

EPSU Circular LC N° 42 (2020)

To the members of the EPSU Standing Committee on Health and Social Services
Cc: All EPSU affiliated unions organising in Health and Social Services

Ref:JWG/LS/sh
Contact person: Luca Scarpiello

Brussels, 22 September 2020

**Call for action: European action week in healthcare and social services:
SALARY – SECURITY – STAFFING. BEYOND EMERGENCY, LET’S IMAGINE THE
FUTURE OF OUR HEALTHCARE!**

Dear Comrades,

At the last HSS Standing Committee, we started the preparations towards the organization of an action week in the field of health and social services. As you can see from the concept, the main purpose for the mobilization is to remind employers and decision makers that the promises made to healthcare and social services workers during the pandemic, including increase of salary, the right to just and favourable conditions of work, and the right to freedom of expression need to be kept.

Today it is more than ever urgent to mobilize: the Coronavirus outbreak is showing us the importance of our public healthcare in protecting the European population: while most of you are also involved in the discussions on how to reform healthcare after the lessons learned from the pandemic, it is time to make our priorities visible, coordinated and remind everyone that the difference between a devastating pandemic and a well managed disease are the frontline workers dealing with it.

WHEN: After discussion in the HSS committee, the week chosen will be the last week of October, in particular the days from Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th of October. Thursday 29th October will be the central day of the mobilization week: it will also coincide with the ITUC Global Day of Action on “invest in care”. During Thursday, we will seek the possibility to organize an action in Brussels and in other main European cities, building also on the mobilizations and demos organized in those months.

The action week will give the possibility to provide a wider framework to the mobilizations and activities to unions organizing healthcare and social services workers. Indeed, the possibility to coordinate and concentrate mobilizations and actions into a week will provide us with an unprecedented opportunity to mutually nurture our national and European priorities and send jointly a strong message of solidarity, unity and cohesion

WHERE: all over Europe, not only the EU, but wherever in this continent workers and unions are mobilizing to reclaim investment in workforce and better working conditions

HOW: In attachment you can find the concept of the action week: it outlines the main project and demands. Further to this, we are developing an appeal with our main demands at European level behind the mobilization. The appeal will be ready and

shared with you for consultation before the end of September. Following this, the appeal will then be formally adopted at the next HSS meeting in October.

Already now we can anticipate in particular three points that will be at the core of the mobilization

- MORE AND BETTER PAID STAFF + MORE SECURITY IN OUR HOSPITALS AND CARE HOMES = MORE AND BETTER CARE FOR CITIZENS!

How can your trade union join the day:

The main aim of the day is to show to Europe and national governments that there is a coordinated and united front of unions and healthcare workers. For this reason we propose you:

- **Organize mobilizations/assemblies/workshop/actions/flash mob** in the workplaces to raise awareness among workers and citizens of the need to preserve our public healthcare system. For this year we suggest to you a special focus on public health as the first and foremost important protection against virus outbreaks and on any possible public health crisis;
- **organize a photo action:** with white sleeves or your working uniform with your message in a visible place, take a picture and share it on social media with #health4all;
- **organize any other action** dedicated to health, fitting the needs and interests of your community and country;

How to communicate your activities and join the day!

If your federation will decide to join, it is enough to fill this form no later than the 9th of October 2020

To get an idea of what is going on around the world and share your action with others, we will also prepare a **map of the mobilization taking place all over Europe!**

If you have any questions or clarification do not hesitate to write to our Health And Social Services Policy Officer (lscarpello@epsu.org)

In solidarity

Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU Secretary General