

Riina Sikkut  
Minister of Health  
Republic of Estonia  
Ministry of Social Affairs  
Suur-Ameerika 1, 10122 Tallinn

Brussels, 07 March 2025

Dear Minister Sikkut,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to invite you to speak at our 2025 Sustainable Livelihoods summit '**Re-imagining Europe's health systems**', which will take place in Brussels on **Thursday 5 June 2025** from 09.00 until 13.30 CET.

As you know only too well, 2025 marks a year of unparalleled geopolitical competition with tariffs and trade wars as its opening acts. As the continent has adapted to new realities, from the impacts of the **COVID-19 pandemic to technological advancements and demographic shifts**, the **resilience and sustainability of its health systems** have become central to policy discussions.

This summit will offer a platform to discuss systemic issues around health which lie at the heart of renewing Europe's social contract and underscore the urgent need for a **unified and comprehensive approach to health system resilience**, as well as boosting **EU competitiveness, health sovereignty and autonomy** by fostering collaboration among policymakers, Member States, industry leaders, patients' representatives and health workers. Throughout the summit, we will work together to examine the cross-cutting challenges posed by the health-technology nexus, address the opportunities for trust-worthy, safe and high-quality artificial intelligence to tackle challenges in health infrastructure and consider the priorities to deliver a more integrated and equitable Health Union. Your perspective from a national and EU-wide would be essential and important to include.

Previous speakers at Friends of Europe events include, among others, **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, WHO Director-General, **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament; **Sonia Roschnik**, Executive Director of the Geneva Sustainability Centre; **Paulette Lenert**, Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg and Minister of Health; **Marina Romanello**, Executive Director of the Lancet Countdown; **Annette Brûls**, Corporate Vice President, EMEA Canada and Latin America at Edwards Lifesciences; **Mario Monti**, Friends of Europe Trustee and former Prime Minister of Italy; **Nina Rawal**, Founder of Emerging Health Ventures capital fund; **Yan Le Cam**, CEO of Eurordis Rare Diseases Europe and **Ciara Clancy**, CEO at Beats Medical.

Our summits draw over 150 participants in person and several hundred more online, engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders across member states. The summit will be preceded by a policymakers' dinner on the eve of it, to which you're also warmly invited to.

Friends of Europe is a Brussels-based think tank, working with stakeholders across the continent to craft bold and innovative recommendations to revitalise the European Project and build a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-thinking Europe.

I am confident that your intervention would be a high point of this important discussion and I hope we will have the opportunity to welcome you on this occasion. My colleague, Kaoru Inoue and I, are at your disposal should you have any questions concerning this invitation.

Yours sincerely,



Nathalie Furrer  
Director, Friends of Europe