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MEP

Tóth, Konecna, Benova, Cerdas, Lange,
Hazekamp, Vaidere, Evi, Bonafe, Kokkalis,
Arena, Modig, Bjoerk, Schneider, Glueck, Burkhardt,
Bloss, Haeusling, Paulus, Lins, Liese, Krehl

Dear Member of the European Parliament Tóth,

The EU4Health Initiative is planning very positive priorities for strengthening health systems and the **availability of environmentally friendly and economical care**. The fact that this also includes international cooperation makes us as the European Association for Ayurveda particularly pleased.

Ayurveda and other complementary, alternative and/or traditional medical systems **need perception, recognition and support**. **Health in the EU**, as expressed in the EU4Health Initiative, can be **strengthened by Ayurveda in a sustainable, effective and inexpensive way**.

What does this result from?

To ensure the supply of safe and affordable medicines and health promoting products to Europe is a declared goal of the EU.

Ayurveda can contribute significantly to these goals. **Ayurveda has proven itself over thousands of years** (is safe) and depends (only) on natural ingredients such as plants and other **natural raw materials, knowledge and simple technology** to produce cost-effective medicines (affordable).

The EU health industry can also benefit from Ayurveda to remain an innovator and world leader.

Ayurvedic medicines are already produced in the EU by small or medium sized companies that are part of the "health industry". High quality and controlled products rooted in the complementary, alternative and/or traditional medical systems have an **excellent prospect to strengthen the EU's position in health issues**.

Ayurveda and other complementary, alternative and/or traditional medicine systems are able to ensure better access

and availability of medicines and health promoting products for patients.

There are established production methods throughout Europe, which are only limited by lack of knowledge of patients and restrictive laws or their application.

Ayurveda can sustainably improve the affordability of medicines and health promoting products for patients because it favours their low-cost production.

Ayurveda enables **innovation**, even for unmet medical needs, in a way that takes advantage of digital and emerging science and technology and reduces the environmental footprint, because Ayurveda and other complementary, alternative and/or traditional medical systems offer pharmaceuticals and health-promoting products in an **undiscovered variety using only natural ingredients**.

The demand for complementary, alternative and/or traditional medicine systems is constantly growing, both in Europe and abroad.



Concerted action supported by the EU would not only meet this demand but also create new opportunities to share existing and newly developed resources.

This would make it possible to support the EU's influence and competitiveness at global level, reduce direct dependence on manufacturing in non-EU countries and seek a level playing field for EU companies.

Art. 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union obliges the Union to

"to improve public health, prevent physical and mental illness and diseases and suffering, and obviate sources of danger to physical and mental health".

Changes that would promote integrative medicine in the European Union are the following: **88, 168, 338, 356, 366, 488, 579, 904, 917, 975.**

We therefore ask you to support these amendments in the forthcoming vote on the Busoi report on the EU4 Health Programme in the ENVI Committee in September.

It is high time for a **transition from disease-centred to person-centred health care in the sense of holistic and sustainable care.**

With warmest regards

Dr. Peter Kath

Ayurveda combines prevention, cure, cost-effectiveness and sustainability and is privileged to become a pillar of the intended **holistic health system and infrastructure** in Europe and to realize the objectives of Art. 162 TFEU.

There is growing evidence that complementary, alternative and/or traditional medical systems with an integrative approach both increase patient satisfaction and contribute substantially to health strengthening. This includes the possibility to respond to current EU health policy challenges, such as antibiotic resistance (AMR).