



## PRESS RELEASE

### The 2022 European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) opens its doors to inspire discussions on a true European Health Union – and welcomes you to its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition!

- Kicking off today through Thursday (26 - 29 September), the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) 2022 offers four action-packed days with over twenty sessions, three plenary discussions, and three press conferences.
- The EHFG 2022 gathers over 1,000 representatives from science and academia, civil society, industry, and government, to chart a bold course for realising a true European Health Union. The wide range of engaging speakers include **Johannes Rauch**, Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, **Stella Kyriakides**, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, and **Hans Kluge**, Regional Director for Europe of the World Health Organization.
- Celebrating its 25-year anniversary, the Forum will take place for the first time as a hybrid event under the patronage of the Austrian Federal President, Alexander Van der Bellen.

**26 September 2022, Bad Hofgastein, Austria** – At this watershed moment for health, the [European Health Forum Gastein \(EHFG\) 2022](#) kicks off its first hybrid edition today and sets out to discuss the urgent challenges and policy solutions needed for unified action across sectors, borders, and disciplines.

Guided by the theme of “**A moonshot for a true European Health Union – if not now, when?**” the EHFG will mark its 25-year anniversary by urging to leave “business as usual” firmly in the past to build a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable future for all. In these times of permacrisis of the pandemic, climate emergency, energy and food crises, and the war in the Ukraine, there is a window of opportunity to co-create a true European Health Union, which requires a fundamental transformation of the way our societies operate – and this can only be achieved through peace in Europe, supported by political will, collaboration, and unity.

The 2022 EHFG programme, built on three topic tracks, “transformative approaches”, “resilient and sustainable systems”, and “well-being societies” brings together a diverse range of speakers, including European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety **Stella Kyriakides**, the Regional Director for WHO/Europe **Hans Kluge**, as well as ministers and high-level representatives from Austria, Finland, Latvia, Malta, and Sweden. Other exciting speakers include **Sally Davies**, UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance, **Michael Marmot**, Director of The UCL Institute of Health Equity and **Ayoade Alakija**, Co-Chair of the Africa Vaccine Delivery Alliance. The complete speaker line-up can be found [here](#).

Reflecting on the Forum, EHFG President Clemens Martin Auer says, “This year’s European Health Forum Gastein, in my thinking, should act as a call to action to government ministers and others to learn the lessons of the pandemic and other crises, current and looming: out-of-silo thinking, collaboration, pooled sovereignty, solidarity above all. By bringing together so many players in health and other policy areas, the Forum can set the agenda for extending and completing the European Health Union.”

The EHFG takes place as a hybrid event between 26 – 29 September in Bad Hofgastein, Austria. The complete programme, outlining the different sessions, speakers, and conference details, is available [here](#).

For any questions, please contact the press office at [press@ehfg.org](mailto:press@ehfg.org) or +32 2 321 90 16.

**Note to the editors**

The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was founded in 1998 as a European health policy conference. It aims to provide a platform for all stakeholders from the fields of public health and beyond. Over the past 25 years, the EHFG has established itself as an indispensable institution in the scope of European health policy. It has made a decisive contribution to the development of guidelines and above all the cross-border exchange of experience, information, and cooperation. Leading experts traditionally participate in the annual conference held in the Gastein Valley in the Austrian Alps in late September.