**News from
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Matteo Salvini Proposes Italian Exit from WHO

The Italian Deputy Prime Minister, Matteo Salvini, has proposed legislation that would withdraw Italy from the World Health Organisation (WHO), following the US President, Donald Trump's, executive order on a unilateral exit of the United States from the same body.

Speaking on X, Salvini, leader of "The League" party, stated '*I presented this morning in the Chamber of Deputies, the League's bill **to leave the WHO**, as did the United States with Donald Trump.*' Salvini's proposal comes as the international body is freezing the hiring of new staff and applying cuts to travel budgets following US withdrawal and the loss of 15% of the $6.83bn (€6,52bn) budget that it contributed.

'*Italy no longer has to deal with a supranational power centre – handsomely funded by Italian taxpayers – that goes hand-in-hand with multinational pharmaceutical companies,*' said Salvini, adding that Italy should use what he called '*€100 million*' in contributions to instead fund '*our hospitals and doctors.*'

According to the WHO's data, Italy has donated €66 million to the body for the 2024-2025 budget, of which €34 million were membership fees.

Italy's Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, a Trump ally, **has not yet given her position publicly on Salvini's proposal.**

Should the move succeed, it would seriously weaken international health institutions and place, nurses, physicians, health professionals and, above all, patients, at serious risk as quality and funding of several international actions related to healthcare will decrease. The risk of WHO losing more of its budget would increase the possibility of similar measures being proposed regarding the EU's health budget, undermining the effectiveness of health institutions and professionals in the sector within the bloc.

SANT European Parliament Committee Constituted

European Parliament

The first standing committee of the European Parliament on Public Health was constituted as fully-fledged Committee on 29 January 2025.

Adam Jarubas (EPP, PL) was elected as the inaugural Chair of the European Parliament newly established Committee on Public Health. MEPs also elected Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA, LU) as the Committee's First Vice-Chair, with Ms Stine BOSSE (RENEW, DK), Ms Romana JERKOVIĆ (S&D, HR) and Mr Emmanouil FRAGKOS (ECR, EL) chosen to serve as Second-, Third- and Fourth Vice-Chairs respectively.

Together with Mr Jarubas, they form the new committee's decision-making bureau.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Jarubas said that he '*was honoured to be re-elected Chair of the SANT Committee*' and was committed to tackling the '*long list of urgent issues, to meet our citizens' expectations*.'

The Chair of SANT: Adam Jarubas

The Chair underlined the importance of motivating member states to '*finalise their position*' so that work on the '*largest **reform of EU medicines market** in over twenty years, the **pharmaceutical package**'* can be completed; this, in tandem with the EU's **Beating Cancer Plan**, the construction of '***strategies for cardiovascular diseases, related diabetic diseases and neurodegenerative diseases**,*' the **Mental Health Action Plan** and '*proper implementation of the **European Health Data Space***' using cutting-edge AI algorithms, would continue 'the aim of **eliminating health inequalities both among and within EU countries**'. Mr Jarubas also, notably, affirmed that '***health may depend on DNA code, but it must not depend on postal code**.*'

European Commission Unveils Action Plan to Protect the Health Sector from Cyberattacks

On January 15th, the European Commission unveiled its Action Plan to bolster the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers. This Action Plan was announced in President von der Leyen's political guidelines as a key priority within the first 100 days of the new mandate, and follows the broader initiative for a European Health Data Space

The action plan proposes, among others, for **ENISA**, the EU agency for cybersecurity, to establish a **pan-European Cybersecurity Support Centre for hospitals and healthcare providers, providing them with tailored guidance, tools, services, and training**. The initiative builds on the broader EU framework to strengthen cybersecurity across critical infrastructure and marks the first sector-specific initiative to deploy the full range of EU cybersecurity measures.

In a nutshell, the action plan focuses on four priorities:

- **Enhanced Prevention**. The plan helps to build the healthcare sector's capacities to prevent cybersecurity incidents through enhanced preparedness measures such as guidance on implementing critical cybersecurity practices. Secondly, the Member States may also introduce **Cybersecurity Vouchers to provide financial assistance to micro, small, and medium-sized hospitals and healthcare providers**. Finally,

EU will also develop cybersecurity learning resources for healthcare professionals.

- **Better detection and identification of threats**. The Cybersecurity Support Centre for hospitals and healthcare providers will develop an EU-wide early warning service, delivering near-real-time alerts on potential cyber threats, by 2026.
- **Response to Cyberattacks to minimise impact**. The plan proposes a rapid response service for the health sector under the EU Cybersecurity Reserve. Established in the Cyber Solidarity Act, the Reserve provides incident response services from trusted private service providers.
- **Deterrence**: Protecting European healthcare systems by deterring cyber threat actors from attacking them. This includes the use of the Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox, a joint EU diplomatic response to malicious cyber activities.

The Action Plan will be implemented hand in hand with healthcare providers, Member States, and the cybersecurity community. **To further refine the most impactful actions so that patients and healthcare providers can benefit from them, the Commission will soon launch a public consultation on this plan, open to all citizens and stakeholders**.

TeleNursing - ENC Gather Nursing Experts from Around Europe for the Final Conference

On January 22nd, to mark the conclusion of the EU-funded project, ENC had the pleasure to successfully organise the TeleNursing Final Conference at the renowned Club de la Fondation Universitaire.

The TeleNursing Final Conference brought together decision-makers, nursing regulatory bodies, and professionals from around the EU to discuss and explore the TeleNursing project as well as the broader future of Tele-care within European healthcare. The event provided a unique platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration, with a focus on potential future EU-funded projects.

We were honoured to have a distinguished lineup of keynote speakers, including:

- **Chrysostomos Delyiannis**, representative of the European Commission
- **Mircea Timofte**, President of the Romanian nursing regulatory body and President of ENC
- **Alfonso Lara Montero**, CEO of the European Social Network (ESN)

The conference featured panels which thoroughly discussed the future role telemedicine ought to play in providing ever-better care to EU citizens. Attendees had the opportunity to receive first hand information from representatives of four national nursing regulatory bodies, including the President of the Romanian and French ones, the Vice-President from the Hellenic one, and two high-level representatives from the Italian FNOPI.

The TeleNursing Final Conference concluded with a lunch and fruitful discussions. Attendees had the chance to connect with peers, forge new partnerships, and expand their professional networks.

ENC looks forward to seeing the results of this conference unfold for European nurses and, most importantly, for the health of EU citizens.