzerland, active in the field of health insurance, pensions, occupational disease and accident insurance, disability and rehabilitation, family benefits and unemployment insurance. ESIP and its members aim to preserve high-profile social security for Europe, reinforce solidarity-based social insurance systems and maintain European social protection quality. ESIP builds strategic alliances for developing common positions to influence the European debate and is a consultation forum for European institutions and other multinational bodies active in the field of social security.

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Anne-Claire Le Bodic, President of ESIP, opened the fourth edition of the ESIP Annual Forum and welcomed participants. She reflected that while previous editions began with excitement, this year's opening was marked by a deeper sense of responsibility in light of Europe's changing political and economic landscape. She noted that although demographic, digital, and green transitions continue to shape people's lives, the EU's priorities have shifted towards competitiveness, growth, and security. She stressed that while ensuring Europe's security is essential, it must be understood in a broader sense, one that includes economic and social security.

In her remarks, she underlined that social protection is not only a moral imperative but a productive force, a long-term investment that strengthens Europe's stability, adaptability, and resilience. "Europe will not be competitive without cohesive societies," she emphasised, calling for renewed attention to health, inclusion, and solidarity as drivers of sustainable growth.

Le Bodic concluded by reaffirming ESIP's commitment to a European model that combines economic performance with strong social foundations, as the only viable strategy for Europe's future.

"Europe will not be competitive without cohesive societies."
(Anne-Claire Le Bodic)

Panel I - Health as a pillar of European security and preparedness: A robust social health insurance for a resilient future

The opening panel gathered leaders from national health insurance funds across Europe - **Pedro Facon** (Belgium, National Health and Disability Insurance - RIZIV-INAMI), **Iphigenia Kammitisi** (Cyprus, Health Insurance Organization - HIO), **Lasse Lehtonen** (The Social Insurance Institution of Finland - Kela), and **Robert Ljoljo** (Slovenia, Health Insurance Institute - ZZZS) - to discuss the financial, structural, and policy challenges facing European health systems.



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Against the backdrop of shrinking public budgets, post-pandemic fatigue and geopolitical instability, the debate highlighted the urgency of and strategies for safeguarding publicly funded healthcare in an era of national competing priorities. “We need a health resilience-in-all-policies approach,” urged **Lasse Lehtonen**, underlining the growing competition for resources as Europe invests heavily in defence and security.

“We need a health resilience-in-all-policies approach.”
(Lasse Lehtonen)

Mounting pressure on Europe’s publicly-funded health systems

Panellists pointed to a convergence of crises affecting healthcare sustainability across Member States: budgets are shrinking, at both income and expenditure level, as government priorities increasingly pivot to security and defence. In parallel, the costs of health technologies are escalating, with limited mechanisms to monitor or control spending.

Smaller EU Member States like Cyprus, **Iphigenia Kammitisi** explained, can still maintain financial balance, yet struggle to ensure access to expensive treatments such as medicines for the treatment of rare diseases. Limited market attractiveness for small populations adds another layer of inequality. Meanwhile, data from Finland illustrated the growing burden of rare disease expenditure, which has soared from €1.5 billion to €5 billion in just five years.



“Pharmaceuticals and medical devices are the most difficult to handle from a budget perspective. For other healthcare services, there are control mechanisms. But when it comes to high-cost drugs, small countries face real access and sustainability challenges.” (Iphigenia Kammitisi)

Reinforcing Europe’s welfare model: Policy levers for sustainable health and pharmaceutical systems

Despite these pressures, health insurance leaders proposed a forward-looking approach, identifying policy levers to reinforce Europe’s welfare model and ensure fiscal sustainability. First, amid growing workforce shortages, it is crucial to promote well-functioning labour markets, able to sustain health financing thereby preserving and reinforcing the welfare state.

Secondly, the exchange focused on strategies to empower health insurers to better control and direct expenditure, towards rewarding true innovation in pharmaceuticals and medical technologies, notably in areas of unmet medical and societal needs. Indeed, health insurer leaders emphasised their

willingness to pay for healthcare products that provide significant benefits for patients, ensuring that public money delivers maximum health value.



Among others, Belgium was cited as an example of disciplined spending, with pharmaceutical expenditure capped at 17.3% of the total healthcare budget, a mechanism that balances access and efficiency.

"We want to pay for technologies that truly add value, not just incremental upgrades. Matching innovation with economic sustainability is key. Public funds should go where they deliver the most tangible outcomes." (Pedro Facon)

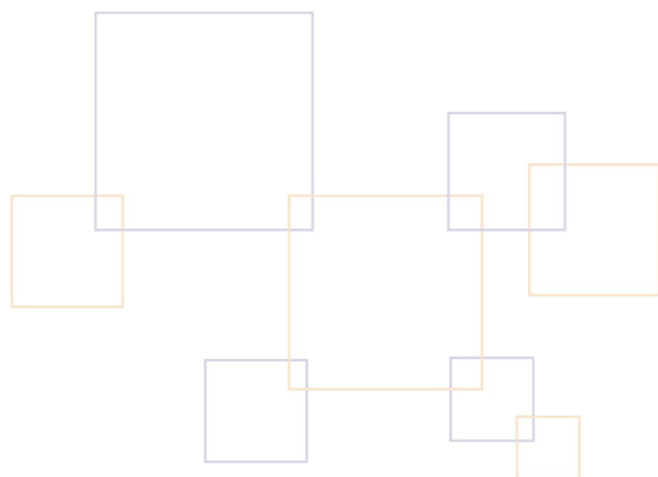
The importance of patient participation and engagement was equally emphasised, with panellists highlighting the need to foster a shift in mindset to better align public expectations with the necessary priority-setting processes of health insurance funds.

"We must value the perspective of insured people," said **Robert Ljoljo**, "but we also need to raise awareness and move from what people wish for, to what they actually need."

"Excessive market concentration and extended patent protections often delay access and inflate prices. The EU must foster fair competition that benefits patients and payers alike." (Robert Ljoljo)



The debate also addressed structural reforms in the domain of Europe's pharmaceutical policies, amid discussions on the competitiveness of the pharmaceutical industry and the continent's strategic autonomy. In the context of the ongoing revision of the EU general pharmaceutical legislation, panellists called for measures championing competition as a driver for affordability, curbing patent monopolies and promoting generic and biosimilar early entry to the market. "Growth and competition are sometimes seen as opposite, but they are not," affirmed **Lasse Lehtonen**. The importance of promoting self-sufficiency in medicine production to strengthen health sovereignty was also referenced, in the context of the proposed Critical Medicines Act.



The discussion converged on a shared vision for EU-level collaboration to sustain healthcare systems across Member States. Panellists highlighted among others the deployment of joint EU Health Technology Assessment (HTA) generating efficiency in decision-making processes, thereby faster access to quality treatment, especially in smaller Member States; as well as the potential for regional collaboration, especially in areas of higher expenditure such as rare diseases.

Finally, the discussion focused on the value generated by data-driven systems, underscoring their potential to improve governance, detect fraud and inform capacity planning in healthcare management.

In conclusion, Europe's health systems stand at a critical juncture, challenged by fiscal constraints, demographic change and emerging geopolitical tensions. The panel reaffirmed that safeguarding solidarity-based healthcare demands sound economic management and clear priority-setting, as well as coordinated action across Europe.

Keynote address by Francesco Corti

Francesco Corti, member of cabinet of Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness emphasized the vital role that social security plays in maintaining Europe's competitiveness. He reminded that the third regulation ever adopted by the European Economic Community was focused on social security coordination, demonstrating its foundational significance to European integration.

Social security systems across Europe are evolving rapidly, and their coordination at the EU level has become increasingly complex. This complexity affects cooperation among Member States, influenced by evolving rules, fiscal constraints, mobility flows, and ongoing digital transformation. Social security, Corti noted, can act both as an enabler of mobility and as a safeguard against social fraud and unfair competition, provided the rules are well-designed.



A key legislative priority is the closure of the negotiations on Regulation 883/2004, which would bring about both simplification and greater protection for citizens. Looking forward, the Fair Labour Mobility Package, expected in 2026, will build on three main principles: enforcement, simplification, and digitalisation. The initiative aims to strengthen the European Labour Authority (ELA) by improving its access to data on mobility, simplify the recognition of professional qualifications by shortening timelines and expanding coverage, and advance the digitalisation of social security through the European Social Security Pass (ESSPASS).

Corti also underlined that digitalisation should not stop with the revision of Regulation 883. The framework agreement on cross-border telework, initially introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, should be integrated into EU rules, potentially as part of a second revision of Regulation 883 once the first is concluded. This reflects the need for EU legislation to adapt to modern labour realities and technological progress.

He highlighted a recent best practice in data exchange and administrative cooperation: the new bilateral agreement between France and Italy, signed on 15 May 2025. This agreement aims to improve the detection of fraud and errors through enhanced data sharing. Corti suggested that this

model could be scaled up across the European Union, first by improving mechanisms for data exchange and later by enhancing interoperability between national systems.

He concluded by stating that the EU's framework for social security coordination stands at a critical juncture. The finalisation of Regulation 883 and the implementation of the Fair Labour Mobility Package will mark decisive steps toward simplification, protection, and digital transformation, ensuring that the mobility of workers within Europe remains both fair and competitive in the years to come.

Panel II - AI for social protection: How do we get the balance right?

During the panel discussion that followed, speakers explored the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in social protection systems across Europe, examining both the opportunities for innovation and the risks associated with automation and data-driven governance. Experts - **Zbigniew Derdziuk** (Poland, Social Insurance Institution - ZUS), **Alexander Burz** (Austria, Federation of Social Insurances - DSVS), **Katarina Ivanković Knežević** (DG EMPL, European Commission), and **Raphaëla Hyee** (OECD) - shared valuable insights on how AI can transform public administration while ensuring fairness, transparency, and trust.



Modernisation and institutional efficiency

Speakers agreed that AI represents a natural progression in the digital transformation of social protection. **Zbigniew Derdziuk** described how ZUS already uses AI to detect fraud, process sick-leave claims, and automate internal functions such as IT support. These tools improve efficiency and address workforce shortages, but also raise concerns about timing and governance, as many institutions are implementing AI ahead of the EU's formal guidelines under the AI Act. **Derdziuk** cautioned that although the AI Act is an important political commitment, operational clarity is still lacking.



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"We need clear standards for public procurement of AI solutions, ensuring measurable outcomes and compliance with transparency rules" (Zbigniew Derdziuk)

Katarina Ivanković Knežević underlined that the European AI Board, which will bring together Member States' authorities, is expected to issue interpretative guidelines for the AI Act, by early 2026 to harmonise implementation and facilitate mutual learning.

Human oversight and ethical use

Katarina Ivanković Knežević emphasised that AI should enhance, not replace, human judgment. She underlined that social protection systems are categorised as high-risk under the EU's AI Act, demanding strong human oversight, transparent decision-making, and regular risk assessments.

All panellists agreed that ensuring that data are high-quality, representative, and restricted to what is necessary is crucial for fairness and accountability. Human oversight is indispensable to maintaining public confidence, particularly when decisions affect individual rights or access to benefits. **Raphaela Hyee** reinforced this message, stressing that automated tools must remain comprehensible to both citizens and administrators.



"Human oversight is very important to build trust of people. AI can help prevent human error, but it's also very important that it's always a person who makes the final decision." (Raphaela Hyee)

Building trust and digital literacy



A central theme of the discussion was trust. While citizens often share sensitive data with private companies, they remain hesitant to allow public institutions to use their data, even when it serves legitimate social objectives. **Alexander Burz** pointed to this paradox as evidence of the need for better communication and digital literacy. Without public understanding of how AI systems work, acceptance will remain limited. Participants called for targeted awareness campaigns for citizens and training for public officials to build digital literacy and trust.

"Digital and data literacy remain the invisible elephant in the room. As we redesign systems, we must ensure they match the diverse digital experiences and needs of the populations they are meant to serve." (Alexander Burz)

Data governance

The panel also highlighted challenges in data governance. Institutional data is often fragmented across agencies, restricting interoperability and the development of AI applications. Speakers agreed that investment in secure data-sharing frameworks and anonymisation technologies is essential to balancing innovation with privacy obligations under GDPR.

Policy framework and the path ahead



Katarina Ivanković Knežević referenced the European Commission's Apply AI Strategy (October 2025) and AI Continent Action Plan (April 2025) as cornerstones for ethical and transparent AI deployment in the public sector. These initiatives aim to address algorithmic bias, promote transparency, and build digital capacity. Projects such as the European Tracking Service (ETS) for Pensions and cross-border cooperation between France and Belgium were cited as best practices for responsible digitalisation.

"Despite three decades of discussions on interoperability, social protection systems remain fragmented. The cross-border dimension of data exchange continues to pose major challenges. Improving digital, financial, and pension literacy from an early age is essential for building trust and user confidence in digital public services." (**Katarina Ivanković Knežević**)

The panel concluded that AI is indispensable for the sustainability of Europe's social protection systems in light of demographic pressures and an ever-growing demand for services. Yet technological progress must be guided by human oversight, ethical governance, and citizens trust. As **Raphaëla Hye** noted, AI will not replace human workers, it will augment their capacity to deliver more responsive, efficient, and equitable social protection across the European Union.

At the end of the panel, it was mentioned that responding to Members' needs, ESIP will deploy an internal task force composed of social security experts which will foster mutual learning and the exchange of best practices on how to integrate AI in the operations of social security organisations.

Panel III - Securing Europe's welfare future: Strategies for financing in a changing landscape

In an era of mounting demographic pressure, rapid technological transformation and persistent fiscal constraints, the sustainability of Europe's welfare systems increasingly depends on governments' capacity to modernise and adapt their financing strategies. This overarching theme framed the last panel, which brought together leading representatives of social security institutions from across the European Union, responsible for different branches of social protection, from pensions and health insurance to schemes covering the self-employed. The discussion, animated by **Anne Vanderstappen** (Belgium, INASTI-RSVZ), **Mikko Kautto** (Finland, ETK), **Valeria Vittimberga** (Italy, INPS), **Tamas David** (Hungary, NEAK), **Séverine Salgado** (France, FNMF) and **Peter Hartmann** (Germany, ABV), reflected both the diversity and the shared challenges that characterise Europe's evolving social protection landscape.

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All panellists agreed that governments face difficult yet unavoidable decisions to adapt welfare financing to new economic and demographic realities. The conversation reflected a shared awareness that sustainability cannot be achieved through incremental adjustments alone but requires long-term reforms that reconcile financial responsibility with social solidarity.

Diverse systems, shared challenges: National pathways to sustainable and reliable welfare financing



Mikko Kautto highlighted Finland's approach as a strong example of how transparency, long-term predictability, and incremental adjustments can support a sustainable pension system. He explained that a new reform, scheduled to come into force in January 2025, will give pension funds slightly more flexibility to take on higher investment risks, with the goal of improving long-term returns. At the same time, Finland is engaged in a broader reflection on how the statutory retirement age could evolve in relation to increasing life expectancy, ensuring that the system remains fair, balanced, and financially viable in the decades ahead.

"Over the past three decades, Finland has continuously adjusted contribution levels and the retirement age to ensure sustainability. Our experience shows that transparency and gradual, predictable reform are the best way to secure both sustainability and public trust." (Mikko Kautto)



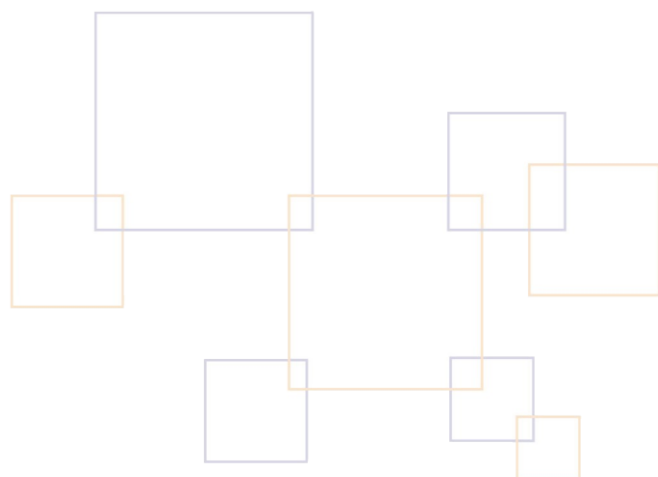
From the Belgian perspective, **Anne Vanderstappen** stressed the importance of fairness in financing mechanisms. She pointed to Belgium's efforts to modernise the tax base, including digital taxation on large technology companies, as a way to ensure that new forms of wealth creation contribute their fair share to social protection systems.

"Combating contribution evasion and fraud is equally essential to restoring the fiscal space required for sustainable welfare financing." (Anne Vanderstappen)

From one of the oldest and largest social security institutions in Europe, **Valeria Vittimberga** highlighted the demographic and economic imbalances confronting Italy. The country faces the twin challenges of an ageing population and persistently low birth rates, making it increasingly difficult to balance pension expenditure with incoming contributions. With the statutory retirement age already at 67, further increases are politically and socially difficult. The response, she argued, must lie in expanding the contributor base, by integrating more women and young people into the labour market. Reforming public employment services was presented as a potential lever. Education also plays a central role: Italy is developing an innovative programme to introduce young people from an early age to the principles of saving and contribution, nurturing a culture of financial awareness and intergenerational responsibility.



"The future of our welfare system will depend on how much we invest in people: in their skills, in their employability and in their understanding of the system itself." (Valeria Vittimberga)





Tamas David provided a different perspective from Hungary's health insurance sector, which has undergone profound transformations since the Soviet period. A system originally designed for a society in which only 5% of the population was retired in the 1960s now operates in a context where pensioners make up 35% of citizens. Pressure is weighing on health financing as well, with 27% of the health budget now spent on less than half the population, compared to just 3% in 2010, due largely to the rising costs of specialised, so-called 'orphan' medicines.

"The challenge is to maximise population-level health gains and maintain equity." (Tamas David)

From France, **Séverine Salgado** brought the perspective of mutual organisations as complementary actors within the social protection system. French mutuals act as providers and advocates, giving citizens a voice in the policy debate. Mutualité Française's annual report compares citizens' perceptions with statistical data on coverage and benefits, offering a valuable barometer of trust. The findings are striking: 84% of respondents fear that the social security deficit threatens their future and 90% expect a deterioration in reimbursement schemes.

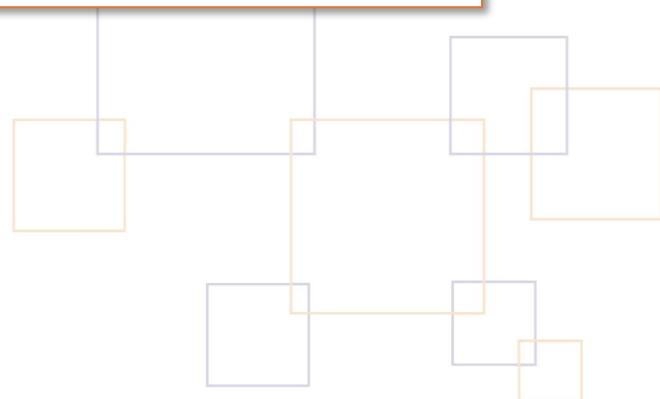


"Budgetary adjustments without structural reform risks to deepen mistrust. Maintaining public confidence requires systemic change rather than yearly budgets adjustments." (Séverine Salgado)



Peter Hartmann described the strong foundation and considered approach of Germany's pension schemes for the self-employed, which currently insure around one million contributors and collect more than €320 billion in contributions. The challenge for these funds is not liquidity, but investment flexibility.

"We can pay pensions, but we cannot easily sell our assets. Instead, it would be crucial to identify different sources of income without simply raising contribution rates." (Peter Hartmann)



From cost containment to strategic financing: A new vision for Europe's welfare future

Throughout the discussion, panellists agreed that Europe's welfare systems can no longer rely solely on wage-based contributions to remain sustainable. In an increasingly digitalised and fragmented labour market, they reflected on the need to adapt contribution models to new forms of value creation, for instance by linking financing not only to wages but also to productivity. Such a broader approach could help ensure fairer and more inclusive participation in financing social protection. At the same time, raising public awareness of the financial challenges facing social security systems and promoting individual responsibility for long-term sustainability were seen as essential complements to systemic reform.

A unifying theme across all contributions was the need to maintain and rebuild public trust. Transparent communication, citizen engagement and clear long-term strategies are indispensable to preserving the legitimacy of social protection systems.

Technology and data emerged as key enablers of reform, as well. The Finnish pension register was cited as a model of data-driven governance that enhances transparency and policy coherence. Similarly, investment in digital employment services, such as AI-supported job-matching tools, could foster inclusion and improve revenue flows by connecting citizens to the labour market.

Ultimately, the panel agreed that securing Europe's welfare future requires a profound shift in governmental mindset: from cost containment to strategic and ethical investment. Sustainable financing will depend on a fairer distribution of contributions, purposeful use of technology and policies that invest in people's capabilities, among others. Whether through Finland's transparent pension governance, Italy's focus on intergenerational solidarity, Hungary's drive for equity in health, France's citizen engagement, Germany's financial investment, or Belgium's fair-tax initiatives, all contributions converged on a shared understanding: Europe's welfare systems can remain sustainable only if they remain inclusive, transparent and forward-looking.

Keynote address by Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner responsible for Health and Animal Welfare Health

Concluding ESIP's 4th Annual Forum, Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare Olivér Várhelyi delivered a detailed, forward-looking address, presenting his pragmatic approach to European health policy. As Europe's political agenda increasingly shifts toward security and defence, the Commissioner's message was clear: health remains a cornerstone of Europe's resilience and competitiveness.

Health as an investment in Europe's future

While acknowledging the fiscal and demographic pressures facing Member States, Commissioner Várhelyi highlighted that investing in health pays back in productivity, wellbeing and long-term sustainability. He thus reaffirmed that healthcare spending is not a cost but an investment, provided it delivers societal value. "Innovation, if meaningful, brings saving", he said.

Harnessing technology and data for smarter health systems

Commissioner Várhelyi stressed the role of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and data-driven decision-making in ensuring access to quality healthcare. "We only know if innovation is real, if we

can measure it,” he noted, adding that the effectiveness of the HTA Regulation will ultimately depend on the extent to which it will be applied.

He also praised the potential of the European Health Data Space (EHDS) to enable the use of large patient and disease registries for assessing the real-life effectiveness of medicines, thereby supporting decision-making across the product lifecycle.

Innovation, affordability and access: Striking the right balance

The Commissioner outlined his comprehensive reform agenda, aimed at reconciling competitiveness with access to affordable healthcare. Key initiatives include the review of the general pharmaceutical legislation, the upcoming EU Biotech Act, the revision of the medical device regulations (MDR/IVDR), and the proposed Critical Medicines Act (CMA). He emphasised that innovation and access should not be seen as opposing goals, highlighting measures in the pharmaceutical package aimed at fostering innovation, especially in areas of unmet medical needs, alongside provisions for early competition, once the protection expires.



Reflecting on global vulnerabilities, the Commissioner highlighted the importance of reducing dependencies in pharmaceutical and medical supply chains. The Critical Medicines Act, he explained, aims to tackle market failures, not only by preventing shortages but also by fostering viable markets in other essential areas, such as orphan drugs and antibiotics. While acknowledging the associated costs of procurement criteria beyond price alone, he warned that the greater cost lies in losing access to essential medicines and depending on monopolistic third-country suppliers.

Simplification, predictability and stronger support for the medtech sector were also identified as urgent priorities. The Commissioner announced the forthcoming reform of the EU’s medical device regulations by the end of the year, and mentioned tailored regulatory pathways for paediatric, orphan, and breakthrough devices. “If we do not fix shortcomings of the medical devices rules”, he said “the sector will shrink, which means there will be less operators, less competition and higher prices”.

Finally, the Commissioner highlighted his intention to potentially review the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, given concerns over financial sustainability and increasing costs, and based on the results of an upcoming study announced under the Water Resilience Strategy.

Prevention as a strategic priority

Beyond numerous legislative initiatives, the Commissioner focused on the importance to prevent and address non-communicable diseases. He particularly stressed the link between investment in prevention and efficiency gains, particularly in a context of demographic change. According to the 2024 Ageing Report, the Commissioner cited, health spending in the EU will rise from 6.9% to 7.7%

of GDP in the coming years. To address this, he urged policymakers and payers alike to prioritise healthy ageing.

Furthermore, the upcoming EU Cardiovascular Health Plan, building on the success of the Cancer Plan, will serve as a blueprint for national prevention strategies, focusing on screening, early detection, care and rehabilitation, and leveraging data- and AI-based tools to allow for personalised prevention and care.

In his concluding remarks, Commissioner Várhelyi underlined that a resilient healthcare system relies on a strong industrial foundation, expressing his support for policies that foster a favourable business environment within the pharmaceutical sector.

Read the summary of Commissioner Várhelyi's detailed speech here: [Speech by Commissioner Várhelyi at 4th ESIP Annual Forum](#)

