



“ Around 1 in 3 Europeans suffer from chronic allergy, the most common chronic disease in Europe ”

**SIGN to drive prevention and early diagnosis**



“ 17 million Europeans live with a food allergy ”

**SIGN to increase research funds**



# A POLITICAL CALL TO ACTION

We thank the following national societies and patient organisations who have already endorsed the campaign

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES & PATIENT GROUPS



Visit [www.CallAllergyAsthma.eu](http://www.CallAllergyAsthma.eu) to see the current list of endorsers from around the world

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND ENDORSE TODAY

Endorsing is simple and quick, taking no longer than 5 minutes

Please visit [www.CallAllergyAsthma.eu](http://www.CallAllergyAsthma.eu)

Click on your relevant group and fill out the short form

Spread the word amongst friends and colleagues using [#CallAllergyAsthma](https://twitter.com/CallAllergyAsthma)

Together we stand united to create a healthier and happier future for the over 220 million allergy and asthma patients in Europe

**A heart felt thank you for your support!**

# UNITED ACTION FOR ALLERGY AND ASTHMA



- Public health programmes
- Funding for research
- Prevention and early diagnosis
- Root cause analysis of diseases
- Personalised medicine
- Economic benefit

**SIGN ONLINE** [www.CallAllergyAsthma.eu](http://www.CallAllergyAsthma.eu) #CallAllergyAsthma

# UNITED ACTION

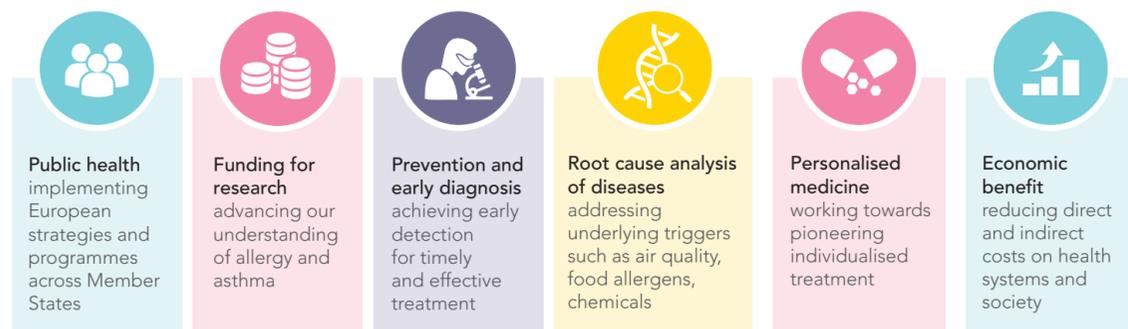
FOR ALLERGY AND ASTHMA

## A POLITICAL CALL TO ACTION IN EUROPE

This is a Call to Action to all European and national stakeholders who are able to improve public policies which address allergy and asthma, supporting patients' rights. It marks the start of a pan European advocacy campaign initiated by Members of the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA).

### Foreword

Unlike many infectious diseases, the prevalence of allergy and asthma has been shown to increase with a country's improving economic output and technological development. The outlook for allergy and asthma is therefore alarming, and must be addressed in Member States, as well as on a European and global level. By uniting the voices of patients, healthcare professionals, and policy-makers both at European and national levels, we aim to bring about positive policy changes regarding:



### The current burden of allergy and asthma on our society

Allergy and asthma are among the most frequent chronic diseases in the European Union (EU). Over 150 million EU citizens – almost one in three people – suffer from a chronic allergy<sup>1</sup>, 70 million Europeans have asthma, around 100 million live with allergic rhinitis, and 17 million with a food allergy. By 2025, it is estimated that one half of the entire EU population will be affected by these diseases.

Allergy and asthma severely impact the quality of life of patients, with dramatic effects on their professional and educational performance. A considerable number of allergy patients (15-20%), live with a severely debilitating disease and under fear of death from a possible asthma attack or anaphylactic shock.

In addition to the detriment to individuals, allergy and asthma challenge the sustainability of our healthcare systems, in terms of direct care costs and indirect costs. The total spend on asthma alone in Europe is estimated at €72.2 billion per year<sup>2</sup>, while the latest scientific evidence review<sup>3</sup>, conducted by GA<sup>2</sup>LEN (Global Allergy and Asthma European Network of Excellence), estimates that absenteeism due to insufficiently treated allergy incurs costs of between €55–151 billion per year across the EU. Appropriate treatment would cost only 5% of this sum, allowing savings of up to €142 billion.

<sup>1</sup> EAACI, (2016, March), *Tackling the Allergy Crisis in Europe - Concerted Policy Action Needed, Advocacy Manifesto*, revised version, retrieved from [http://www.eaaci.org/images/media/EAACI\\_Manifesto\\_brochure\\_Interactive.pdf](http://www.eaaci.org/images/media/EAACI_Manifesto_brochure_Interactive.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Selroos O, et al. (2015, September), *National and regional asthma programmes in Europe*, *European Respiratory Review* 2015, 24(137):474-483., retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26324809>

<sup>3</sup> Zuberbier T, et al. (2014, October), *Economic burden of inadequate management of allergic diseases in the European Union: a GA<sup>2</sup>LEN review*, *Allergy* 2014, 69(10):1275-9, retrieved from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24965386>



“Absenteeism due to insufficiently treated allergy costs an estimated €55–150 billion per year”

SIGN to support allergy patients

### As members of the European Parliament, healthcare professionals and patients, we call out to you

Today, there is still no cure for allergy and asthma, and large discrepancies in monitoring, prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and care exist across Europe. Strong and unified European political leadership is urgently needed to successfully curb this dramatic epidemic for the benefit of our patients, economies and society.

#### WE CALL UPON EU MEMBER STATES TO:

- Urgently define or revise national chronic disease policies to include allergy and asthma
- Develop national allergy and asthma programmes built on evidence-based, successful, preventive and tolerance-inducing approaches
- Invest in allergy and asthma prevention and early detection, including awareness campaigns and training programmes for healthcare professionals
- Dedicate national public funding to allergy and asthma research and generate evidence to further inform tailored national policies
- Encourage placing allergy and asthma as a health priority in the agenda of the upcoming EU Council Presidencies

#### WE CALL UPON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO:

- Place allergy and asthma at the forefront of EU chronic disease action
- Encourage coordinated European and national policy responses on allergy and asthma with a *health-in-all-policies* approach
- Lend coordination support to collect public health indicators and monitor trends on allergy and asthma
- Promote and support financially, via the EU Health Programme, the exchange and dissemination of good practices and programmes among Member States
- Promote and support financially, via Horizon 2020 and future programmes, scientific research to address environmental triggers and develop innovative treatments to cure allergy and asthma
- Encourage greater cooperation and coordination between Member States for 1) the promotion of allergy and asthma programmes, 2) conducting cross-country collaborative research
- Foster European legislation to address the adverse human health effects of allergy and asthma triggers and risk factors including 1) poor indoor and outdoor air quality, 2) allergens in packed and non-packed food, 3) reactions to chemicals in products used on a daily basis, such as fragrances and cosmetics

#### WE CALL UPON MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO:

- Support this Call to Action and its pan European advocacy campaign
- Raise awareness among EU and Member States policymakers and the general public
- Encourage the development of coordinated European strategies to foster allergy and asthma programmes
- Prioritise addressing allergy and asthma in EU and national health and environmental policies
- Fight against disease triggers, many of which are common to all chronic diseases, by fostering supportive legislation at EU level on 1) indoor and outdoor air quality, 2) food safety, 3) chemicals

#### WE CALL UPON CIVIL SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY PATIENTS, HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND HEALTH ADVOCATES TO:

- Endorse and relay this Call to Action
- Engage in joint advocacy at EU and national levels to improve awareness, monitoring, prevention and management of allergy and asthma across Europe
- Engage in dialogue with national governments and EU institutions to share knowledge, expertise and strategic advice to shape sound policies and successfully act on allergy and asthma in Europe
- Promote personalised allergy and asthma medicine and contribute to shifting European healthcare systems towards person-centred and outcome-based models, that benefit patients, economies and societies

“Around 70 million Europeans have asthma”

SIGN to improve root cause analysis



### About the initiators of the United Action for Allergy and Asthma campaign



#### THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTEREST GROUP ON ALLERGY AND ASTHMA

The EP Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma is a common effort by European allergy and asthma patients, health professionals and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) committed to address what likely constitutes the most prevalent chronic diseases in Europe. The prevalence of allergy and asthma has increased to alarming proportions in the past decades in conjunction with rising environmental challenges, such as pollution and climate change.



#### THE EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY (EAACI)

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, EAACI, is a non-profit association including over 50 National Allergy Societies, more than 9,500 academicians, research investigators and clinicians from 121 different countries.



#### THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ALLERGY AND AIRWAYS DISEASES PATIENTS' ASSOCIATIONS (EFA)

The European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA): a non-profit network of 38 allergy, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients' organisations, representing over 400,000 patients in 24 countries.