

For a genuine European Health Union

European Committee of the Regions

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For the genesis of strong international cooperation for health we may look to the Constitution of WHO adopted in July 1946






A principle “The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest COOPERATION OF individuals and STATES” is enshrined in the Constitution.

The European Pillar of Social Rights

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Health care

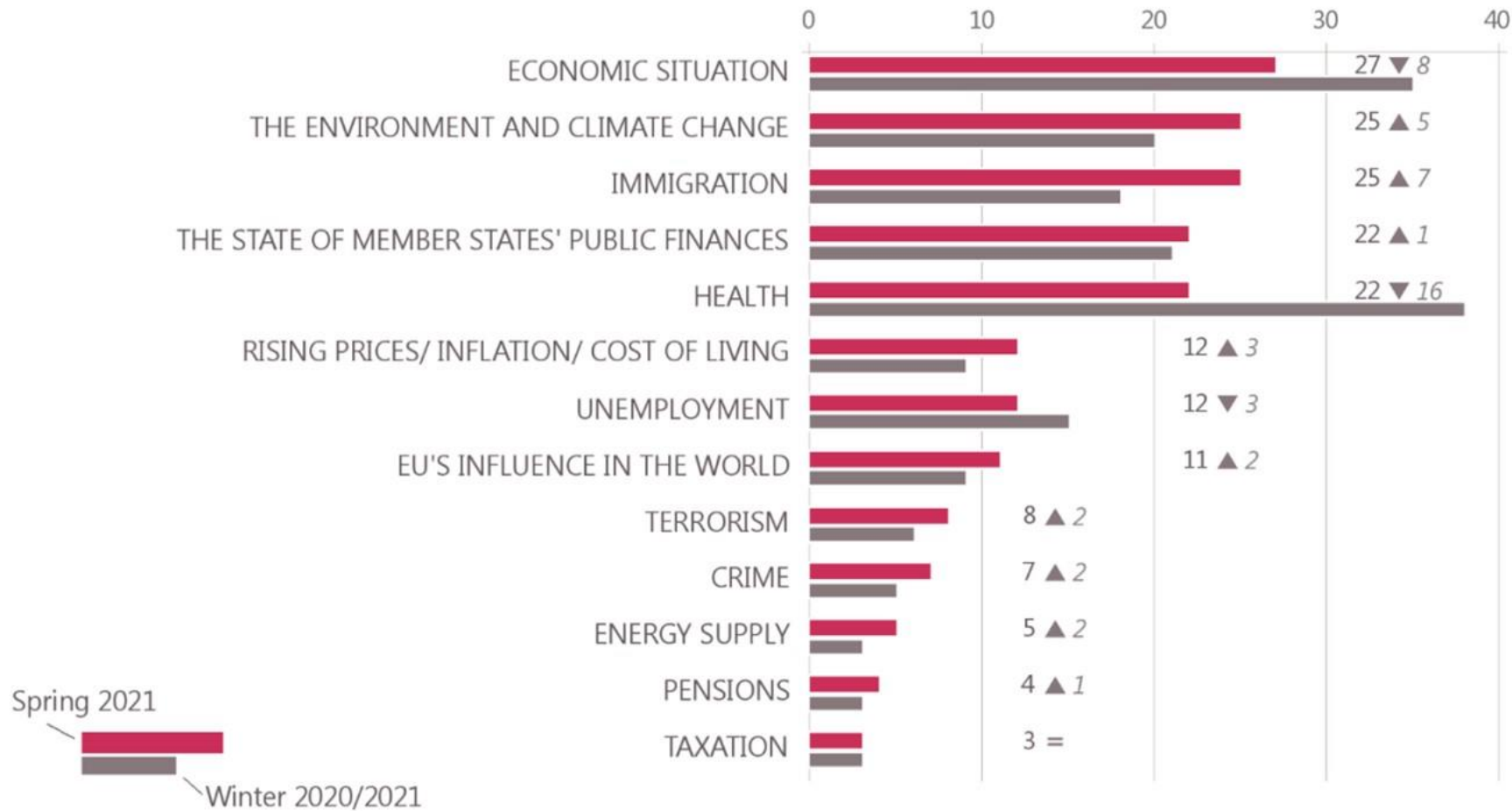
Everyone has the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality.

SCENARIOS					
	Carrying on	Nothing but the single market	Those who want more do more	Doing less more efficiently	Doing much more together
WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL?	EU-27 implements and upgrades current reform agenda. Priorities are regularly updated, problems are tackled as they arise and new legislation rolled out accordingly	EU-27 only deepens key aspects of the single market	EU-27 allows willing Member States to do more together in specific policy areas. As a result, Member States agree to specific legal and budgetary arrangements to deepen their cooperation. Other Member states may join over time	Consensus on the need to better tackle certain priorities together makes EU-27 focus attention and resources on delivering more and faster in selected policy areas, while in other areas it stops acting or does less	Member States share more power, resources and decision-making across all policy areas, the euro is strengthened and decisions at EU level are rapidly enforced
WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE SOCIAL DIMENSION?	Citizens' rights derived from EU law are upheld across the Union	Citizens' rights derived from EU law may become restricted over time Persistent differences in consumer, social and environmental standards, taxation and use of public subsidies Risk of 'race to the bottom' Free movement of workers is not guaranteed	Citizens' rights derived from EU law start to vary depending on whether or not they live in a country that has chosen to do more A group of Member States choose to harmonise taxation or agree to common social standards thereby reducing compliance costs, limiting tax evasion and contributing to improved working conditions Progress is made at 27 to strengthen the single market and reinforce the four freedoms	Citizens' rights derived from EU law are strengthened in areas we choose to do more and are reduced elsewhere New standards for consumer protection, the environment and health and safety at work move away from detailed harmonisation to a strict minimum Salaries, social legislation and taxation levels vary significantly across the Union	Citizens have more rights derived directly from EU law Greater coordination on fiscal, social and taxation matters among euro area members Additional EU funding to boost economic development and respond to shocks at regional, sectoral and national levels

Before COVID-19 health was out of agenda on the future of Europe

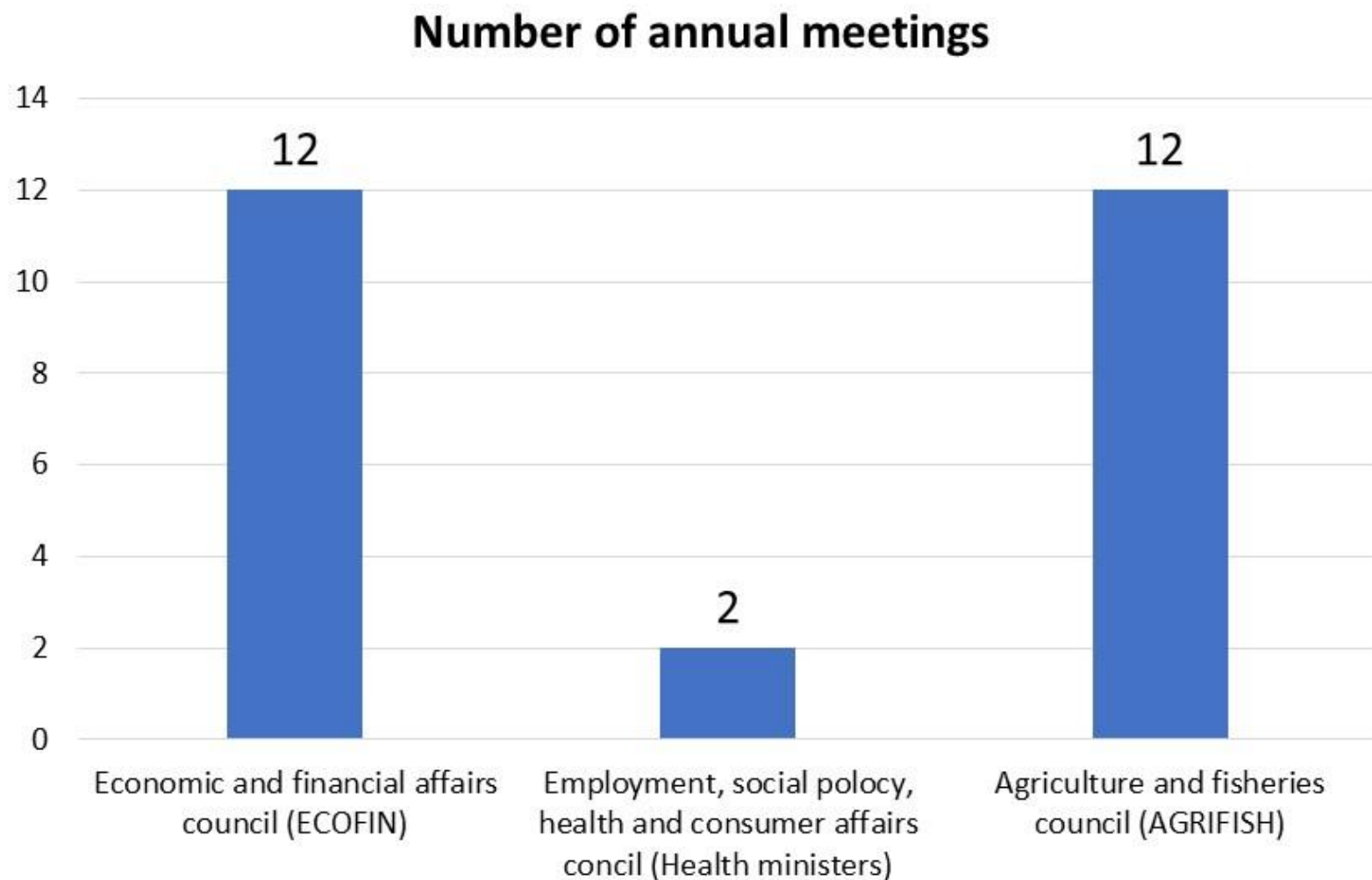
COVID-19 elevated health into 5 top priorities of Europeans

QA5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)



Source. Standard Eurobarometer 95 Spring 2021

Health is a marginal issue in the European semester



Rationale for stronger European health policy for a EHU

Health is a multidimensional issue with different actors best suited to play different roles. Pan European cooperation has its roles

- The evidence already generated by the European Reference Networks (ERNs) for rare diseases shows that pan European cooperation helps more than 30 million EU residents suffering from rare diseases and rare cancers, most of the EU Member States are simply too small to develop needed infrastructure.
- Markets are not fit to produce orphan drugs without public support. US Orphan Drug Act of 1983 states: "because so few individuals are affected by any one rare disease or condition, a pharmaceutical company which develops an orphan drug may reasonably expect the drug to generate relatively small sales in comparison to the cost of developing the drug and consequently to incur a financial loss". Successful strategic purchasing of COVID-19 vaccines is an indication that the EU has a role in mass production of vital medical goods.
- Pan –European cooperation in training and retention of healthcare labor force is needed for preventing "medical deserts" created by short-term policies of "brain drain".

A EHU is not about limiting powers of member states or regions

The challenge is not to make the EU responsible for all matters in health; that would be a great mistake. Rather it is to find the best way to empower cooperation among the EU and its Member States, enabling them to act more strongly and more effectively in both “normal” and “pandemic” times.

A EHU is about strengthening of

People's voice

Community method

Intergovernmental method

European sovereignty

Subsidiarity principle

European Treaties are very weak on health

- Health is not on the Preamble of the TEU.
- The aim and all main objectives of the EU are enforced by Article 3 of the TEU. Health is not part of Article 3 of the TEU.
- Following the logic of the TEU, the TFEU is prioritizing the articles devoted to the development of internal market against the articles dealing with other activities of the EU.
- Development of health is considered necessary to the Union in so far as it serves better functioning of the internal market. Current Health Union related initiatives are not talking about health as a specific objective of the EU. The talk is about a well-functioning internal market.

Preamble Treaty on European Union (TEU)

DETERMINED to promote economic and social progress for their peoples, taking into account the principle of sustainable development and within the context of the accomplishment of the internal market and of reinforced cohesion and environmental and health protection, and to implement policies ensuring that advances in economic and social integration are accompanied by parallel progress in other fields,

Article 3 TEU

1. The Union's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples.
2. The Union shall offer its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice without internal frontiers, in which the free movement of persons is ensured in conjunction with appropriate measures with respect to external border controls, asylum, immigration and the prevention and combating of crime.
3. The Union shall establish an internal market. It shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and human health. It shall promote scientific and technological advance.

Article 4 TFEU

1. The Union shall share competence with the Member States where the Treaties confer on it a competence which does not relate to the areas referred to in Articles 3 and 6.
2. Shared competence between the Union and the Member States applies in the following principal areas:
 - (a) internal market;
 - (b) social policy, for the aspects defined in this Treaty;
 - (c) economic, social and territorial cohesion;
 - (d) agriculture and fisheries, excluding the conservation of marine biological resources;
 - (e) environment;
 - (f) consumer protection;
 - (g) transport;
 - (h) trans-European networks;
 - (i) energy;
 - (j) area of freedom, security and justice;
 - (k) **European Health Union** ~~common safety concerns in public health matters, for the aspects defined in this Treaty.~~

Article 168 of the TFEU should be well tuned according to the above-mentioned amendments.

What are benefits provided by a EHU to general public?

The explicit stance for universal health coverage and EHU is needed for health but not limited by health matters:

- EU citizens expect more than just deliverables related to contemporary two main pillars - **single market** or **economic and monetary union**.
- Europeans are looking for the new stage of development of the EU. Based on humanist inheritance of Europe, on the values, on respect for human dignity
- it is time to include a new pillar – **health and well-being**.

Some of us would prefer slow development, but without being ambitious there is a risk to miss a window of opportunity for the European Union evolving beyond internal market, beyond a traditional paradigm which does not fit the realities of the 21st century

MANIFESTO FOR A EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION

In 2020, an invisible virus swept through Europe, leaving hundreds of thousands dead and many others with severe disability. Economic activity has crashed, forcing governments to intervene in ways that would have been unimaginable.

<https://europeanhealthunion.eu/>



Explanatory Memorandum to the MANIFESTO FOR A EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION

What is the Explanatory Memorandum about?

The Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared in order to assist the reader of the Manifesto and contribute to informed debate on it. It does not form a part of the Manifesto.

It explains what the Manifesto is calling for and provides background information on the its development.

The paper is best be read alongside the Manifesto. It is not, and is not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Manifesto.

Position paper. Treaty change for a European Health Union

It present legal text for the discussion on stronger European health policy: <https://europeanhealthunion.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Treaty-Change-for-a-European-Health-Union.pdf>

Thank you

It was an honour to be with You