

AIM WELCOMES ACTION PLAN ON THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

AIM welcomes the publication of the [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#) which aims to build a stronger Social Europe by 2030. Together with its members and partners, AIM will contribute to turn the implementation of this the Action Plan into a success.

Participation of stakeholders and civil society in the implementation process is indispensable

We are very pleased to see that AIM is mentioned several times in the “European Commission Staff Working Document” and appreciate that the European Commission emphasizes that the implementation of the action plan is based on a multi-level and multi-actor commitment, fully involving civil society.

Tackling social, territorial and economic inequalities is an effective long-term strategy for a Social Europe

AIM believes that tackling social, territorial, and economic inequalities in health is the most effective long-term strategy to improve access to healthcare. This must go hand in hand with improving Member State’s ability to prepare and respond in solidarity and cooperation to future health crises¹. In this regards, AIM welcomes that the Commission encourages Member States to use the EU funding opportunities to support the national implementation of the Social Pillar.

Developing the proper tools to monitor and evaluate progress

The announced revised version of the Social Scoreboard and the proposal to deepen the analysis and extend the scope of the Joint Employment report contribute to a better monitoring of Member States’ progress in the implementation of the Pillar. AIM encourages the European Commission to review and include new indicators to better reflect healthcare and long-term care developments and challenges.

Adequate social protection including sustainable and high-quality long-term care for an ageing society

As Europe’s societies are growing older, AIM is pleased to see that the Commission plans to propose an initiative on long-term care to discuss a framework for policy reforms on the development of sustainable long-term care. We welcome that the Commission is ready to support member States in establishing an adequate social protection for all citizens within the EU and are of the opinion that AIM should be part of any High-Level-Expert Group discussing access to social protection.

“AIM welcomes the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. Not-for-profit health mutuals and health insurance funds improve access to health and social care based on solidarity. They have and are providing a significant contribution to guarantee this access including during this pandemic. Hence, mutuals are crucial organisations for the development of a more social Europe”, says Loek Caubo, AIM President.

¹ See AIM recommendations [“Only with solidarity and cooperation can we overcome pandemics”](#).

Ensuring equal access to health care and social protection for all

AIM appreciates that the plan addresses new tools in the coming years to support measures and fill the gaps in access to healthcare and social protection. It also subscribes to the already announced plans for a European Health Data space to promote the access to health data for better healthcare research and policymaking. AIM agrees that Member States need to be encouraged to invest in health and care workforce while improving their working conditions and access to training. Digitalisation of Member States' health systems must be fostered. Nevertheless, the plan only mentions the cross-border dimension in relation to the mobility of workers. In our opinion, cross-border cooperation in the field of health is equally important.

AIM members embrace the analysis of the need to revise the guidelines on services of general economic interest and the support of Member States regarding sectoral EU policies and regulatory frameworks on services of general interest.

Social economy

AIM welcomes the acknowledgment of social economy as a driver of social inclusion and social rights. Together with its members and partners AIM will contribute to build bridges between the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Social Economy Action Plan which will be published by end of the year.

Brussels, 8 March 2021



AIM Healthcare and social benefits for all

The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) is an international umbrella organisation of federations of health mutuals and other not-for-profit healthcare payers. It has 57 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.

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