



AIM welcomes the European Commission proposal for stronger cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases

The European Commission published today a proposal of recommendations on how EU cooperation in the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases can be strengthened. AIM welcomes the proposal, which goes in the same direction as the one indicated in AIM's answer to the consultation earlier this year and is in line with the opinion stated in its [position paper](#).

AIM welcomes the set of actions put forward by the EC. More precisely, AIM believes that it is vital to provide citizens with tailored and comprehensive information which describes the risk-benefits balance to enable them to make well-informed decisions and to avoid unreasonable fear of side effects. When doing so, all stakeholders should be involved in the development of communication strategies and campaigns about vaccination. Therefore, AIM welcomes the Commission proposal to establish a "Coalition for Vaccination" and believes such a coalition should gather not only students' and healthcare workers' associations, but also healthcare payers and civil society, which also have a key role to play in combatting myths and providing tailored and comprehensive information to populations.

In its position paper, AIM underlined the importance of healthcare professionals and the necessity to provide guidance on the requirements for healthcare professionals in charge of immunization and on their specific role in addressing vaccine hesitancy. AIM thus welcomes the recommendation to equip healthcare workers with the necessary training to deliver and communicate on vaccination. AIM also called for an expansion of the availability of vaccines beyond clinical settings, which would be beneficial under the conditions that vaccines are properly registered and life-long learning and continuous training is ensured for professionals in charge of vaccinating. The recommended introduction of routine checks in schools or workplaces would be a first step in this direction.

The proposal to present options for a common vaccination card and for the establishment of a European Vaccination information portal by 2019, together with the establishment of a European Information Sharing System would, in AIM opinion, be highly beneficial. Indeed AIM believes vaccination programmes need to be harmonized across the EU in order to help recover trust on immunization. The exchange of comparable data between Member States on vaccine hesitancy, interventions and prevention should be encouraged and facilitated. Member States should share information on communication plans at European level in order to coordinate activities but also to align communication of public health authorities.

AIM hopes that the Council recommendations to be adopted end of 2018 will live up to the expectations raised by the EC proposal. AIM calls on the Council to adopt ambitious recommendations in order to efficiently tackle hesitancy and increase coverage rates across the European Union.

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AIM is the umbrella organisation of health mutuals and health insurance funds in Europe and in the world. Through its 64 members from 31 countries, AIM provides health coverage to 240 million people in the world and 209 million in Europe through compulsory and/or complementary health insurance and managing health and social facilities. AIM strives

to defend the access to healthcare for all through solidarity-based and non-for profit health insurance. Its mission is to provide a platform for members to exchange on common issues and to represent their interests and values in the European and international Institutions.

More information: www.aim-mutual.org -Twitter: @AIM_healthcare

Contact: Jessica Carreño Louro • jessica.carreno@aim-mutual.org