



05 August 2024

Dear Minister Leszczyna, Minister Løhde and Minister Damianos,

On behalf of the National Cardiac Societies in Poland, Denmark and Cyprus, please allow us to express our well wishes in preparation of the upcoming Trio Presidency of the Council of the EU. We stand ready to support you in this prestigious term.

We share a common goal of reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease, which remains the leading cause of death worldwide. Today, cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are costing more to society than the EU budget entirely, and prematurely stealing the lives of 5000 people every day. In Poland, 41% of deaths in women are caused by CVD, in Denmark informal care costs alone due to CVD amounts to €979 million annually, and in Cyprus CVD accounts for 27% of deaths in men. Collectively, we must do better.

The current Trio and the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU has taken the first step, by committing to draft Council Conclusions on CVD, as well as having organised a High-Level Ministerial Conference on 4 July 2024. Political momentum is also building in the European Parliament, as well as citizen demand at Member State level to tackle Europe's number one killer.

We call on you to champion this growing movement during your Presidency, supported by leaders in the field including the European Society for Cardiology and the European Alliance for Cardiovascular Health. **An EU Cardiovascular Health Plan is urgently needed to save lives, improve patient outcomes, and safeguard our workforce and economies.**

We remain at your disposal to support you during the Presidency Trio term and provide any resources as desired to make an EU Cardiovascular Health Plan a reality under your auspices. We hope you will consider this request for collaboration and look forward to an opportunity to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Robert Gil

President, Polish Cardiac Society

Prof. Jens Flensted Lassen

President, Danish Cardiac Society

Dr Michael Myrianthefs

President, Cyprus Cardiac Society