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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of EPSCO (Health) of 2 December 2025: EU Cardiovascular Health Plan <i>- Information from Czechia, supported by Austria, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain</i>

The Commission has announced the intention to publish the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan by the end of this year. We consider it essential to call on the Commission to ensure that the forthcoming plan is fully aligned with the Council Conclusions on Cardiovascular Health adopted in 2024.

Cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of mortality across the European Union. Scientific evidence increasingly highlights the strong interconnection between cardiovascular diseases, chronic kidney disease, and type 2 diabetes. These three conditions form a complex and mutually reinforcing cluster of illnesses, often referred to as cardio-renal-metabolic diseases. They share common risk factors such as hypertension, obesity, and sedentary lifestyles, and frequently coexist in patients, significantly increasing the burden on individuals and healthcare systems.

We therefore believe it is crucial that the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan, reflects the need to integrate key scientific, clinical, and public health priorities. In particular, the plan should incorporate the priorities outlined in the expert Call for Action on cardio-renal-metabolic diseases, as clearly emphasized in the aforementioned Council Conclusions. Particular focus should be paid to empowering the primary care providers and improving their access to diagnostic and therapeutic tools.

Recalling the European Beating Cancer Plan that was followed up by Council Recommendations on screenings for oncological diseases, we encourage the Commission to take the same approach in the case of the Cardiovascular Health Plan and not to hesitate in preparing specific Council recommendations on screening for cardiovascular diseases.

This focus is fully consistent with global health priorities, including those of the World Health Organization. For example, the WHO Resolution WHA78.6 on reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases through the promotion of kidney health and the strengthening of prevention and control of kidney disease provides a strong international mandate for coordinated action.
