DECLARATION for PATIENT SAFETY in EUROPE

HEALTH FIRST EUROPE

We come together for the right of safe healthcare and for reducing the massive burden of preventable incidents and deaths in all health settings.

We urge Ministers of Health to agree a high level of understanding on patient safety practices and standards to provide sustainable and safe healthcare to their citizens.

We call upon health authorities, policymakers, healthcare professionals, providers and patients to join hands to prevent unnecessary harm across Europe.

We, the undersigned, call to:

1

Foster citizen awareness & patient empowerment – through:

- *Educational campaign to raise awareness on safety in healthcare setting;*
- *Including patients' prospective into patient safety strategies;*
- *Systematic involvement of patients and their representatives in policy development.*

2

Promote a blame-free safety culture – through:

- *Prioritising patient safety in the political agenda on health;*
- *Annual report on the status of patient safety before national Parliaments;*
- *Effective actions to promote safety culture in all health settings;*
- *Consistent and blame-free reporting systems across the EU for healthcare harms and risk monitoring.*

3

Risk prevention to minimise adverse events– through:

- *Effective prevention and planning strategies to prevent adverse events;*
- *Tackling faulty systems, processes and conditions that lead people to commit mistakes or shortage of prevention.*

4

Surveillance systems and data availability – through:

- *A European scheme to consolidate and share science-based data regarding adverse events in order to make data more comparable;*
- *Developing tailor-made patient safety indicators across the EU;*
- *Regular knowledge exchanges among Member States and EU institutions for shaping effective policies and practices.*

5

Guarantee the right to personalised treatment – through:

- *Increased use of approved treatments and innovative technologies according to the medical need of patients and empirical advice of practitioners;*
- *Uptake of innovative technologies and treatments that work best for individual patients in order to prevent or minimise adverse events and wrongly administered treatment;*
- *More mutual learning initiatives aiming at identifing related clinical best practices.*

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6

Respect the right to information – through:

- Clear guidelines at national level on patient informed consent for all treatments to allow patients to make informed decisions based on professional advice;

- Measures to facilitate patients' access to their medical dossiers and clarify their legal rights in case of adverse events.

7

Uptake evidence-based medicines and technologies – through:

- The use of evidence-based medicines and medical technologies to decrease any potential harm.

8

Provide smarter and safer healthcare systems – through:

- Reliable eHealth solutions to receive more personalised 'citizen-centric' healthcare;

- The use of new technologies, for example electronic patient records, electronic prescriptions and health cards, to reduce wrongly administered treatments and adverse events.

9

Protect personal data – through:

- The protection of privacy of patient records in order to build trust in eHealth solutions and facilitate the exchanges of information and lessons learned on adverse events.

10

Increase resources for healthcare staffing – through:

- Proper working conditions for all healthcare professionals, who are essential for reducing risks for patients and promoting a culture of continuous learning on patient safety;

- Patient safety fully included in the standard training of health professionals;

- Effective support and training to ensure the safest use of new medical technologies.