## ECPCP Statement on Health care stakeholders and inclusion programs

The European Confederation of Primary Care Pediatricians (ECPCP) strongly urges all health care stakeholders, particularly pharmaceutical companies, to maintain and further develop their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Diversity refers to the recognition and appreciation of the different backgrounds, cultures, genders, and perspectives that individuals bring. Equity involves ensuring fair treatment, opportunities, and access for all, especially for those who have been historically marginalized or disadvantaged. Inclusion means creating an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and able to contribute fully.

For pediatricians and healthcare professionals taking care of families, DEI is of paramount importance. Children, and adolescents and young adults (AYAs) grow up in diverse societies, and their health outcomes are often influenced by social determinants such as socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and access to healthcare. By promoting DEI, we aim to reduce health disparities, ensure equitable access to vaccines and healthcare services, and foster a healthcare environment that respects and understands the unique needs of every child and AYA.

As pediatricians, we are committed to advocating for the well-being of all children and AYAs, regardless of their background. We believe that cooperating with companies that prioritize DEI reflects our values and our dedication to providing equitable healthcare. Cooperating with inclusive and socially responsible companies aligns with our mission to promote health equity and to serve the best interests of every child and AYA.

We hope that the health care stakeholders recognize the importance of DEI not only as a moral obligation but also as a vital component of public health and social responsibility. We look forward to seeing continued progress in this area and to working together towards a more inclusive and equitable healthcare landscape.

Shortened version:

**Policy Statement** 

The European Confederation of Primary Care Pediatricians (ECPCP) urges all healthcare stakeholders, particularly pharmaceutical companies, to maintain and further develop robust Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

DEI is critical in pediatric healthcare. Children, adolescents, and young adults (AYAs) grow up in diverse societies, and their health is often shaped by social factors such as socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and access to care. A strong commitment to DEI helps reduce health disparities, ensures fair access to healthcare and vaccines, and supports an inclusive environment that meets the unique needs of all young people.

As pediatricians, we are dedicated to promoting the health and wellbeing of every child and AYA, regardless of background. Partnering with companies that prioritize DEI reflects our core values and advances our shared goal of health equity.

We call on all healthcare stakeholders to recognize DEI not only as a moral responsibility but as a foundation of effective, equitable healthcare. Together, we can create a more inclusive and just healthcare system for all.