

Karmen Joller

Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
Gonsiori 29
15027 Tallinn, Estonia

Vienna, 10 June 2026

Personal Invitation | European Forum Alpbach 2026

Dear Madam Minister Joller!

For over 80 years, the **European Forum Alpbach** in Austria has been bringing together international leaders and thinkers from the worlds of politics, business, academia, culture and civil society. Across disciplines, generations and nationalities, they exchange ideas in the unique setting of the Tyrolean Alps and develop solutions for the future of Europe. In 2025, **4,700 participants** from over **100 nations** – including **500 young scholarship holders** under the age of 30 – attended the EFA.

EFA26 is themed **'How Europe Wins'** and calls on us to shape Europe's future with clarity and courage. It brings together individuals who – just like you – are working to strengthen our capacity for action and competitiveness to build a Europe that is capable of defending itself, resilient and confident.

Your leadership as Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Estonia and Estonia's outstanding role as a European pioneer in digital public services and health data infrastructure make your perspective an exceptional contribution to EFA26. Estonia has demonstrated that ambitious digital health policy is not only possible but transformative – and that experience holds lessons for all of Europe.

This year, the **EFA26 Conference Days** – taking place from **30 August to 4 September 2026** – will feature a dedicated **Health Cluster** on **2 and 3 September**, under the title **'Shaping Europe's Health Future: Access, Innovation, Resilience'**. The cluster addresses the central challenges facing European health systems: resilience and sovereignty, equitable access to care, and the systemic transformation driven by technology and data.

On **3 September**, the Health Cluster will host a content session on one of the most consequential questions in European health policy today: **how health data can be translated into tangible health gains for people**. This session will bring together policymakers, practitioners, researchers and innovators to explore what responsible, patient-centred data use can mean for prevention, diagnostics, and the quality of care. It is supported by leading Austrian social insurance institutions.

We would be honoured to welcome you as a speaker to this session. Your country's experience – in building the infrastructure, earning public trust, and translating data into policy – is precisely the kind of concrete, proven contribution that can move the European debate forward. The session will also be attended by **Korinna Schumann**, Federal Minister of Social Affairs of Austria, whose participation further underlines the importance we attach to this conversation.

We warmly invite you to join us not just for this session, but for the **EFA26 Conference Days** as a whole. Alpbach brings together heads of government, scientists, business leaders, civil society voices and 500 young scholarship holders in one Tyrolean village – a setting that makes possible the kind of frank, cross-disciplinary dialogue that rarely happens elsewhere. Our team would be delighted to compose a tailored programme around your stay. For any questions or to confirm your participation, please do not hesitate to contact our Unit Head Anna Stockhammer (anna.stockhammer@alpbach.org).

Yours sincerely,


Othmar Karas

President of the EFA
Former First Vice-President of the European Parliament