



Gauche Unitaire Européenne/Gauche Verte Nordique
European United Left/Nordic Green Left
Groupe Parlementaire · Parliamentary Group
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN · EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



“Health without masters or borders”

Join us for an International Forum safeguarding the Right to
Health and Universal Access to Therapies

Milan - 4 and 5 November 2017

On next 5 and 6 November, Milan will host the G7 Summit on Health issues. It is the last stage of several ministerial meetings held last months, where the most powerful country representatives debated items as environment, transport, industry, science, employment, agriculture and food.

Although the final agenda is still unknown, the key items will likely be the effects on human health of climate change and the drugs policy.

The 11% of world population suffers for nutrition problems in particular in those areas affected by conflict and desperate environmental conditions. In the last decades the growth of the carbon emissions due to deforestation, fossil fuels burning such as oil, coal and gas, provoked very dangerous effects as overheating of the planet and harmful changes to the existing ecosystems. The subsequent extreme climate events had disastrous effects on human health. Approximately 150.000 people died in 2000 due to climate change impacts. Without any decisive changes in the environmental policies, the WHO foresees increasing number of such deaths up to 250.000 per year by 2040.

The desertification of large areas, the privatization and the hijacking of natural water resources operated by multinationals, only to their own benefit, is denying to entire populations the access to water. According to the WHO and the UNICEF, nearly 700 million people have no access to clean water. Inequalities in the access and use of water between rich and poor countries are impressive and are increasing more and more.

Only a market-oriented approach as imposed by the multinationals managing the sector, rather than the aims and the needs of public health rules availability and access to drugs. While multinationals incentivise the use of useless products, all obstacles are put against the access to economic affordable drugs for millions of patients to whom the use of drugs is denied as too expensive. In such a framework, the financial system enhances promoting the health commercialization directly damaging all human being in particular the most vulnerable and poor people. Innovative drugs prices are rising without any justification due to their

production costs as the patent owners set their prices in a monopoly regime. Such situation will become worse if the international commercial agreements will extend the patent duration, already granted for 20years by the TRIPS agreements, and will impose more constraints to the concerned countries limiting their power in regulating the market.

All governments, even those who provide a national health system, are reducing their budget expenses in health issues choosing to pursue health service privatization and reducing the universal, free of charge access to therapies.

All these elements are a clear attack to the people right to health: the liberal policies supported by the G7 representatives as the most powerful countries in the world are fully responsible. Defending the right to health, the free access to therapies and safeguarding the integrity of our own lands are a way to oppose to such policies, to such agreements against too powerful multinationals. It is a way also to oppose without any ambiguity to whom is full part of this economic and financial system.

For these reasons, the European Parliament Group “**GUE-NGL**” *European United Left - Nordic Green Left* in cooperation with the Town Council Group “**Milano in Comune**” and the Committee “**Health without masters or borders**”, calls on all the active associations on the environment and health issues, to join for an *International Forum safeguarding the Right to Health and Universal Access to Therapies*.

It will be held in **Milan - BASE Via Bergognone 34 on next November the 4th, 2017**, when the G7 summit on health will take place. The G7 participants will confirm the ongoing liberal policies instead of proposing effective solutions to the real needs of the world populations.

The main aim of the debate is to expose not only the heavy attack to the human being health conditions in our planet, driven by the head of the politic, economic and financial powers, but also to provide examples of best practices and plan a global agenda with clear effective objectives against the privatisation of health care.

The International Forum will be held, on **November the 4th, 2017** and involves experts worldwide; it will be organised in four different panels:

- ***Inequality and poverty as social determinants of health.***
- ***Access to drugs and therapies***
- ***Privatization of the Health care services and structures***
- ***Reasons, consequences and responsibility of climate change: safeguard of water and land as common goods***

GUE NGL Group - Milano in Comune - Committee Health without masters or borders

Milan 6 October 2017

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