An EU Action Plan for Better Cardiovascular Health – Policy asks

The European Commission should:

• **Facilitate best practices:** Establish a Joint Action amongst Member States to encourage more focus on secondary prevention and early detection through appropriate diagnostic checks, heart and vascular health checks, and to identify barriers to the wider uptake of rehabilitation.

• **Improve data and evidence:** Leverage the European Health Data Space to create a common European CVD information system focused on patient outcomes and treatment options, to improve CVD registries and to implement and improve quality measurement indicators to monitor patient access to CVD care.

• **Invest in research:** Broaden the scope of European Reference Networks beyond rare diseases, beginning with an ERN on structural heart disease – including coronary, heart failure and stroke – and strengthen research on the value of CVD medical devices and diagnostics and the impact on patients’ lives.

• **Strengthen access and innovation:** In the framework of the new Public Private Partnership on Health Innovation, facilitate pilots to have efficient access to innovation in a secure manner, such as through Early Feasibility Studies.

Member States should:

• **Invest smartly to improve access:** In their Recovery Plans, allocate investments into projects aiming to improve equal access to detection, CVD care and treatment, and reward smart investments into (digital) medical innovations that improve patient outcomes and quality of life, reduce the burden on hospitals and improve the resilience of the healthcare system.

• **Promote awareness, digitalisation and capacity-building:** Introduce widespread early detection and screening programmes, while promoting the use of digital and diagnostic tools to facilitate early detection and invest in comprehensive multidisciplinary early detection training programmes for reskilling healthcare professionals, especially within primary care and amongst specialist nurses.