PRESS RELEASE

The EU Green Deal: an opportunity for public and planetary health

On 11 December, the European Commission presented its awaited Green Deal. AIM welcomes the ambitions expressed in the EC document, which clearly reflect the urgency of the situation.

A European Green Deal is necessary for the benefit of public health and the environment

AIM is pleased that with the Green Deal the European Commission shows its awareness of the environmental emergency. AIM calls on the Council and Parliament to support the development and implement the different strategies and plans as soon as possible, for the benefit of public health and the environment. There is no time to lose.

AIM subscribes to the health in all policies perspective

The Deal as a whole has a clear potential in reaching more sustainable societies and healthier citizens and planet. At the same time the effectiveness of the different strategies and plans announced still has to be proven. AIM is pleased that the Green Deal embraces a health in all policies perspective and seeks to reconcile economy, society and natural environment. We particularly welcome that it takes into account societal inequities. AIM invites the European Commission to strive for strategies that are beneficial to the health and well-being of all, including citizens from lower socio-economic groups. There is indeed no transition if it is not fair and inclusive.

AIM calls for recognising the potential of mutuals as actors of the social economy in a greener economy

AIM calls on the European Commission to recognise the potential of social economy in reconciling economic efficiency and social and environmental sustainability and to support its further development at EU level. European business models have to be compatible with and promote a healthy environment. The EU Green Deal claims to be the launch of a new growth strategy in the EU. It states: “(...) many companies still focus too much on short-term financial performance”. AIM, as representative of healthcare mutuals, believes that the social economy model has a clear role to play in a new long-term and sustainable growth model.

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The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies is an international umbrella organisation of federations of health mutuals and other non-profit healthcare payers. It has 59 members from 30 countries in Europe, Latin America and Africa and the Middle East. 33 of its members, from 20 countries, are based in the European Union. AIM members provide compulsory and/or supplementary health coverage to around 240 million people around the world, including close to 200 million people in Europe, on a not-for-profit basis. Some AIM members also manage health and social services. Collectively, they have a turnover of almost €300 billion.

AIM members are either mutual or health insurance fund. They are: private or public legal entities; solidarity based; not-for-profit oriented organisations: surpluses are used to benefit the members; democratically-elected members play a role in the governance of the organisation.

Information: www.aim-mutual.org – Contact: Jessica Carreño Louro – jessica.carreno@aim-mutual.org