



**Statement by the European Heart Network (EHN) made at the sixty-second session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Malta, 10-13 September 2012, on the *NCD Global Monitoring Framework***

The European Heart Network (EHN) is a Brussels-based association of heart foundations in Europe. Our vision is that ***every child born in this millennium has the right to live until the age of at least 65 without suffering from avoidable cardiovascular disease.***

We note that our vision is quite similar to the European action plan 2012-2016 for the prevention and control of NCDs ***a health-promoting Europe free of preventable noncommunicable disease, premature death and avoidable disability.***

We also note that, whilst the WHO is using ***preventable*** and we are using ***avoidable***, they are the same and they are key.

Our statement relates to the WHA decision (WHA65(8)) following up on the UN political declaration on NCDs. EHN considers the UN declaration a truly momentous development and we welcome the adoption, by the WHA, of an overarching mortality target of a ***25% reduction of premature deaths due to NCDs by 2025.*** As a follow up to the WHA decision (WHA65(8)), the WHO published *A comprehensive global monitoring framework, including indicators, and a set of voluntary global targets for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases* in July 2012. This monitoring framework proposes 10 targets in addition to the mortality target.

Eight on **exposure**:

- |                          |   |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Alcohol                  | - | 10% relative reduction in overall hazardous and harmful consumption  |
| Fat intake               | - | 15% relative reduction in mean proportion of total energy intake from SFA → less than 10% of total energy intake |
| Obesity                  | - | halt the rise in obesity prevalence  |
| Physical inactivity      | - | 10% relative reduction in prevalence   |
| Raised blood pressure    | - | 25% relative reduction in prevalence   |
| Raised blood cholesterol | - | 20% relative reduction in prevalence   |
| Salt/sodium              | - | 30% relative reduction in mean population intake<br>→ less than 5g/day   |
| Tobacco                  | - | 30% relative reduction in prevalence   |

Two on **health systems response**:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Drug therapy to prevent heart attacks and strokes                  | - | 50% of eligible people receive drug therapy |
| Essential NCD medicines and basic technologies to treat major NCDs | - | 80% availability                            |

It is EHN's view that these targets should be adopted globally. We acknowledge that not all targets are equally achievable in all countries in the world. However, they are **relevant and achievable** in Europe. These global targets should inform the targets for WHO European Region's Health 2020 strategy and action plan on NCDs 2012-2016. We take note that, according to existing surveillance capacity in Member States of the WHO European Region, not all indicators can be measured easily. However, knowing full well that it is imperative to tackle the eight risk factors and ensure prevention and treatment of the major NCDs, we urge WHO Europe and its Member States to invest in establishing indicators that can measure progress towards the targets adequately.

EHN would like to express support for a target on **trans-fatty acids**, i.e., a target to eliminate industrially produced trans-fatty acids. However, we believe it should not be a *voluntary* target but one to be achieved through regulatory measures. We call upon the WHO European Region's member states to introduce regulation following the examples of: Denmark, Austria, Switzerland and Iceland. Additionally, Europe-wide legislation is likely to have a positive influence on the rest of the world.

EHN reminds the honourable delegates that even if the targets are voluntary, the **Framework Convention of Tobacco Control** (FCTC) is not – it is a binding treaty and full implementation of the FCTC is essential to achieving the target on tobacco.